

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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The Book of Job
(Part II)

Seven Lessons from Job

I personally find seven important lessons from a study of the book of Job. The first and foremost talked about lesson is that of patience due to James' mentioning Job in his New Testament book (see James 5:11). Secondly, we learn the importance of making a proper distinction between deity and flesh. Thirdly, we learn to precisely identify the Bible's concept of personal perfection. Fourthly, we learn about one of Satan's most effective tools against man. Fifthly, we learn that man's environment is not the standard by which God judges (i.e., situational ethics). Sixthly, we learn that those who are wealthy in this life have responsibilities. Lastly, we learn the answer to the question, "Why does man suffer in this life?"

Patience

At the conclusion of the New Testament book of James Christians are admonished to "*Be patient (Greek – makrothumeo) therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord... ye have heard of the patience (Greek – hupomone) of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord, how that the Lord is full of pity, and merciful*" (James 5:7, 11). James had earlier admonished the suffering Christians of chapter 1:2-4 to develop "*patience*" (*hupomone*) through their ill-fated happenings. The Greek *hupomone* means endurance and perseverance in the face of intense trials of life (see Moulton's Greek Word study pp. 418). Note that James uses the Greek word "*makrothumeo*" at James 5:7 in relation to "waiting with patient expectation" for the coming of the Lord (Moulton 256). James was encouraging persecuted Christians to patiently endure their current trials of life because their expectation of Christ's second coming would soon occur. James relates this to Job because the man of God endured the horrid suffering, earlier mentioned, by Satan and sinful men because he knew that his redeemer lived and that there was something better awaiting him in eternity (Job 19:25-26; 27:5-6). Likewise, the suffering Christian today ought to patiently endure the hardships of this life knowing that our glory awaits us in heaven (see I Pet. 5:6).

Know your Place

People embarrass themselves when they make it apparent that they do not know their proper place. Likewise when man does not make the proper distinction between deity and flesh he shames himself. Jehovah had accused

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!

Today is the last Sunday that the **Cribbs' family** will be with us. Ron has been moved to San Antonio by the USAF and will continue his duties there. We pray that their move will be smooth and that their family makes quick adjustments to a new church, work, and schools. We will certainly miss you all!

Please keep the following members in your prayers:

For a complete update on the health of our members please listen to the announcements this morning.

Women's Bible Study:

The women's Bible study was cancelled this past Friday due to illness in the Robertson family. The next Bible class will be Friday May 8th at 12:00 Noon (note the change from 12:30 to 12:00). 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).

Job of reasoning by way of "*dark counsel*" (Job 38:2). Job had foolishly accused God of being unfair, unjust, and unmerciful. The only way one can successfully charge Jehovah with such error is to be His superior (i.e., deity). The Lord tells Job that when he can prove that he has the knowledge and power of deity He would admit that he was correct in his charges (Job 40:14). Many foolish men of darkened counsel attempt to take the place of deity by altering God's revelation to fit their own beliefs (see II Thess. 2:1ff). These foolish men take the kingdom of God by force (Lk. 16:16). Such an endeavor is a futile exercise in fleshly reasoning and ends in man's spiritual and eternal death (Rom. 8:5-8). Let us all know our place before the Almighty Jehovah. We may study the science of God's creation; however, God created it and put it in its proper order (see Ps. 33:6-9). Man can scarcely bear the weight of anxiety produced by his own life much less that of all eternity. The prophet Isaiah said, "*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts*" (Isa. 55:9).

Bible Perfection

Jesus said, "*Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect*" (Matt. 5:48). The apostles of Jesus Christ also taught that the Christian must be perfect (see II Cor. 13:11; Col. 1:28; 4:12). Job is identified as "perfect" by Jehovah (see Job 1:1, 8, 2:3). Bildad, like so many confused disciples today, refused to believe man can be perfect (see Job 25 all). What Bildad, and many others today, do not understand about Bible perfection is that it is not comprehensive but rather a current state of being. Job had sinned in his past yet the Lord identified him as perfect (see Job 13:23-28). Likewise, we all have sinned in our past and probably will stumble in the future (see I Jn. 1:8-10). When sin occurs in the Christian's life we are commanded to repent and ask the Lord's forgiveness (Acts 8:22). By the power of Christ's blood man is forgiven and viewed as perfect (see Eph. 1:7; Heb. 7:18-19; 10:1ff). Job's perfection, like ours today, is found in a life of humility and effort in pursuit of the forgiveness of sins (see Job 1:5ff; Phil. 3:15). Our ever present objective is heaven! Job, in the end, confesses his error and humbly repents before the Almighty as we all ought to do (Job 40:3-5; 42:1-6). The man of God rightly states, "*Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding*" (Job 28:28). The Christian is to do no less today (see II Cor. 7:10).

Satan's Devices

The Apostle Paul tells the Corinthians that we "*are not ignorant of his (Satan's) devices*" (II Cor. 2:11). The devil's business is to ruin men's eternal soul (see Job 1:7; I Pet. 5:8-9). Satan uses "*devices*" to draw men from truth into the lusts of the world (James 4:7; I Jn. 2:15-17). The book of Job illustrates a great tool of Satan. Through Job's three friends the devil tried to "*convince*" the perfect man of God that he was not perfect (see Job 32:12). Job; however, maintained his innocence through the whole ordeal. Many false teachers today will try to shake the Christian's confidence by saying, "You can't be perfect... no one can possibly know all truth... there is no way unity can be achieved in the church... surely God will not

condemn us for one un-forgiven sin...” As Satan succeeded in the Garden of Eden so he succeeds with men today (see Gen. 3:1-6). Satan’s confidence in Job’s spiritual collapse; however, was proved wrong. Job was victorious over Satan and so you and I can be (Job 42:1-6; I Cor. 15:57; I Jn. 5:4).

Situational Ethics

A large part of Job’s darkened counsel was that he tried to justify his complaints against God due to his current distress (see Job 2:9-10; 7:11ff; 10:1-2; 12:11-12; etc.). Many today believe that one’s environmental conditions determine their moral standing. Situational ethics is defined as “A system of ethics (the rules or standards governing the conduct of the members of a profession) based on brotherly love in which acts are morally evaluated (judged) within a situational context (position with regard to surrounding conditions and attendant circumstances) rather than by application of moral absolutes” (AHD 1145). The Bible reveals that man is not judged by his surrounding circumstances but rather by divine revelation (Jn. 12:48). The Lord condemned Job’s unlawful complaints and accusations and so He does to all who try to justify their wrong deeds by their environment (Job 38:1ff). Consider two New Testament examples to illustrate this point. Many of the Hebrew Christians were being persecuted. They were made a “gazing-stock both by reproaches and afflictions... and the spoiling of your possessions” (Heb. 10:33ff). Though they had suffered much the fact remained that if they fall away from the Lord in sin it would be impossible to renew them to repentance as long as they continued in that sin (see Heb. 6:5-6). Many of the Galatians had also attempted to escape the afflicting hand of persecution by accepting erring doctrines (see Gal. 6:12). Did Paul excuse the Galatians due to their persecution? No! Paul said, “*Ye are severed from Christ, ye who would be justified by the law; ye are fallen away from grace*” (Gal. 5:4). God’s word is the only standard man is eternally judged by (see Dan. 5:27; Hos. 5:10-11; Amos 7:7-8; Matt. 7:21-24; Eph. 2:20; etc.).

Wealth and Responsibility

The Bible does not teach that it is sinful to have wealth. Job was a very wealthy man (Job 1:3) as was other Bible men such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and the wise king Solomon. Job explains that the sin of having riches is the reaching after them (see Job 31:24-28). The apostle Paul wrote Timothy about riches saying, “*But they that are MINDED to be rich fall into a temptation and a snare and many foolish and hurtful lusts, such as drown men in destruction and perdition. For the LOVE of money is a root of all kinds of evil: which some REACHING after have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows*” (I Tim. 6:9-10). Those “minded... have a love for... and are reaching” after the riches of this world forget the cleansing of their sins and the importance of our eternal heavenly treasures as they enjoy what this immediate world offers. Those who do have the wealth of this world would do well to follow Job’s example and give to the poor, widows, aged, sick, and orphans (see Job 29:12ff).

Why do people suffer in this life?

Job repeatedly asked God to explain why a righteous man was suffering (see Job 6:10, 24; 7:20; 24:1 etc.). While the Lord never gives Job an answer to his question the man of God nonetheless draws some right conclusions. Job had observed that both the righteous and wicked suffer in this life. Job even noted that there are times when the wicked prosper and are very happy while the righteous suffer (see Job 2:10; 5:7). Solomon confirmed these observations saying, “*The wise man’s eyes are in his head, and the fool walks in darkness: and yet I perceived that one event happens to them all*” (Eccl. 2:14; see also Eccl. 8:12-13; 9:1ff). Job made further observations. Job stated that man is being tested and refined by God during these days of affliction that they may come forth as gold (see Job 23:10). The New Testament confirms Job’s observations as truth for today. Those who choose to permit suffering to refine (I Pet. 1:6-8) and strengthen (James 1:1ff) them will never be disappointed.

Robertson

John

C.