

JOB

(Chapter 41-42 & Conclusion)

Wednesday, March 13, 2024



Introduction:

Recently, I walked through a cemetery. Although that may seem like a creepy thing to some people, I find it quite fascinating. To think that each marker represents a lifetime, whether short or long, is significant. As I looked upon hundreds of tombstones, I asked myself, “What is the most important part of this marker? Is it the granite from which it is made? Is it the artful engraving? Is it the name, or is it the dates? No doubt, the name is significant as it represents a life – a real person. That person may have been an important political figure, or a pastor, or a teacher. They may have been a farmer, or a rancher, or a share-cropper. At the end of the day (or of a life, in this instance), it doesn’t really matter what that person did, so much as who that person was. Who was this person on the inside? Did they make a difference? Did they make an impact on the lives of others?

Recap of Job’s Experience:

Job was a real person, a wealthy person, a man with a large family. The story of Job is a picture of:

- God’s provision in the face of adversity.
- Job’s faithfulness to bless the Lord.
- Job’s eventual weakness.
- Job’s so-called friends who stepped in to “help” him.

Though the author is not mentioned, many manuscripts suggest that it was written by Moses some 1500 years B.C.

- The story of Job actually begins in the heavenly realm when the Devil claims the only reason why Job is faithful to God is because God has blessed him.
 - God allows the Devil to attack Job’s possessions, his livestock, his property, his livelihood. He even allows the enemy to attack Job’s physical well-being, just short of killing him.
 - Ultimately, Job’s servants and even his children are stricken down.
 - Essentially, we see a man who has lost everything. Not only is Job’s life miserable from a property and a relationship standpoint, ultimately, Job’s physical body is affected as well.
 - As in every believer’s life, we may have many “accusers”, but the primary accuser is Satan, the Devil, the evil one, the enemy.
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- Hallelujah, we have an advocate through the one true God.
 1. He is omniscient: All knowing.
 2. He is omnipotent: All powerful.
 3. He is omnipresent: Everywhere at the same time.
 4. He is omnibenevolent: Good.
- Even in Job's darkest hours, God was there. He was there to comfort and to console Job. And when Job's thinking about his circumstances and about his God were flawed, God was there to correct him as well. Knowing about God is not enough. We must enter into a relationship with God, through faith in His one and only Son, Jesus Christ

(A side note) In Chapter 40, God speaks of the Behemoth, which I made as I made you...He is the first of the works of God... (vv. 15, 19)...

- What do scientists try to tell us about the era of the dinosaurs?
- Yet, God speaks of this creature as one that still existed (along with the Leviathan) at the same time as Job.

I. Job 41 – God's Challenge to Job Continues

A. The Leviathan (vv. 1-11)

- "Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook or press down his tongue with a cord?
 2 Can you put a rope in his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook?
 3 Will he make many pleas to you? Will he speak to you soft words?
 4 Will he make a covenant with you to take him for your servant forever?
 5 Will you play with him as with a bird, or will you put him on a leash for your girls?
 6 Will traders bargain over him? Will they divide him up among the merchants?
 7 Can you fill his skin with harpoons or his head with fishing spears?
 8 Lay your hands on him; remember the battle—you will not do it again!
 9 Behold, the hope of a man is false; he is laid low even at the sight of him.
 10 No one is so fierce that he dares to stir him up. Who then is he who can stand before me?
 11 Who has first given to me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine.*

1. God's comparison: The Leviathan is too big to catch!
 - a. A fishhook, a rope, a leash, harpoons, spears...
 - b. This is a picture of man trying to do God's job.
2. Essentially, "Job, if you can't catch, kill, market the giant sea creature, then how can you even begin to argue with me?"

B. The Leviathan (continued vv.12-32)

1. This is yet another picture of the power of God.

- a. If God created the leviathan like he created man, God's power is clear.
- b. This creature breathes fire and smoke!
- c. He stirs the deep waters and leaves a wake behind him.

2. If you cannot contend with such a fierce creature which I created like I created you, how do you think you can contend with ME, the one true God of the universe and beyond.

- a. A reminder of God asking Job, Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? (38:4a)
- b. A reminder of God asking Job, Have you commanded the morning since your days began and caused the dawn to know its place? (38:12)

II. Job 42 – Job's Confession, Repentance, and Restoration

A. Confession and Repentance (vv. 1-6)

Then Job answered the Lord and said:² "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted."³ "Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?" Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand: things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."⁴ "Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me."⁵ I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;⁶ therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

- 1. Have you ever spoken too soon? Job did.
- 2. Have you ever lost your temper? Job did.
- 3. Have you ever lashed out in anger? Job did.
- 4. Have you ever blamed God for your trials? Job did.
- 5. Have you ever been convicted by your actions? Job was.
- 6. Has God's Word ever revealed sin in your life? It did for Job.

B. God Rebukes Job's so-called "friends" (vv.7-9)

1. Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, Zophar the Naamathite
My anger burns against you... (v.7)

2. Even in God's anger, He provides a way for these men to be forgiven and cleansed.

- a. Seven bulls and seven rams...
- b. Offer a sacrifice.
- c. Job will pray for you. "...I will accept his prayer..."
- d. God will hear Job's prayer and accept it for their forgiveness.

C. God Restores Job's Wealth and Fortune (vv.10-17)

¹⁰ And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. ¹¹ Then came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and ate bread with him in his house. And they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him. And each of them gave him a piece of money and a ring of gold.

1. Job's patience brought double blessing.
2. There was a big celebration among Job's relatives.
3. God gave Job seven more sons and three more daughters (v.13).
4. Job lived another 140 years and saw four generations follow him (v.16).
5. And job died, an old man, and full of days (v.17)

Conclusion:

Job's situation shows us that the only proper response to the work of the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God is submission and faith. In the first chapter, we see that Job is found acceptable and pleasing to God in his life. He is:

- A man of integrity,
- A man who fears God,
- A man who turns away from evil.

However, we must also realize that Job was a flawed man. He was not perfect. He was capable of making bad choices and capable of saying things that did not honor God.

Yes, the book of Job has a happy start and a happy ending. But it is the days between that show how life really is. It is true that every tombstone has 2 dates (birth and death) and a dash in between. We must focus on what God wants to do with our dash. Job had a lot of painful trials and a lot of hard days in his dash. But it is what he did with those hard times, those trials, those momentary (in light of eternity) setbacks that we must remember. May we all be like Job when we face difficult circumstances that are beyond our control. May we remember to live for the Lord in our dash.
