

Today, [Tathel Miller](#) leads us through the story of Job, reminding us that there is beautiful beyond the ashes. 2020 has come with much struggle, but nothing is unseen by God. May our focus to be on Him, the One who held Job, remembering, He is the One who holds us.

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It's cold, foggy--raindrops grip the empty branches of winter and there's this bird singing. Loud. What kind of bird is this that sings with its every breath on this dreary morning?

And outside my window a lone cardinal blazing in his beauty of red sat high in the tree hanging on as the wind tried its best to break him. There he was enduring the storm--singing his early Sabbath morning praise song--despite the obstacles he was fighting--despite the sun was hidden by the dense covering of clouds.

Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. James 5:11 ESV



At times in our lives we will all suffer loss, pain, hurt, and even change--like in the year 2020. The story of Job was one of tragedies, heartbreaks, relentless faith, and restoration. Even in loss, Job continued to praise the goodness of the Lord. Job, in his faithfulness declared, "And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21, KJV).

Job knew his blessings were gifts from the Lord and they were His to give as well as take. *But nothing could take away the goodness of God.*

God allowed Satan to take away all Job had, everything except his life. After all his children died and his belongings gone, Satan cursed his body with boils, "from the sole of his foot unto his

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crown.” (Job 2:8, KJV). The scripture further tells us that Job sat down with his brokenness “among the ashes.” (Job 2:8, KJV) scraping the boils with a potsherd--the fragments of a vessel.

God, in His mercy and love and because of Job’s faithfulness through his trials, ‘gave Job twice as much as he had before.’ (Job 42:10, KJV) He was blessed with more children, seven sons and three daughters. While none of his sons were named, his daughters are. They were described as the most beautiful women in the land (Job 42:15). God gave Job beauty for his ashes--

- Jemima, the oldest and her name in Hebrew meaning, “dove or little dove”.
- Keziah, the Hebrew meaning “cassia or sweet-scented spice”, similar to cinnamon.
- Cassia is mentioned in Exodus 30:22-32 as being part of the holy anointing oil instructed to Moses to use, and in Psalm 45:7-9, described as part of the oil of gladness.
- Keren-happuch, her name in Hebrew meaning horn of beauty, child of beauty.

Job’s life did not come without tears, troubles--no life does. Charles Spurgeon wrote, “The darkest cloud shall scatter itself in showers of mercy.” Some days it’s hard to feel blessed when we are blinded by dark times. But never forget, those same hands who held Job’s broken heart are the same hands holding our hearts today.



He is worthy of our praise.

I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise will continually be in my mouth. (Psalm 34:1, KJV).

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## Further Study:

1. Read James 5:7-12. Make a list of the instructions you read and journal your thoughts and prayers about these verses.
2. Pray. Take time to pray. We've included room in your journal to write prayers as you study verse by verse. As you pray today, consider using the words of the scriptures you read.
3. Tathel ends our time today reminding us that God is worthy of praise. Reread Psalm 34:1 and take time to praise God. Consider listening to praise music throughout today. Share one of your favorite praise songs in the comments. We would love to hear your selections.



Tathel Miller is a freelance writer and photographer, Mama to Jill and Daniel, and Granna to four beautiful grandchildren. She writes from her home in the foothills of North Carolina and enjoys long walks in nature with her camera and gardening. She has been blessed to serve as a Sunday School for over 14 years teaching the Young Teenagers class and the Toddlers and Beginners class in her church.

Her first children's book, *My Great-Aunt Lena and the Communion Basket, Remembering Jesus* was published in 2018, a Christmas devotional, *His Coming* in 2020, and her second children's book, *X-Marks the Spot* is scheduled to be released soon.

She loves studying the Bible and serving the Lord and shares her thoughts and photography on her blog [abeautifulgrace.com](http://abeautifulgrace.com).