

JOB PART 3

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27.8.16

We've seen that Job may be "inspired" ... but not everything said is truth.

Job has 20 chapters in the book ... his friends have 9. Yet ... they all contradict and disagree with each other!

God gives us an indication of what He thought about Job's words.

Job 38:1-2 (NKJV)

- 1 **Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:**
- 2 **"Who is this who darkens counsel
By words without knowledge?"**

In fact ... Job spoke without knowledge. In many respects he was ignorant!

Job 42:1-6 (NKJV)

- 1 **Then Job answered the Lord and said:**
- 2 "I know that You can do everything,
And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.
- 3 You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?'
**Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.**
- 4 Listen, please, and let me speak;
You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.'
- 5 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear,
But now my eye sees You.
- 6 **Therefore I abhor myself, (repudiate or retract ... everything I
said)
And repent in dust and ashes."**

Job 42:6 (NLT)

6 I take back everything I said,

Job's 3 friends were even worse!

Although Job blamed God (as did his 3 friends) ... we know it was satan who attacked Job.

Remember: Job lacked knowledge ... his 3 friends lacked knowledge. Many people today ... lack knowledge of the truth.

Job 1:8 (NKJV)

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

No surprise to us what satan does? He's doing the same in 2016. We are told to be vigilant because satan goes about:

1 Peter 5: "Like a roaring lion..."

James 4: "Resist the devil ..."

Eph 6: "Put on the whole armour ..."

It's not clear what Job knew about these things. Perhaps not a lot? He admitted he lacked knowledge. We have far more than Job had. We have tons of knowledge that Job did not have. You and I are admonished to acquire full and precise knowledge (Epignosis ... meaning full, accurate, precise knowledge).

Job 1:9-12 (NKJV)

9 So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? (*Satan being quite provocative towards God*)

10 **Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side?** (*Did God set a hedge around Job? Very doubtful*) You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

11 **But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"** (*Satan tried to provoke God. Trying to incite God to do evil. God is not going to yield and give in to the devil*)

12 And **the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person."** (*This is merely a STATEMENT OF FACT. Taking it literally means ... Look! See!*) So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

The warning is still valid today. Satan is still going around seeking whom he may devour. Watch out for Satan.

2 Timothy 2:24-26 (NKJV)

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

26 and **that they may come to their senses and escape the snare (trap) of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.**

Even today we must remain vigilant and alert ... and wearing the full armour of God. Job didn't know what we do. He was taken captive by the devil. Job lived in great fear and anxiety ... which wasn't right. Fear is the opposite of faith.

Let's look at the first set of calamities.

Job 1:13-22 (NKJV)

13 Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house; *(which caused worry and anxiety to Job)*

14 and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them,

15 when the Sabeans raided them and took them away—indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

16 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God (idiom: Lightning) fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

17 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

18 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,

19 and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; (utmost calamity) and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

20 Then **Job** arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

21 And he **said:**

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,

And naked shall I return there.

The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away;

Blessed be the name of the Lord."

22 In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

Did Job know what he was talking about? NO! The Lord gave? The Lord taketh away. These statements were inaccurate. Satan took away!

Job was sincere. This is what he believed. But ... he was wrong!
Satan took away!

He had a great attitude ... but he lacked knowledge.

Like many people today ... he assumed that everything that happened in his life was from God ... or approved by God. And ... this is still a comment you will often hear ... people are always saying, "Why did God allow this to happen to me?"

There are two problems here. One is assumption that "because I'm a good person ... I keep the Sabbath ... Holy Days ... I'm a Church member ... I will automatically be blessed and preserved from harm and danger". That is not true! This is presumptuous. Job felt the same way. There are many many promises that we can call on ... but ... all have to be claimed by Faith ... it's not automatic.

The other problem is a misunderstanding of God's sovereignty. Because "God is sovereign" ... absolutely everything must be personally approved by God. Job thought this has happened so it must have come from God. Not so.

So? God approved David's adultery with Bathsheba? (He allowed it? He certainly didn't approve of it!) God approved Israel's whoring after other gods? (He allowed it? But didn't approve of it).

Does God approve all of your sins? (Allowed them?)

God approved what you had for breakfast? What you choose to buy?
What socks or dress you put on?

No! God has given us free will. And He means it. He allows us to choose ... to make decisions ... even mistakes.

He commands His people to choose life ... the blessings. But ... we are absolutely free to choose death and cursing.

He commands us to resist Satan ... to give him no place ... to be vigilant ... to put on the full armour of God. But ... we're free to ignore His instructions ... or to be lazy or reckless. It is down to us what transpires ... not God.

But ... isn't it true that God is Sovereign? Yes ... but what does that mean?

The dictionary definition:

A supreme ruler or monarch

Being above all others in character, importance, excellence

Greatest in degree

God is all of those. Sovereign ... if we define Sovereign as what the dictionary defines. But ... not responsible for every foolish or evil action ... every crime or calamity ... every sickness or disease ... every murder or mugging ... every violent act ... theft ... drug taking ... or lie that is told.

God was not responsible for Job's problems! Job "GREATLY FEARED!"

It is a problem if people think that God is sending calamity or sickness on them ... to teach them some mysterious spiritual lesson.

If you believe God is sending it ... how could you resist? (Yet people who think that God is sending sickness and disease ... a thorn in the

flesh ... often go to the doctor's ... trying to get the doctor to remove sickness or disease that God has sent)

So Job ... in his ignorance ... lacking precise and accurate knowledge ... blamed God for his calamities. He was sincere ... honest. And ... not bitter at this stage. But ... he was wrong. And turning up to assist Job ... came his 3 friends to offer "support".

Let's look at what they said about Job's situation. We know later that God said His anger was aroused at their comments! We won't cover every verse ... since largely they are just human opinions.

ELIPHAZ (Oldest? Most senior?)

Job 4:1-6 (NKJV)

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

2 "If one attempts a word with you, will you become weary?

But who can withhold himself from speaking?

3 Surely you have instructed many,

And you have strengthened weak hands.

4 Your words have upheld him who was stumbling,

And you have strengthened the feeble knees; (in the past)

5 But now it comes upon you, and you are weary;

It touches you, and you are troubled.

6 Is not your reverence your confidence?

And the integrity of your ways your hope?

Job 4:7-9 (NKJV)

7 "Remember now, who ever perished being innocent?

Or where were the upright ever cut off?

8 Even as I have seen,

Those who plow iniquity

And sow trouble reap the same.

9 By the blast of God they perish,

And by the breath of His anger they are consumed.

Job ... you must be a sinner ... because God is sorting you out ... “the innocent don't perish”. But ... they do!! Lots of folks do. Plenty of innocent do perish. Satan goes around as a roaring lion. Sowing and reaping? Fallen World?

Eliphaz then adds a spiritual dimension.

Job 4:12-21 (NKJV)

12 **“Now a word was secretly brought to me,**
And my ear received a whisper of it. *(Eliphaz believed he had divine revelation. Heavenly authority!)*

13 **In disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night,**

When deep sleep falls on men,

14 Fear came upon me, and trembling,

Which made all my bones shake.

15 **Then a spirit passed before my face;** *(but ... if it was a spirit ... it was a spirit from the “dark side” ... from satan ... to further demoralise Job)*

The hair on my body stood up.

16 It stood still,

But I could not discern its appearance.

A form was before my eyes;

There was silence;

Then I heard a voice saying:

17 **‘Can a mortal be more righteous than God?**

Can a man be more pure than his Maker?

18 If He puts no trust in His servants,

If He charges His angels with error,

19 How much more those who dwell in houses of clay,

Whose foundation is in the dust,

Who are crushed before a moth?

20 They are broken in pieces from morning till evening;

They perish forever, with no one regarding.
21 Does not their own excellence go away?
They die, even without wisdom.'

We have to watch spiritual revelation. Not everything that's spiritual ... is of God! Some have entertained angels unawares ... but not all spirits are from God.

1 John 4:1 (NKJV)

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. *(Test the spirits whether they are of God)*

Just because you receive a mysterious exciting revelation .. a spirit messenger ... some dramatic dream ... doesn't automatically mean it's from God. Just because something is supernatural does not mean it is true. TEST!

Job 5:2-4 (NKJV)

**2 For wrath kills a foolish man,
And envy slays a simple one.**

3 I have seen the foolish taking root,
But suddenly I cursed his dwelling place.

**4 His sons are far from safety,
They are crushed in the gate,**

And there is no deliverer.

Job 5:6-7 (NKJV)

**6 For affliction does not come from the dust,
Nor does trouble spring from the ground;** *(things don't just come out of the blue ... there is a reason for these things)*

7 Yet man is born to trouble,
As the sparks fly upward.

Job 5:8-14 (NKJV)

8 **"But as for me, I would seek God,
And to God I would commit my cause—** (*"If I was you Job ... I'd repent" of my great wickedness*)

9 Who does great things, and unsearchable,
Marvellous things without number.

10 He gives rain on the earth,
And sends waters on the fields.

11 He sets on high those who are lowly,
And those who mourn are lifted to safety.

12 **He frustrates the devices of the crafty,
So that their hands cannot carry out their plans.**

13 **He catches the wise in their own craftiness,
And the counsel of the cunning comes quickly upon them.**

14 **They meet with darkness in the daytime,
And grope at noontime as in the night.** (*Yes Job ... you are getting what you deserve!*)

Job 5:17 (NKJV)

17 **"Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects;
Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty.** (*God corrects you! God is doing all of this Job. But ... we know that it is actually satan*)

Job 5:18-27 (NKJV)

18 For He bruises, but He binds up;
He wounds, but His hands make whole.

19 He shall deliver you in six troubles,
Yes, in seven no evil shall touch you.

20 In famine He shall redeem you from death,
And in war from the power of the sword.

21 You shall be hidden from the scourge of the tongue,
And you shall not be afraid of destruction when it comes.

22 You shall laugh at destruction and famine,

And you shall not be afraid of the beasts of the earth.
23 For you shall have a covenant with the stones of the field,
And the beasts of the field shall be at peace with you.
24 You shall know that your tent is in peace;
You shall visit your dwelling and find nothing amiss.
25 You shall also know that your descendants shall be many,
And your offspring like the grass of the earth.
26 You shall come to the grave at a full age,
As a sheaf of grain ripens in its season.
27 Behold, this we have searched out;
It is true. Hear it, and know for yourself." *(We 3 friends have figured it out!)*

More of Eliphaz

Job 15:1-3 (NKJV)

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:
2 "Should a wise man answer with empty knowledge,
And fill himself with the east wind? *(Aren't you just full of "Hot air" Job?)*
3 Should he reason with unprofitable talk,
Or by speeches with which he can do no good?

Job 15:5-6 (NKJV)

5 For your iniquity teaches your mouth,
And you choose the tongue of the crafty.
6 Your own mouth condemns you, and not I;
Yes, your own lips testify against you. *(Job's iniquity is the problem)*

Job 15:5 (CEV) "Your sinful scheming mind is the source of all you say!"

Job 15:7-10 (NKJV)

7 "Are you the first man who was born?

Or were you made before the hills?

8 **Have you heard the counsel of God?**

Do you limit wisdom to yourself?

9 **What do you know that we do not know?**

What do you understand that is not in us? (*Are you wiser than us? Job never claimed to be wiser than these friends*)

10 **Both the grey-haired and the aged are among us, Much older than your father.** (*They were jeering and scoffing at Job*)

But ... Job knew one thing. He'd done nothing wrong to deserve these calamities in his life. That doesn't mean he was arrogant.

Job 15:14-16 (NKJV)

14 **"What is man, that he could be pure?**

And he who is born of a woman, that he could be righteous?

15 **If God puts no trust in His saints,**

And the heavens are not pure in His sight,

16 **How much less man, who is abominable and filthy,**

Who drinks iniquity like water! (*Everybody's a wicked sinner ... you Job included. Admit it. No need to be ashamed*)

Job 15:17-19 (NKJV)

17 "I will tell you, hear me;

What I have seen I will declare,

18 What wise men have told,

Not hiding anything received from their fathers,

19 To whom alone the land was given,

And no alien passed among them: (*here's the traditions of the fathers ... the wise men that came before us ... the sages of old*)

Job 15:20 (NKJV)

20 **The wicked man (you) writhes with pain all his days,**

And the number of years is hidden from the oppressor.

We have to be careful. Many traditions are foolish and unbiblical.

Job 15:21-26 (NKJV)

21 Dreadful sounds are in his ears;

In prosperity the destroyer comes upon him. *(They believed it was God ... when in fact it was satan)*

22 He does not believe that he will return from darkness,
For a sword is waiting for him.

23 He wanders about for bread, saying, "Where is it?"
He knows that a day of darkness is ready at his hand.

24 Trouble and anguish make him afraid;
They overpower him, like a king ready for battle.

25 **For he stretches out his hand against God,
And acts defiantly against the Almighty,**

26 Running stubbornly against Him

With his strong, embossed shield.

(NASB) "conducts himself arrogantly against the Almighty." *(Hint
hint: Job you're the man!)*

Eliphaz has a 3rd and final discourse

Job 22:1, 4-5 (NKJV)

1 **Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:**

4 "Is it because of your fear of Him that He corrects you,
And enters into judgment with you?"

5 **Is not your wickedness great,
And your iniquity without end?** *(He is judging your great
wickedness. And yet God said that Job was a good and upright
man??)*

Job 22:6-7 (NKJV)

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

7 **You have not given the weary water to drink,**
And you have withheld bread from the hungry. (You have exploited the poor)

Job 22:9 (NKJV)

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

Job 22:10 (NKJV)

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

Job 22:15 (NKJV)

15 Will you keep to the old way
Which wicked men have trod, *(do you insist on following wicked ways!)*

Job 22:21-28 (NKJV)

21 **Now acquaint yourself with Him,** and be at peace;
Thereby good will come to you. *(When you repent!)*

22 **Receive, please, instruction from His mouth,**
And lay up His words in your heart.

23 **If you return to the Almighty, you will be built up;**
You will remove iniquity far from your tents.

24 Then you will lay your gold in the dust,
And the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brooks.

25 Yes, the Almighty will be your gold
And your precious silver;

26 **For then you will have your delight in the Almighty,**
And lift up your face to God. (If you repent)

27 **You will make your prayer to Him,**
He will hear you,

And you will pay your vows.

28 You will also declare a thing,

And it will be established for you;
So light will shine on your ways. *(Repent!)*

Now let's have a look at what BILDAD has to say (3 chapters)

Job 8:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

2 "How long will you speak these things,

And the words of your mouth be like a strong wind? *(You're a windbag)*

Job 8:3 (NKJV)

3 Does God subvert judgment?

Or does the Almighty pervert justice? *(God is Just: If He's punishing you ... you must deserve it ... you must be pretty awful)*

Job 8:4 (NKJV)

4 If your sons have sinned against Him,

He has cast them away for their transgression. *(Hurtful! Job had been worried about them. He is saying that God killed them)*

Job 8:5-7 (NKJV)

5 If you would earnestly seek God

And make your supplication to the Almighty,

6 If you were pure and upright,

Surely now He would awake for you,

And prosper your rightful dwelling place.

7 Though your beginning was small,

Yet your latter end would increase abundantly.

Job 8:11-14 (NKJV)

11 "Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh?

Can the reeds flourish without water? *(Implying that there must be a cause for every effect)*

12 While it is yet green and not cut down,
It withers before any other plant.

13 **So are the paths of all who forget God;
And the hope of the hypocrite shall perish,**

14 **Whose confidence shall be cut off,** (*You forget God. You've turned away from God. This is what happens to people like you Job. You are a hypocrite ... a pretender*)
And whose trust is a spider's web.

Job 8:20 (NKJV)

20 Behold, **God will not cast away the blameless,
Nor will He uphold the evildoers.** (*God doesn't cast away the blameless ... you are clearly an evildoer*)

BILDAD AGAIN

Job 18:1-21 (NKJV)

1 **Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:**

2 "How long till you put an end to words?

Gain understanding, and afterward we will speak.

3 Why are we counted as beasts,

And regarded as stupid in your sight?

4 You who tear yourself in anger,

Shall the earth be forsaken for you?

Or shall the rock be removed from its place?

5 "The light of the wicked indeed goes out,

And the flame of his fire does not shine.

6 The light is dark in his tent,

And his lamp beside him is put out.

7 The steps of his strength are shortened,

And his own counsel casts him down.

8 For he is cast into a net by his own feet,

And he walks into a snare.

9 The net takes him by the heel,

And a snare lays hold of him.
10 A noose is hidden for him on the ground,
And a trap for him in the road.
11 Terrors frighten him on every side,
And drive him to his feet.
12 His strength is starved,
And destruction is ready at his side.
13 It devours patches of his skin;
The firstborn of death devours his limbs.
14 He is uprooted from the shelter of his tent,
And they parade him before the king of terrors.
15 They dwell in his tent who are none of his;
Brimstone is scattered on his dwelling.
16 His roots are dried out below,
And his branch withers above.
17 The memory of him perishes from the earth,
And he has no name among the renowned.
18 He is driven from light into darkness,
And chased out of the world.
19 He has neither son nor posterity among his people,
Nor any remaining in his dwellings.
20 Those in the west are astonished at his day,
As those in the east are frightened.
21 Surely such are the dwellings of the wicked,
And this is the place of him who does not know God." (*Job ... like you!*)

ZOPHAR (2 chapters) He had the least to say but he was quite judgmental.

Job 11:1-3 (NKJV)

1 **Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:**
2 "Should not the multitude of words be answered?
And should a man full of talk be vindicated?"

3 **Should your empty talk (empty words!) make men hold their peace?**

And when you mock, should no one rebuke you?

Job 11:4-6 (NKJV)

4 For you have said,

'My doctrine is pure,

And I am clean in your eyes.'

5 But oh, that God would speak,

And open His lips against you,

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. (You deserve worse!)

Job 11:13-19 (NKJV)

13 **"If you would prepare your heart,**

And stretch out your hands toward Him; (if you would think about repenting)

14 **If iniquity were in your hand, and you put it far away,**

And would not let wickedness dwell in your tents;

15 Then surely you could lift up your face without spot;

Yes, you could be steadfast, and not fear;

16 Because you would forget your misery,

And remember it as waters that have passed away,

17 And your life would be brighter than noonday.

Though you were dark, you would be like the morning.

18 And you would be secure, because there is hope;

Yes, you would dig around you, and take your rest in safety.

19 You would also lie down, and no one would make you afraid;

Yes, many would court your favour. *(If of course you repented!)*

Job 11:20 (NKJV)

20 **But the eyes of the wicked will fail,**

**And they shall not escape,
And their hope—loss of life!”** *(If you don't repent ... no escape)*

ZOPHAR AGAIN

Job 20:4-9 (NKJV)

4 “Do you not know this of old,
Since man was placed on earth,
5 That **the triumphing of the wicked is short,
And the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment?**
6 Though his haughtiness mounts up to the heavens,
And his head reaches to the clouds,
7 **Yet he will perish forever like his own refuse;**
Those who have seen him will say, ‘Where is he?’
8 He will fly away like a dream, and not be found;
Yes, he will be chased away like a vision of the night.
9 The eye that saw him will see him no more,
Nor will his place behold him anymore.

Job 20:22-23 (NKJV)

22 In his self-sufficiency he will be in distress;
Every hand of misery will come against him.
23 When he is about to fill his stomach,
God will cast on him the fury of His wrath,
And will rain it on him while he is eating.

Job 20:27-29 (NKJV)

27 **The heavens will reveal his iniquity,**
And the earth will rise up against him.
28 The increase of his house will depart,
And his goods will flow away in the day of His wrath.
29 **This is the portion from God for a wicked man,
The heritage appointed to him by God.”** *(This is what God does to
a wicked man)*

Job's friends concluded that Job was extremely wicked ... a hypocrite ... he exploited the poor. (The opposite to what God said about him). He deserved all that he got ... and more. It was all God's doing. God specifically inflicting punishment on Job. Job needed to repent.

God had said Job was upright and perfect! But ... of course ... ignorant.

So ... Job's friends were using their theological understanding to explain Job's problems ... but ... they were way off the mark.

All (Job included) were blaming God ... when in reality it was satan. He was the one that was doing all of this.

That's Job's friends for now.

Next week we will look at Job's defence/viewpoint in more detail. What did he think was going on? Why did he think that God was after him? What response did he want from God?