



# Lenten

# Reflections

The Divine Intervention

**March 16, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Jeremiah 17: 5-10**

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed is the man who trusts in human beings,  
who seeks his strength in flesh,  
whose heart turns away from the LORD.

He is like a barren bush in the desert  
that enjoys no change of season,  
But stands in a lava waste,  
a salt and empty earth.

Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
whose hope is the LORD.

He is like a tree planted beside the waters  
that stretches out its roots to the stream:

It fears not the heat when it comes,  
its leaves stay green;

In the year of drought it shows no distress,  
but still bears fruit.

More tortuous than all else is the human heart,  
beyond remedy; who can understand it?

I, the LORD, alone probe the mind

and test the heart,  
To reward everyone according to his ways,  
according to the merit of his deeds.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

God's words to Jeremiah must have provided him a little comfort in his ministry as God's prophet. Lies, deceit, betrayal, physical punishment occurred each time he attempted to preach to God's rebellious people. It hurt but Jeremiah never gave up. When we attempt to do good for The Lord and experience hardship as the result, God's words can help us: "Trust in the Lord." May we never forget that He is with us at all times.

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## **Food for your Journey**

To illustrate the point that "suffering becomes a sort of chariot on which I ride to new planes of living," physician/psychiatrist John White tells of the birth of his oldest son on the mission fields of Bolivia.

"My oldest boy, Scott, was born badly crippled in Bolivia. For the first year of his life, he was locked in what looked like brutal splints. (They caused him little or no suffering, however.)

"When he was a year old, the splints were removed, and soon he was running and walking. Inevitably he had his first fall, splitting his chin widely with a gash that extended up into the floor of his mouth.

"We were far from civilization. I had no surgical instruments, only a pair of eyebrow tweezers and household needles and thread. I had no means of relieving pain. Firm hands gripped his tiny form as I inflicted what must have seemed like unbelievable pain on my terrified son. To say my heart was breaking sounds sentimental, yet his pain was my pain. Why was there no way I could comfort him with the knowledge that all would be well? I agonized over his ordeal as I gripped his tender skin with eyebrow tweezers and brutally jabbed a sewing needle again and again into his chin."

--John White, *The Fight* (Downers Grove, Ill.: Intervarsity Press, 1976), 115.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Please be with me as I seek to live Your way. If I encounter hardship, keep me faithful to Your promises. Amen.