

NOTES ON THE BOOK OF JOB

by

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In the book of Job, we are introduced to a man who according to scripture is blameless, righteous, and God-fearing (Job 1:1). This man was blessed with seven sons and three daughters and had great wealth. His sons feast regularly on their birthdays and special occasions and invited their sisters to the feast. Because Job was such a righteous man and feared---reverenced God, after their feasting he would send for them to purify them by offering burnt offerings to God---just in case they sinned during the feasting (Job 1:5). However, unbeknown to Job, he was being watched, observed not only by God, but by Satan who is the adversary and accuser of the brethren according to Revelation 12:10. Satan also goes around seeking whom he can devour.

Now, when we look at the entire book of Job, we see God speaking in the beginning (chapters 1 & 2) and in the end (chapters 38-41:34). The remaining chapters are a dialogue between Job and his friends who accuses him of sinning. Job's friends think God, the Almighty, has punished him because God is a just God who punishes the wicked. His friends (in their lack of knowledge of God) tried to defend God's integrity, but they were wrong. God, Himself, said in Job 42:7, "... to Eliphaz the

Temanite, My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me the thing that is right, as My servant Job has.”

What we see in the book of Job is the righteous suffering and a very long dialogue between Job and his friends on why Job, who is the righteous is suffering. In the dialogue Job’s friends do not see him as righteous. They think, he has sinned terribly against God and will not admit his sin; therefore, destruction from God has come upon him. Whereas, Job feels he has upheld his integrity and can’t understand why all this destruction has come upon him and his household. He can’t understand why he is suffering.

Here, in the 21st century, Christians still have the same question, as in ancient days of Job, around the late second millennium (2000-1000 BC).

“Why do the righteous suffer?”

The righteous suffer because the devil, Satan, is the god of this world according to 2 Corinthians 4:4 and he still goes around as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Peter declares this in 1 Peter 5:8.

However, when I was reading Job 40:8, the Holy Spirit revealed this to me to share with you. He said, “Don’t condemn God to justify yourself; for every good and perfect gift comes from God, our Father (James 1:17). He doesn’t put sickness on His children. Satan is the author of sickness and disease. God is the healer”

God allows whatever we allow. He has given us authority in the earth realm to bind the enemy’s attacks (Matthew 18:18). We must use our God-given authority to keep the enemy at bay and from wreaking havoc in our lives. We must use the Word of God like Jesus did when He was tempted by Satan. He simply said, “It is written...” The Word is our sword, it will fight for us if we speak the Word in faith believing

God. When we speak in faith, all heaven supports us with power from the Most High God. Now, remember the story in Daniel (9:20-10:12-14). Daniel continued to pray and fast for 21 days before the prayer was answered because the “prince of Persia,” a wicked spirit, hindered the prayer. Gabriel, the angel, had to have reinforcement and help came from Michael, one of the chief princes of God. Note this, if Daniel had not been steadfast and unmovable, he would not have gotten the answer. Therefore, as Christians, we must be vigilant because we have an adversary, along with his host, who brings afflictions, destructions, and sicknesses and diseases on the children of God. Jesus said in John 10:10, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

Lastly, What principle(s) ---practical application can be extracted from the book of Job? Let’s look at Job 42:1-10 :

Then Job replied to the LORD:

² “I know that you can do all things;
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

³ You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.

⁴ “You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.’

⁵ My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.

⁶ Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes.”

⁷ After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has. ⁸ So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.” ⁹ So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite did what the

LORD told them; and the LORD accepted Job's prayer.¹⁰ After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.

There are three main principles operating in the book of Job that I would like to share. The Principle of Agreement, which is God's plan to crown our lives with peace. As believers, we need to learn like Job to stop trying to reason things beyond us and stop babbling about things we know not of, but agree with God's Word and rest in Him. Because some things can't be comprehended with the natural mind (1 Corinthians 2:14); they must be spiritually discerned. When we do this, we will achieve the peace that Jesus promised. After making a decision to agree with God and His Word, we must take a step of faith and obey. By operating in the Principle of Obedience, which is God's plan to reward our lives, we can be assured that God will restore to us what the devil stole. The principle of Obedience is a righteousness-building principle and when one is in right standing with God, one can live in the "blessed state". Job was considered a righteous man and when he repented and got back in right standing with God, God restored to him double.

Also, one sees the underlying Principle of Unconditional love, which is God's plan to keep us from failing (that we might have good success with God and man). This is a proper attitude- building principle. The overall purpose/goal is to overcome evil circumstances Romans 8:37 tells us, "we are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us."

It is important to remember that PRAYER is vital in the Christian life because it was after Job prayed that God restored Job and forgave his friends.

LET'S PRAY

Father, I pray, as believers, we will not try to justify ourselves by condemning You or try to defend Your integrity because Your Word speaks for You. You and Your Word are one. I ask You to help us, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to simply agree with Your Word and put our faith into action; I thank You for the grace to obey--- truly, Your grace is sufficient. Now, may we, Your children, increase in over flowing love, in Jesus' Name. Amen