

## **Job 42:12-17**

“And the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. And he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. He had also seven sons and three daughters. And he called the name of the first daughter Jemimah, and the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-happuch. And in all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job’s daughters. And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. And after this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his sons’ sons, four generations. 17And Job died, an old man, and full of days.”

# Job Blessed

- Job was **blessed in his latter days of life more** than he had at the beginning.
- In the beginning of the Book of Job he was a blessed and a godly man. At the end of the Book of Job he was a more blessed and a spiritually deeper, more godly man.
- “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
- Satan served his purpose for God in making Job a spiritually deeper man of God.
- “Our sorrows shall have an end when God has gotten his end in them.”-Spurgeon, Charles

# Job's Daughters

- It is rare in the Bible that females are treated with same respect as males but Job's daughters are the exception.
- The first daughter was named **Jemimah**: “Day by day”.
- The second daughter was named **Keziah**: “Cassia” a cinnamon smelling bark.
- The third daughter was named **Keren-happuch**: “A jar of eye paint” meaning she was very beautiful.
- Job's daughters were the most **beautiful** in all the land and received an **inheritance** from Job which was extremely rare for women in the ancient Middle Eastern cultures.

# Job Died

- Job died an **old man** and **full of days**.
- **Full of days** carries the idea of being satisfied with one's life and ready to die.
- “We are not all like Job, but we all have Job’s God. Though we have neither risen to Job’s wealth, nor will, probably, ever sink to Job’s poverty, yet there is the same God above us if we be high, and the same God with his everlasting arms beneath us if we be brought low; and what the Lord did for Job he will do for us, not precisely in the same form, but in the same spirit, and with like design.”-Spurgeon, Charles

Job

The Conclusion

- Job is the story of a man who by all accounts has it all together in his life. He is blameless before God and man. He is wealthy. He has a great family. Everything is going Job's way and then all of sudden everything in Job's life is subjected to the harsh reality of a spiritual war he cannot see and physical and emotional suffering that brings him to the brink of a total breakdown.
- It is in the midst of this story that Job comes to a new understanding of who God is and experiences His grace and mercy.

## **God Is Not Intimidated**

- Some believers fear praying as blunt and honest as Job had done to God.
- Job never prayed that God would end his suffering.
- God is not intimidated by prayers of anguish and I believe Job's prayer of complaint is a model for believers today.
- The key is that when Job prayed he was honestly seeking an answer from God not scoffing nor mocking God.

- Job's story is unique to him. Suffering is as vast and complicated as there are people in this world that will, not when, experience tragedy and loss.
- Nobody suffers in general. Each person suffers in some particular way.
- The Sovereign God does not intend for a person undergoing affliction to maintain a stoic response while suffering.
- Pain and suffering disrupt a sense of calm in our lives and should make us feel a sense of need or dependence and lack of control.
- It is the disruption that should cause a person to seek out and wrestle with the deeper issues of life.
- “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.”-**Psalm 119:67**

# Tests Of Faith

- All believers will sooner or later be brought to a **crisis of faith** which will exhaust every human resource available to him.
- It is this crisis that **teaches** us to truly **trust** upon the Lord.
- If we base our lives upon God's Word, we will be able to stand in the midst of the test. **If we rely upon what we see or what we understand, we will falter and move deeper into the abyss of darkness created by our own lack of trust.**

# **A God Who Suffers**

- The Biblical view of God is that He knew from before time began He was going to come in the form of His Son to die and suffer for the redemption of the world (2 Timothy 1:8-10).
- Suffering has been built into the universe for the divine purpose of demonstrating God's love through His Son suffering and dying for man (Romans 8:18-25).

# God

- Revelation always begins with God the foundation of all truth. Man never creates the truth but receives the truth as revealed by God.
- God has given us the Bible in order to reveal Himself.
- “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me...”-John 5:39
- The Scriptures will give us a clear understanding of who God is.

- God is producing within us His ideas and thoughts.
- After a time of painful suffering, hopefully we begin to understand, and **trust** in God's goodness.
- If we understood everything that happens then we probably would not resent it. But we cannot see nor comprehend the big answers.
- God is not cruel or unjust. We simply cannot see or know the whole story.
- We can **trust** God to do the right thing every time.
- **Trust** is the glue that holds together the relationship of God's goodness to the believer while enduring an affliction.
- “**Trust** in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”-**Proverbs 3:5**

# **God Is Sovereign**

- The evil and suffering we experience and witness in this world is not the ultimate end, God is.
- Although Satan believes himself to be in control, he is not, God is.
- The reality is that God is in control and has been from the beginning and will always be in charge.
- Satan is a created being and his authority is given to him and will ultimately be taken away.
- Satan is not in charge of anything including hell.

- When people communicate the sovereignty of God they are not simply saying that God has the right and power to rule the universe, which He has, but He also directs all things according to His will and for His wise and holy purpose.
- Our expectations of the way we believe things ought to be and our lack of comprehension of the ways of the Lord is what causes our confusion about evil.
- Job believes himself to be innocent of sin but the sin that traps Job and many of us is lowering the Character of God to our miniscule view and then put ourselves in the place of judging God.

- Job is a real and genuine believer. His life is marked by genuine integrity, upright in his relationship with others, devout in his worship of God, and repentant for his behavior.
- Job's life was marked by repentance and faith which are the same marks of believers today.
- Job's character is important as a testimony to all man that our relationship with God is based upon His grace and our response of trust and obedience to that grace.

- If Job suffered, being righteous, then righteousness must not prevent suffering or guarantee God's protection from the events of a Fallen World.
- Job was an extremely righteous man that God chose to put through difficult trials as a witness to all of us that although a righteous man may suffer yet by God's grace and compassion will always be restored.

- Job and his friends had built their whole life on the belief that God helps the good and hinders the bad.
- God can be seen as just in the affairs of men by punishing the bad behavior of man and rewarding the good.
- “In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing.”-**Ecclesiastes 7:15**

- The Lord spoke to Job out of the heart of the storm.
- When God answered Job He did not offer an explanation to Job for the reason that He was suffering.
- God did not offer an answer to Job for the problem of evil.
- God did not defend Himself against the charges of injustice placed upon Him by Job.
- Job's three friends did not see God's punishment upon Job that they believed, because of sin, was due him.

- God simply revealed Himself to Job and his friends.
- Job had sought a court room trial with God, as the defendant, answering his questions but when God comes to Job it's the other way around and it is God, Who is the One asking the questions.
- The main purpose for God not answering Job with an explanation for his suffering is because it would not have given Job comfort nor peace.
- Jesus knew the reasons why He had to be crucified but it did not make it any more comfortable nor any less miserable for Him.

- Intellectual answers do not bring the strength necessary to face the many trials we face in this world because most answers fall short.
- If the cause of suffering and trials can be dissected into explainable parts it is assumed that answers can be found to solve the problem of suffering.
- Suffering and trials can be endured through the strengthening of our spirit by the might and power of God Himself.
- Suffering and trials can be a gift from God to shake believers out of any self sufficiency which then enables believers to depend upon Him Who called us to His own glory and excellence.

- God opened His questioning by noting that His **counsel** had been darkened with **words with out knowledge**.
- “Why are you using your ignorance to deny my providence?”-Living Bible
- Job had said things about God that were not true because of his ignorance and lack of understanding.
- ***Knowledge of our own ignorance is the first step towards gaining wisdom.***
- “ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ”-**1 Corinthians 3:18**

# Give Thanks

- “give thanks **in** all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” **-1 Timothy 5:18**
- Notice it doesn’t say “give thanks **for** all circumstances” but “give thanks **in** all circumstances”.
- Being thankful “**in**” all things speaks toward a state of gratitude affecting our attitude towards God despite of the circumstance.
- Being thankful “**for**” all things or the trouble itself would be discouraging, but we can be thankful “**in**” troubling times because of Who God is and His benefits.

- Also during difficult moments in life we should not expect ourselves to feel thankful.
- “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”-**Hebrews 11:1**
- Faith is the assurance in the character of Who God is and the conviction that He is more than able to perform what He has promised in His word.
- Through faith we can convince our minds that God is good and that He knows what He is doing in the midst of our troubling circumstance.