

# THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

[www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org](http://www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org)

Floral Heights  
Church of Christ  
1814 Buchanan  
Wichita Falls, Texas  
76309  
(940) 322 - 1650

**19 April 2009**  
VOLUME 9; ISSUE 16

## In This Issue:

The Book of Job .....1-2  
Local News ..... 2  
Sermon Outline ..... 3  
Clips from Psalms ..... 4

## Our Elders:

*Mike Chancellor*  
(322 – 6374)

*Tom Witherspoon*  
(923-6479)

## Deacons:

*Joe Cronin*

*Jim Hall*

*David Witherspoon*

## Preacher:

*John C. Robertson*

## The Book of Job

### Job the Man

The book of Job is an account of the life of the man Job. Job was perfect, upright, one that feared God, and one who turned away from evil (Job 1:1). Job was also a man of great wealth (Job 1:2) who had been blessed with ten children (Job 1:3). Job was respected and sought out for council by both young and old (Job 29:6-11). Job met his responsibilities of one who is wealthy by helping those in need because he genuinely cared about people. Widows, fatherless, poor, aged, blind, lame, and those who mourned were helped by Job's generosity (Job 29:12ff). All those who experienced anguish in life were comforted and helped by this man of great faith (Job 4:3-5).

### Satan Strikes

Job's character was impeccable in the eyes of God. Satan; however, comes to Jehovah and claims that the only reason Job is so perfect is because God has blessed him with great wealth and family (Job 1:9-10). Satan was confident that Job would renounce God to His face if he took away all God's blessings and struck him with a terrible disease (Job 1:11; 2:4-5). God permits Satan to strike Job; however, the Almighty placed boundaries upon the man's life (Job 1:11; 2:6). Satan goes about his dastardly work robbing the perfect and upright man of God of all his substance and even killing all ten of Job's children. Job responds faithfully by saying, "*Naked came I out of my mother's womb and naked shall I return thither: Jehovah gave, and Jehovah hath taken away; blessed be the name of Jehovah*" (Job 1:21). Once again, after Satan struck Job with a terrible disease, Job faithfully replies to his wife who had told him to curse God and die saying, "*What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips*" (Job 2:10).

### Job's Legendary Suffering

The emotional strain of loosing all that you own and having your flesh experience a dreaded disease of great discomfort would be virtually unbearable. So horrid was Job's disease that when his three friends Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar come to comfort him they were startled at his dreaded state, wept bitterly, and then sat in silence for seven days (Job 2:11-13). The depth of Job's suffering is unfathomable as we consider a man who also lost

## Local News:

### Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

### Baptism!

**Brandon Witherspoon** was baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of his sins last Sunday evening. We rejoice with the Witherspoon family and pray that many fruitful years of service in the kingdom of God are ahead for Brandon.

### Please keep the following members in your prayers:

Continue to keep **Nina Gray and Pam Husak** in your prayers as they struggle with their ongoing health issues.

**Jim Hall's mother** fell and broke her hip this past Wednesday evening. Friday morning she had surgery to repair the break and is currently at the United Regional Hospital (room 509 last I heard).

### Women's Bible Study:

The next Bible class will be Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM. The class meets at the church building with Kasey Robertson doing the teaching.

### Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Calvin York**  
692-0489 (Home).

his beloved ten children in death. Job's suffering went even deeper. All those who respected Job in his wealth and health began to despise him. Job came to be the object of scorn as men were disgusted to even look upon him. Like a Quazi Motto (the Hunch Back of Notre Dame) of his day men gazed at him like a freak show, beat, and spit upon him (Job 16:10; 17:6-8; 30:10-15) (see also Christ's suffering at Matt. 26:67; 27:30). Job's own family, friends, and servants of his house came to be estranged from him (Job 19:13-16). Even Job's own wife was no where to comfort him (Job 19:17). To make matters worse, the three friends who were suppose to be comforting Job charge him with secret sin (Job 4:7-9; 8:4-7; 11:6, 11-14; 20:12-15). Zophar believes Job is guilty of hoarding riches at the expense of the poor (Job 20:15-19). Elephaz charges Job with wickedness that has no end seeing that he is surely guilty of taking bribes against a brother, sending widows away empty handed, and caring nothing for orphaned children (see Job 22:5-11). Job's three friends believe that if only Job would admit his error the Lord would relieve his suffering (Job 22:21-30).

### Job Maintains his Innocence:

Job does not give in to the pressures of his three friends. The man of God knows that he has done no sin worthy of suffering. Job said, "*I have not denied the words of the Holy One*" (Job 6:10). Job demands that someone point up his sins so that he may be aware of it; however, as of yet there is no truth to his friends accusations (Job 6:24). Job professes, "*My foot hath held fast to his steps; his way have I kept, and turned not aside. I have not gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured up the words of his mouth more than my necessary food*" (Job 23:11-12). Job makes a final declaration of his innocence at chapter 31 saying that he is not guilty of lusting after young women (Job 31:1-4). He is not guilty of the heinous crime of adultery (Job 31:5-12). Job has not thought too highly of himself (Job 31:13-15), acted unmerciful toward those in need (Job 31:16-23), never put his confidence in riches (Job 31:24-28), has not rejoiced over the hardships and failures of those who hated him (Job 31:29-30), and has never tried to hide his sin from man or God (Job 31:33-34). Job was innocent in relation to violating God's laws (Job 6:10, 24; 7:20; 16:17).

### Job's statements of Faith:

Job is confident that God knows of his innocence (Job 16:19). No matter what level of suffering he experiences he is determined to hold on to his faith in God. Job said, "*Yet shall the righteous hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall wax stronger and stronger*" (Job 17:9). Furthermore, Job said, "*But as for me I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand up upon the earth: and after my skin, even this body, is destroyed, Yet from my flesh shall I see God*" (Job 19:25-26). Job knows that his current distress is God's way of proving him that he may come forth as pure gold (Job 23:10). All men are appointed to suffering (Job 23:14; see also I Thess. 3:3) and Job is reserved to his lot in life (Job 30:23). Job concludes, "*Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding*" (Job 28:28). Job's greatest statements of faith are found at the end of the book when God exposes his darkened counsel (Job 38:1ff).

## **Job Debates his Friends:**

Job uses sarcasm against his three friends at times yet he primarily speaks of facts (see Job 12:2). Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar believe that Job is suffering because of a great sin in his life (Job 15:25; 33:12). If only Job would repent of this secret sin, that he refuses to admit, God would restore his health (see Job 22:21-30). Job maintains his innocence by saying that he is not like Adam of old who tried to conceal his sin from God (see Job 31:33). Job's observation in life is that all mankind suffers whether they have committed sin or not (Job 21:25-26). Job has noticed that some wicked men live very happy lives and experience great wealth (Job 21:7-14). Job concludes that the wicked do not suffer now for their sinful deeds but they will in eternity (see Job 21:29-30). Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar have thereby erred in their teaching (Job 21:34). Job soundly defeats his three friends in the debate over why man suffers on this earth (Job 13:12; 24:25).

## **Job's Darkened Counsel (Job 38:2):**

Though Job defeats his friends in debate he nonetheless makes very foolish accusations against God. Job believes that God is not fair in that He makes a man suffer who lives perfect and upright in life (Job 9:24; 10:3-4; 12:5-6). Job questions God's justice (Job 10:8) and mercy seeing that God seeks to destroy him (Job 9:22; 10:8). Job's darkened counsel is depicted in his faulty reasoning. Job has erroneously reasoned that God hates him (Job 16:9) and is against him (Job 6:4; 13:23-28). Job erroneously concludes that it is vain to strive for perfection in life if God is going to permit such a one to suffer (Job 9:29-35). Job has blamed God for all his misery (Job 16:11-14; 19:6-13, 21-22). Job believes there is no hope for such a one as himself (Job 19:10).

## **Job's suffering gets the better of him**

The anguish of losing all one's children, wife, possessions, friends, family, and respect in the community coupled with a dreaded disease works Job to the point of giving up. This man of God is kicked around and looked upon as the scourge of the human race. He views his agony as "*pain*" (Job 2:13b), "*misery*" (Job 3:20), "*trouble*" (Job 3:26) and "*vexation with calamity*" (Job 6:1). Job came to a "*desperate*" state (Job 6:26) as he "*loathed*" (Job 7:16) and "*despised*" his own life (Job 9:21). Job said, "*My soul is weary of my life*" (Job 10:1) and "*Days of affliction have taken hold of me...*" (Job 30:16-23). Just when Job has taken all that he could take God steps in and speaks to him (see Job 38:1 through end of book).

## **Job Confesses his error and Repents:**

Seeing that Job demanded that God give ear to his complaint (Job 23:1-7) God now demands that Job stand like a man and answer His divine questions (see Job 38:3; 40:7). God demands that Job explain how the earth was hung upon its axes, how the morning comes each day, how the sea is held in its boundaries, and to reveal what is in the depths of the ocean. God asks Job if he knows about the grass and needs of animals in remote areas where no man dwells. The Lord asks Job a multitude of questions regarding all of creation as well as the great behemoth and leviathan (see chapters 38-40). The Lord even uses sarcasm saying, "*Doubtless, thou knowest, for thou wast then born, and the number of thy days is great!*" (Job 38:21). Job cannot answer these questions because he is not deity. If he could then God would admit that he has the power to save his own life (Job 40:14). Job has now been soundly defeated by Jehovah in debate. There is nothing for Job to say. He shuts his mouth in shame and admits his "*small account*" in the presence of Jehovah (Job 40:1-5). Furthermore Job confesses his error, loathes himself for such thoughts and words that he had spoken against the almighty, and repents (see Job 42:1-6). The Lord mercifully accepts Job's humble confession and repentance and restores by twofold all the things that Job had lost. Job's ordeal ends.

(Continued Next Week)

Robertson

John

C.