

Come Follow Me
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Week 32
Job

I am so excited that we get to study the Book of Job this week. It really is one of my favorites, because of the amount of great doctrines contained in just a few chapters. We don't really know a lot about Job and where he came from. Chapter 1 verse 1 tells us that he was a "Perfect and Upright" man. However the word Job in Hebrew means "the persecuted or hated one". Some scholars believe that Job was not his real name but rather a name given to him because of the events in his life. In any case that is not too important, what is important is that nowhere in the book of Job is there a reference to the children of Israel. Thus it is believed that Job lived about the time of Abraham, and that the book could be as old as the book of Genesis. There is also evidence that this is the case because of the language that is used in the text, in the proof of how long he lived, and in how they measured wealth. So, let's dive in and see what gems the Lord will allow us to discover this week.

The story begins with a council in heaven where we see the "Sons of God" come to present themselves before the Lord, and it says that Satan came also among them. We don't really know exactly what is going on but these verses teach us a great deal. Satan is not in some Hell somewhere, he is here on the Earth, he tells us that he is "going to and fro on the Earth, and he is walking up and down it". This shows us that Satan will rarely attack you personally. He is more of a people watcher, a studier, a planner that will send his angels of darkness to do his work. And he only gets involved personally for people such as Job. It also teaches us that Satan is accountable to God. He can't just do as he wishes all the time, but rather has to answer for all of his dealings and it appears that he even has to ask for permission. This truth gives me, at least, great comfort. Knowing God is 100% in control all the time. He is never caught off guard because of the adversaries tactics.

Now verse 8 is also very telling, it says: "the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my [servant Job](#)." This Suggests that the Lord plans to have Satan afflict Job. But this translation is a little off to the original Hebrew. It should read more like "The Lord said to Satan Thou Hast Been considering my servant Job". It's more of a question and an observance from an Omnipotent God. Job up until this point has followed God's laws completely but Satan charges Job for doing so great only because God has been so generous to him. This is an important principle to pause on and discuss for a little bit. Some believe that if they keep all the commandments that they will not have any hardship or trials in their life. This is of course false. Now, please don't misunderstand, I believe that bad things happen sometimes so that God can get our attention and we are able to choose to turn to him. But when something bad happens it does not always mean that God is punishing you. Bad things do happen to good people all the time. Just because we are striving to keep the commandments doesn't mean we are immune to the ailments of life. Any person that is walking the path can attest to this principle. Someone once asked C.S. Lewis why the righteous suffer, and he responded this way: "Why not? They are the only ones that can take it."

But perhaps we would do well to not call down these trials upon ourselves. All of us at times fall into a rut that the natural man drags us into that says "Well, if God will bless me with this thing, THEN I will be better and try harder". As you know this process is also not the way of the Lord.

The lessons of Job teach us the true ways of the Lord. You may think that Job was perfect because of all his riches but as you will see this is not the case at all.

Starting in Verse 14 in rapid fire succession Job loses his most prized possessions, his Donkeys, then sheep, and camels, All taken or killed back to back. But Satan saved the worst trial for last. All of his children were feasting in their eldest brother's house and a great wind came and blew the house down killing all 10 of his children. Could you even imagine the magnitude of this trial? My wife and I lost 1 child and it wrecked us for years. I couldn't even fathom the grief that would come from losing all of your children at one time. This statement shows us what kind of man Job really is, verse 20:

”Then Job arose, and **rent** his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground”

This is to be expected of anyone that goes through a trial similar to Job's. We would expect Job to grieve in this way. But this last action highlights his faith in God, the record continues.

“and he worshipped.”

Through all the grief and pain he was experiencing, He knew that it was for a purpose in God and he trusted him. Job 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.”

He also says in Chapter 13 verse 15: “Though he **slay** me, yet will I **trust** in him:

Wow. I can tell you with certainty that if that were to happen to me right now I am not confident that I would be able to have the same response as Job. As you know the test was not over yet. In chapter 2 Job gets skin boils, his wife loses her faith, and his friends who came to comfort him in his grief suddenly turn on him and accuse him of sinning. Saying that all of these things happened to him because of something that he did. Then we see several chapters of these speeches going back and forth between Job and his friends who are just wailing on Job again and again, to the point that it almost gets exhausting and we cry out in our heart “just leave him alone”. I hope that you will see that this is all for a purpose in God. I know it says in the beginning that Job was perfect, but God's plan here was to use the adversaries torcher to make Job better. See, Job still has at least one vice that gripped his heart. It is revealed in chapter 31 when Job prays to God and his true colors are coming through. Personally I think it is sad that Job had to endure all this just to get to the bottom of his next step in progression. I don't believe that God uses extreme measures all the time to get us to learn and grow. Most of the time they are small, simple things to move us along the path. But perhaps this was the only way for Job to really truly learn what God had in store for him, and what a great blessing it will be. Starting in verse 2 of chapter 31:

“For what portion of God *is there* from above? and *what inheritance* of the Almighty from on high?”

This is Job questioning God:

“Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?”

Did you feel his wise in his words? Job is saying, God don't you see all that I have done? Can't you see how great I have been? How I have kept all your commandments? He is puffing himself up, trying to prove with his actions that he is worthy of God's grace and blessings. But God is about to show him how great he really is:

Chapter 38 verse 1:

“Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who *is* this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?
Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.”

Right away we know this is going to be hard for Job. First off Job has spent the last few chapters asking God and questioning his purposes. Now, God answers him in a whirlwind. The same force of nature that took his 10 children from him. And He begins to question Job. This is about to get real, Verse 4:

“Where wast thou when I **laid** the **foundations** of the **earth**? declare, if thou hast understanding.”

God is not being mean or condescending to Job. It may seem that way, but he is teaching him. Job had gone through all these awful things with complete faith in God and because of his faithfulness God is going to bless him with the most amazing blessing...Knowledge. A tour, if you will, through the hall of eternity and the magnitude of his creations. And at the conclusion of this amazing discourse God asks Job one more question, chapter 40 verse 1:

“Moreover the Lord answered Job, and said, shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct *him*? he that reproveth God, let him answer it.”

Now Job understands what God is teaching him. His response is in verse 3:

“Then Job answered the Lord, and said, behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further.”

This response is the same for any mortal that truly comprehends the nature of God. It was how Peter reacted when Jesus commanded him to cast his net on the other side of the boat. His first response was, I am a great fisherman who has been fishing all night, but whatever... I guess I'll humor you and do as you say. He was astonished to see what the nets were so full that they couldn't get them into the boat, it says:

“When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” Luke 5:8

There truly is only one human reaction when we see the grandeur of God, when we truly understand who and what God is. It is the same reaction for every man or prophet that has ever been a witness to God's majesty. Instant repentance. Job says:

“I know that thou canst **do every thing**, and *that* no thought can be withholden from thee. Who *is* he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too **wonderful** for me, which I knew not.

Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and **ashes**.” - Job 42:2-6

The end to this story is magical. God restores all things to Job even more than what he had before. But, the greatest gift that God gave to Job was knowledge and a sure witness of God's love for his children, and the greatness of his works in the salvation for those that seek him with a pure and sincere heart.

I am a witness that these same wonderful blessings which Job received can be ours as well. The process is outlined in this wonderful record of a faithful servant of the Lord. I pray that we may learn to be humble as Job did and that the Lord will open the windows of heaven and show us his marvelous creations and the majesty of his touch.

In the sacred name of our all knowing Creator, Jesus Christ, Amen