

## JOB REVEALED

The book of Job is probably the earliest book in its setting in the Bible. The time of Job and his life predates Moses and he probably lived during the times of the Patriarchs- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. There probably is no other book that has been so commented on with different opinions, except the book of Revelation of course. No other book I believe has been so twisted and misunderstood also. Many have used this book to teach that we must patiently endure the dealings of God towards us as God smites us with sickness, hardship, and calamity [Did they not read the first two chapters and see that Satan did all those things?] Others have sought to find the reason for the bad things that happened to Job, with wrong conclusions. One of the most popular among faith circles is that Job got into fear and opened the door to the devil. In interpreting the bible it is imperative to do so in context. There is immediate context [verses before and after], historical context, dispensational context, but also the over-all context of the Word of God. Many have wondered why the book of Job is in the Bible. Many have concluded it is to teach us how to suffer well. Others have concluded that it is to teach us not to question why and not to question God's goodness when bad things happen to us. I am sure as with all of the other books of the Bible many lessons can be drawn for us, but the over-arching reason for this book must be in line with all of the other books of the Bible. The Bible is a collection of books that reveal a main point. To understand this point is to understand the Bible, and ultimately the place of Job in Sacred Scripture. The over-arching theme of the Bible is righteousness. The question of how does a man becomes righteous before God and how is he blessed and protected by God are the main themes of the Bible. From the Garden of Eden in Genesis to Revelation the Bible is the unfolding of God's righteousness by grace verses man's attempts to attain to righteousness by works/legalism. We see that in the Garden of Eden, God gave Adam and Eve the choice between the two. Righteousness by faith is seen in the tree of life, and righteousness by works is seen in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Man chose the latter tree and fell from grace. From that point God firstly went to work to show man their inability to achieve righteousness by works because of their sinful nature and secondly to reveal His own righteousness that he would offer by a gift of His grace through His Son Jesus Christ.

Job was righteous by faith as seen in his blood sacrifices, but it is apparent in the book that **Job also was self-righteous**. Can you be

righteous and self-righteous at the same time? You bet ya! It happens all the time in the church. This is true of more Christians than not! A Christian can get saved by faith [therefore being justified and made righteous], but then turn to performance to earn God's blessings and protection after they are saved. More Christians than not think God responds to them after they are saved by their performance and obedience instead of what Jesus did for them. They are righteous, but also very unrighteous in their beliefs after salvation. They are saved, but they fail to experience blessings because they think they earn them. This is really what the Job is all about. Christians today can learn a lot from Job, a man that was saved by **VERY RELIGIOUS!** The problem with Job was not a lack of doing the "right" things, but trusting in the wrong person to experience the blessings of God-himself! We will see in the book of Job that Job's suffering brought out his theology like nothing else could. Mark this down. Your theology [what you believe] comes out the clearest and loudest in trials and when you are suffering. What you really believe is both heard out of your lips and by your actions. What we hear come out of Job mouth reveals Job's theology and beliefs. Job's friends came to comfort him, but soon we also hear their theology. We discover that Job and his three friends all basically had the same theology. This theology boiled down is that if you do the right things God will bless you and if you fail to do those right things or do the wrong things then He will curse you. Job's friends judged Job from their theological framework and came out with the verdict that Job had done many wrong things and committed many evils and just was not 'fessing up to them. They believed Job was just reaping from God what he had sowed! Job knew full well he had done all the "right things", so the only conclusion he could come up with under his theological framework was that God was the one who was doing wrong to him! Job knew he had done all the right things outwardly and no one could convince him or show him one action he had done wrong. Since he felt his actions were righteous, then he believed he was righteous before God by his performance and did not deserve any of the bad things that were happening to him. He felt he deserved each and every blessing he got from God. Since he was obviously experiencing bad, and from his view it was from God, then God was wrong and He was the unrighteous one! **Job actually was a very proud man.** No one in his generation could find fault with anything Job said or did. He appeared to be blameless! Is it possible to live such a clean outward life where you could be called blameless? Yes. It happened in the New Testament. Actually Job has a counterpart figure in the New Testament. His name was Saul of Tarsus. This is what Paul had to say about himself.

Php 3:5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

Php 3:6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; **concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.**

Paul said according to outward performance of religious actions that he did everything right. He said he was blameless in his actions. Did this make Saul righteous before God? No way! Paul later would say he was the chief of sinners! Paul had his act together on the outside but on the inside he was filled with pride, hate, and bigotry. God looks at the heart and not merely on the outward actions. Job and those around him were focused upon performance and not the condition of the heart. Job was filled with self-righteous pride as were his friends. We can see it in their words. We can see their theology in what they said, and here are a collection of their words:

### **Friend #1- Eliphaz**

Job 4:7 "Remember now, who *ever* perished being innocent? Or where were the upright *ever* cut off?

Job 4:8 **Even as I have seen, Those who plow iniquity And sow trouble reap the same.** [YOU ARE REAPIN' NOW OL' JOB!]

Job 22:5 ***Is* not your wickedness great, And your iniquity without end?**

Job 22:6 For you have taken pledges from your brother for no reason, And stripped the naked of their clothing.

Job 22:7 You have not given the weary water to drink, And you have withheld bread from the hungry.

Job 22:8 But the mighty man possessed the land, And the honorable man dwelt in it.

Job 22:9 You have sent widows away empty, And the strength of the fatherless was crushed.

Job 22:10 Therefore snares *are* all around you, And sudden fear troubles you,

## Friend #2- Bildad

Job 8:2 "How long will you speak these *things*, And the words of your mouth *be like* a strong wind?

Job 8:3 Does God subvert judgment? Or does the Almighty pervert justice?

Job 8:5 If you would earnestly seek God And make your supplication to the Almighty,

Job 8:6 If **you were pure and upright, Surely now He would awake for you, And prosper your rightful dwelling place.**

Job 8:20 Behold, God will not cast away the blameless, Nor will He uphold the evildoers.

## Friend #3- Zophar

Job 11:5 But oh, that God would speak, And open His lips against you,

Job 11:6 That He would show you the secrets of wisdom! For *they would* double *your* prudence. **Know therefore that God exacts from you Less than your iniquity deserves.**

Job 11:14 **If iniquity were in your hand, and you put it far away, And would not let wickedness dwell in your tents;**

Job 11:15 **Then surely you could lift up your face without spot; Yes, you could be steadfast, and not fear;**

## Job Himself

Job 6:24 "Teach me, and I will hold my tongue; Cause me to understand wherein I have erred.

Job 6:29 Yield now, let there be no injustice! Yes, concede, my righteousness still stands!

Job 12:3 But I have understanding as well as you; I *am* not inferior to you. Indeed, who does not *know* such things as these? [JOB'S REPLY AFTER ALL THREE FRIENDS HAVE THEIR FIRST GO AROUND. THIS SHOWS JOB AS THE SAME THEOLOGY AS THEY, THEREFORE HE CANNOT RECONCILE WHY THESE THINGS ARE HAPPENING TO HIM. HE CONCLUDED THAT GOD IS UNRIGHTEOUS!]

(Job 12:9) Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this,

Job 13:15 Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. **Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.**

Job 13:18 **See now, I have prepared my case, I know that I shall be vindicated.**

Job 13:19 Who *is* he *who* will contend with me? If now I hold my tongue, I perish.

Job 13:23 **How many are my iniquities and sins? Make me know my transgression and my sin.**

**Job 13:24** Why do You hide Your face, And regard me as Your enemy?

Job 19:3 These ten times you have reproached me; You are not ashamed *that* you have wronged me.

Job 19:4 And if indeed I have erred, My error remains with me.

Job 19:5 If indeed you exalt *yourselves* against me, And plead my disgrace against me,

Job 19:6 **Know then that God has wronged me, And has surrounded me with His net.**

Job 23:11 My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside.

Job 23:12 I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary *food*.

Job 23:13 "But He *is* unique, and who can make Him change? And *whatever* His soul desires, *that* He does.

Job 27:2 "**As God lives, who has taken away my justice,** And the Almighty, *who* has made my soul bitter,

Job 29:2 "Oh, that I were as *in* months past, As *in* the days *when* God watched over me;

Job 29:14 **I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban.**

Job 31:3 **Is it not destruction for the wicked, And disaster for the workers of iniquity?**

Job 31:4 Does He not see my ways, And count all my steps?

Job 31:5 "If I have walked with falsehood, Or if my foot has hastened to deceit,

Job 31:6 Let me be weighed on honest scales, That God may know my integrity.

Job 31:7 If my step has turned from the way, Or my heart walked after my eyes, Or if any spot adheres to my hands,

Job 31:8 *Then* let me sow, and another eat; Yes, let my harvest be rooted out.

Job 31:9 "If my heart has been enticed by a woman, Or *if* I have lurked at my neighbor's door,

Job 31:10 *Then* let my wife grind for another, And let others bow down over her.

Job 31:11 For that *would be* wickedness; Yes, it *would be* iniquity *deserving of* judgment.

Job 31:12 For that *would be* a fire *that* consumes to destruction, And would root out all my increase.

Job 31:13 "If I have despised the cause of my male or female servant When they complained against me,

Job 31:14 What then shall I do when God rises up? When He punishes, how shall I answer Him?

**The divine narrative of the book of Job has this to say of Job after all the talking as been done! This is the commentary of the Holy Spirit!**

Job 32:1 So these three men ceased answering Job, **because he was righteous in his own eyes.**

We see the theology of Job and his three friends were basically the same. Do good, get good from God. Do bad, get bad from God. It is clear from Job's own testimony that he believed he deserved all the goodness that God was showing him because of all the righteous deeds he had done. Sure, he had believed in the Lord which settled his eternal state, but when it came to the everyday blessings and protection of life, Job trusted in his own good works. God had blessed Job because of His grace, not because of his merits. Job could not see this. Again, we do not really know what is in our heart until we are tested! Many wonder why Job was allowed to be tested like he was. **God did not do those things to Job, but there is no getting around it, God allowed it.** Why? Let's now look at the first chapter of Job.

**Job 1:6** Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.

**Job 1:7** And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

**Job 1:8** Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?*"

It is interesting to note that Satan was not the one who brought up the subject of Job. God did! He asked Satan where he had been. God knew. Satan said he was roaming the earth. God then said, "In your search, you saw Job did you not?" God reports about Job what Job and everyone around him thought of Job. He is blameless and upright and shuns evil. God was basically saying that Job had his act together. Why would God bring up Job? Did he not know that if he brought up the subject of Job that Satan would desire to test him? Yes. At this point we need to remind our self of one thing. God is a God of love. God knew that something was amiss in Job's heart which was actually deadly and hurtful. It was causing Job great inward unrest and fear. There was a belief system in Job that was all wrong. Job was trusting in His own works and merits and his own righteousness. This is a great sin, howbeit, a hidden one, like Saul of Tarsus. Saul had to be knocked off his high horse for his own good, and so did Job. This sin had to be exposed, therefore Job had to be revealed. In a later time God would use the Law to do this. He would use the Ten Commandments to try men, so that men would be revealed and what they believed would be clearly seen in their words and actions. The number ten in the bible symbolizes trial. The Ten Commandments were to try men and let them fail so they could clearly see their own heart, turn from self-righteousness and turn to trust in the grace of God through Jesus Christ. Job lived before the Law. The only thing that could expose Job's heart and beliefs was trial. God took **NO** pleasure in what happened to Job, but He took pleasure in what it accomplished because of it. At the end of this trial God came and spoke to Job Himself and showed His glory to Job. Job in the presence of an absolute holy God saw his own unholiness and his natural sinful state. That is what the Law did and that is what this trial did for Job.

God came to Job in a whirlwind. A whirlwind in the bible speaks of judgment. God came in judgment upon Job's belief system and self-

righteousness. He started to ask Job questions for which he had no answers, not a single one! In the end this trial and judgment, this is what was revealed to Job:

**Job 40:3** Then Job answered the Lord and said:

**Job 40:4** "Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth.

**Job 42:4** Listen, please, and let me speak; *You said*, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.'

**Job 42:5** "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.

**Job 42:6** Therefore I abhor *myself*, And repent in dust and ashes."

Job saw that instead of being blameless in God's sight, he actually was vile. God saw it all the time! Job did not, therefore Job had to see it and the only way was the trial. Today men are tried by God's law. It exposes them for frauds and sinners. Job was revealed by what happened to him. Again, God took no pleasure in what happened to Job, and God delighted in again showing unmerited favor after Job repented and fell upon the grace of God by faith. What got Job saved in the first place, Job realized would get him blessed afterwards. It took the trial to realize this. Once Job in grace forgave his three friends for their legalistic judgments, the grace of God flowed back into his life in a greater measure and Job received double what he had before. God had wanted to bless Job this much to start with, but it was being blocked by his pride and self-righteousness. Job became a great witness for the grace and goodness of God and righteousness by faith! So this is Job revealed. This book is not understood by most Christians, because the problem with Job is the problem with most Christians! They are saved by faith in grace, but now live by a theology of merit in daily blessings and protection. This is why so many Christians are lacking in the provisions of the Lord and are being overcome by the enemy. God put Job's story in the bible for us who live today.

**Rom 15:4** For whatever things were written before were written for **our learning**, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Let's learn Job's lesson and experience the blessings of Job! As a Christian you do not have to fear Satan getting an inroad in your life and stealing

from you or killing you or your family. You have a covenant with God through Jesus Christ. Satan has no authority to steal, kill, or destroy you. You have been given authority in the name of Jesus over him. However, if you do not know your authority, then Satan will come in to steal, kill, and destroy you. If you do not know or exercise your authority, Satan will have attack you. Many do not know about the authority given to them by Christ over the devil. If he comes and attacks you, you must resist him in the name of Jesus and by His finished work of redemption. Satan cannot pass the blood line! Many Christians are afraid that if they mess up then Satan will have the right to do bad things to them. **This is not the case!** Only in a few rare cases in the New Testament were believers handed over to Satan for the destruction of their flesh. This was after prolonged rebellion and stubborn disobedience to God's many dealings with them. This reveals that up until that point Satan did not have a right to attack them or destroy them! However, Satan does not follow legal procedures. That is why he is called a thief. If you do not exercise your authority over him, he will steal from you and try to do terrible things to you and your family. Do not get into fear! Simply trust in the gift of righteousness through Jesus Christ and place your trust in it for God to bless you and protect you from the enemy. It is turning away from this simple trust in Jesus to trusting in your own merits is what opens the door for the enemy. You can only resist the enemy successfully in the name [standing and merits] of Jesus, and not your own name [standing and merits]. When Satan comes to attack you, reveal Christ to him and he will flee! If you do not reveal Christ, you will end up being revealed. Reveal Christ!