

**Romans 9:23–25** illustrate the trials and \*vicissitudes of life. Israel in the wilderness is a type of our pilgrimage through life. Even though most of us would like to live a quiet comfortable life free from surprises and changes, but everyone experiences changes in their lives whether they like it or not.

\*Vicissitudes

**2 : a favorable or unfavorable event or situation that occurs by chance.** Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 1996).

I don't agree with the last part of this definition. It may appear that some things happen by chance sometimes, but the things that happen, whether good or bad, are part of God's plan for our life and are according to His will. Unwanted changes can be punitive for believers in carnality, or they may be testing for believers who are advancing in God's plan for their life. Some- times He uses undesirable situations or other people to test us, but He puts limits on what they can do to us.

Read: *Job 1:6-12*, *Luke 8:26-35*

**2 Samuel 24:16 And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "It is enough; now restrain your hand."**

**Proverbs 25:28 Like a city that is broken into and without walls Is a man who has no control over his spirit.**

The natural response when we are experiencing undeserved suffering is to complain or grumble. These are verbal sins that take away our Relaxed Mental Attitude (RMA) and replace it with anger, anxiety, resentment, self-pity, etc. We may think that we are justified in our complaints and grumblings because we are being treated unfairly, but that is nothing but human viewpoint. God expects us to have divine viewpoint which includes trusting Him to deal with our problems

We need to learn to thank God for giving us the opportunity to advance spiritually through testing and to ask Him to help us to use the spiritual dynamics of Bible doctrine to trust Him with our problems and to patiently wait for our deliverance.

God is always working on us or with us to make us better. Do you know when He started working on us? Was it when we were born?

No, it was before that, it was in eternity past.

**Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;**