

JOB PART 5

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10.9.16

There are 2 ways of looking at Job? God brought terrible suffering on His servant. Even though Job was a very good man ... God brought tragedy into his life. Perhaps to humble him? Used satan as His attack dog? But ... essentially God was the decision maker.

The alternative view. From the context of the whole Bible ... God is a Good God. He is disposed to show favour. A loving Father. A good Shepherd. So ... therefore the point I've been trying to show is that He was not involved in Job's tragedies.

God asked satan ... "Why have you set your heart on Job?" He acknowledged that Job was a good and upright man.

We know satan goes about as a roaring lion ... back in Job's day ... In between ... and now. We know that we need to resist. Put on the whole armour of God. Job was probably significantly ignorant of this.

Satan took advantage of Job's ignorance. Job was a fearful man. He said : "that which I greatly feared has come upon me".

Job knew no better and blamed God ... "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away." (Some time ... we still hear that verse even at Church funerals).

He was sincere ... But wrong!

We looked a couple of weeks ago at the opinions of Job's 3 friends: "He is a wicked sinner and God is punishing him. He deserves worse!"

When God turned up eventually ... He was very angry at Job's friends. They had not spoken of God what was right.

Last week ... We looked at Job's arguments. Job spent 20 chapters defending himself. He declared he had done nothing wrong that deserved such punishment ... but he blamed God specifically. He was quite clear that he was innocent and that God was "doing this to me".

Drake suggest 74 charges that Job made against God.

He multiplies wounds without cause
He destroys the blameless
If I sin ... God won't forgive me
God hates me
God is cruel
God shows no justice
God has wronged me

Job 9:17 (NKJV)

17 For He crushes me with a tempest,
And **multiplies my wounds without cause.** (*Job is utterly sincere ... but ... he is wrong. God has no reason ... no justification*)

Job 9:22-23 (NKJV)

22 It is all one thing;
Therefore I say, '**He destroys the blameless and the wicked.**'
23 **If the scourge slays suddenly,**
He laughs at the plight of the innocent. (*God takes pleasure when innocent people are in calamity. Quite a defamatory accusation*)

Job 10:2 (NKJV)

2 **I will say to God, "Do not condemn me; Show me why You contend with me.** *(Why are you after me God?)*

Job 10:7-8 (NKJV)

7 **Although You know that I am not wicked,**
And there is no one who can deliver from Your hand?

8 "Your hands have made me and fashioned me,
An intricate unity;

Yet You would destroy me. *(You have set out to destroy me God)*

Job 10:20 (NKJV)

20 Are not my days few?

Cease! Leave me alone, that I may take a little comfort, *(back off ... leave me ... give me a break)*

Job 13:3 (NKJV)

3 **But I would speak to the Almighty,**
And I desire to reason with God. *(He's fed up of talking to these 3 miserable comforters)*

Job 13:18 (NKJV)

18 See now, I have prepared my case,
I know that I shall be vindicated. *(Because I am innocent of any serious wrong. The measure of punishment I'm receiving is extreme extreme punishment ... and I don't deserve that)*

Job 23:1-4 (NKJV)

1 Then Job answered and said:

2 "Even today my complaint is bitter;

My hand is listless because of my groaning.

3 **Oh, that I knew where I might find Him,**

That I might come to His seat!

4 **I would present my case before Him,**

And fill my mouth with arguments.

So ... Job and his friends disputed with each other for 29 chapters. What does that say about the inspiration and truth of the Bible? Some parts are accurately recorded but they aren't all truth ... in fact some are downright wrong.

Job seems to have expected protection automatically. That was presumptuous. What about us? Because we keep The Sabbath ... go to The Feast ... don't eat lobster or rabbit ... are we automatically protected?

No! They are promises. But all received by Faith ... not automatic.

We are going to look today at what God said when He turned up. So far ... we have the thoughts and opinions of Job and his 3 friends ... but what did God make of it?

But first. We will pick up some more details of God's discussions with satan ... before Job and his friends started debating.

Job 2:1-3 (NKJV)

1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord.

2 And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?"

Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." (*that's what satan is doing today. He is going about today seeking whom he may devour*)

3 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? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited (KJV ... Movedst. Hebrew:Suth ... incite or entice with a hint of evil or

deviousness) **Me against him, to destroy him without cause.**" *(You tried to entice Me [God] ... to implicate Me [God])*

Compare: Satan in chapter 1:11 "stretch out your hand". He wanted God to do it and be involved.

There is no way that God would be tricked by satan ... set up by satan ... yield to satan! God tells us not to yield ... to resist satan's wiles and schemings: He's not going for it Himself!!

Looking at the word "incite" (Suth)

Deuteronomy 13:6-9 (NKJV)

6 **"If your brother,** the son of your mother, your son or your daughter, the wife of your bosom, or your friend who is as your own soul, **secretly entices you,** *(Suth ... entice. That's what Satan was trying to do to God)* saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods,' which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers,
7 of the gods of the people which are all around you, near to you or far off from you, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth,
8 **you shall not consent to him or listen to him,** nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him or conceal him; *(Don't!)*
9 but you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people.

God is not a novice. Satan has the effrontery to seek to entice God. No way does God respond or yield. Nor should you and I.

Remember: satan approached Jesus (in Matthew 4) and sought to entice Him to worship him ... entice/provoke Jesus to jump off the pinnacle of the Temple. Satan always seeks to entice.

NO WAY DOES GOD RESPOND TO SATAN.

Job 2:4-10 (NKJV)

4 **So Satan answered the Lord and said,** "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.

5 But **stretch out Your hand now,** and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" (*Satan persists. Us ... don't assume that resisting once will end it*)

6 And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life."

7 So **Satan** went out from the presence of the Lord, and **struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.**

8 And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes.

9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" (*Same problem ... ignorance*) In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

In chapter 1 ... Job's possessions were destroyed

In chapter 2 ... Job's health was attacked

That was satan on both occasions. It is possible that Job's defences are now really low? He had accepted that destruction of his family and his wealth was from God. He was passive rather than resisting. What he greatly feared had come to pass ... perhaps even his health problems. He believed God was destroying his life.

Don't give satan opportunity. Give him no place. Job accepted satan's first attack as being God's will. Job lived in fear. He gave satan a foothold. Even today ... there are a number of people who assume that the trouble in their lives comes from God (mysterious

purpose) ... and refuse to fight back. If God is bringing this on me ... how can I resist it? That is foolish!

Let's move on and see what God makes of Job's views.

Job was demanding to see God in court. To present arguments as to his integrity ... his decent life ... innocent of serious sin ... accusing God of being cruel ... wronging him ... and unjust.

Job 38:1-3 (NKJV)

1 **Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:**

2 **"Who is this who darkens counsel**

By words without knowledge? (*Job lacked knowledge: Job used to offer burnt sacrifices for his disobedient children ... he says "the Lord taketh away" ... he says "God is cruel"*)

3 **Now prepare yourself like a man;**

I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

Job 38:2 (CEV)

2 **Why do you talk so much when you know so little?**

Job 38:2 (GNB)

2 **Who are you to question my wisdom with your ignorant, empty words?**

We've got the scene. God is going to ask Job some questions.

Job 38:4-21 (NKJV)

4 **"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?**

Tell Me, if you have understanding.

5 **Who determined its measurements?**

Surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

6 **To what were its foundations fastened?**

Or who laid its cornerstone,

7 When the morning stars sang together,
And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

8 "Or who shut in the sea with doors,

When it burst forth and issued from the womb;

9 When I made the clouds its garment,
And thick darkness its swaddling band;

10 When I fixed My limit for it,
And set bars and doors;

11 When I said,

'This far you may come, but no farther,
And here your proud waves must stop!'

12 "Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
And caused the dawn to know its place,

13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth,
And the wicked be shaken out of it?

14 It takes on form like clay under a seal,
And stands out like a garment.

15 From the wicked their light is withheld,
And the upraised arm is broken.

16 "Have you entered the springs of the sea?
Or have you walked in search of the depths?

17 Have the gates of death been revealed to you?

Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?

18 Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth?

Tell Me, if you know all this.

19 "Where is the way to the dwelling of light?

And darkness, where is its place,

20 That you may take it to its territory,

That you may know the paths to its home?

21 Do you know it, because you were born then,
Or because the number of your days is great?

In essence ... do you (Job) know how the earth was designed ... how it was constructed ... how it operates? Most of this isn't known today either.

Job 38:31-33 (NKJV)

31 **"Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades,
Or loose the belt of Orion?"**

32 Can you bring out Mazzaroth (*zodiac*) in its season?

Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs?

33 **Do you know the ordinances of the heavens?**

Can you set their dominion over the earth? (*Can Job control the heavens above? The answer is no*)

Job 39:1-2 (NKJV)

1 "Do you know the time when the wild mountain goats bear young?
Or can you mark when the deer gives birth?"

2 Can you number the months that they fulfill?

Or do you know the time when they bear young? (*Job was familiar with domestic animals ... but wild beast in the mountains and valleys and jungles?*)

Job 39:9-12 (NKJV)

9 "Will the wild ox (*KJV says "unicorn". Greek version says "Monoceros" ... could be the rhinoceros?*) be willing to serve you?
Will he bed by your manger?

10 Can you bind the wild ox in the furrow with ropes?
Or will he plow the valleys behind you?

11 Will you trust him because his strength is great?
Or will you leave your labor to him?

12 Will you trust him to bring home your grain,
And gather it to your threshing floor?

Job 39:26-27 (NKJV)

26 **"Does the hawk fly by your wisdom,**

And spread its wings toward the south?

27 **Does the eagle mount up at your command,**

And make its nest on high? (*Do you know how birds fly Job?*)

Job 40:1-2 (NKJV)

1 **Moreover the Lord answered Job, and said:**

2 **"Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him?
He who rebukes God, let him answer it."**

Job 40:2 (Voice)

2 **Have you heard enough?**

**Will the one who finds fault with the Highest One now make his
case?**

Let God's accuser answer Him!

Job 40:2 (MSG)

2 **"Now what do you have to say for yourself?**

**Are you going to haul me, the Mighty One, into court and press
charges?"**

Job 40:3-5 (NKJV)

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

4 **"Behold, I am vile; (*I am insignificant ... a lightweight. I am
going to hush ... abandon my case*)**

What shall I answer You?

I lay my hand over my mouth.

5 **Once I have spoken, but I will not answer;
Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further."**

Job 40:6-14 (NKJV)

6 **Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:**

7 **"Now prepare yourself like a man;**

I will question you, and you shall answer Me:

8 **"Would you indeed annul My judgment?"**

Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?

Job 40:8 (HCSB)

8 Would you really challenge My justice?

Would you declare Me guilty to justify yourself?

9 Have you an arm like God?

Or can you thunder with a voice like His?

10 Then adorn yourself with majesty and splendour,
And array yourself with glory and beauty.

11 Disperse the rage of your wrath;

Look on everyone who is proud, and humble him.

12 Look on everyone who is proud, and bring him low;
Tread down the wicked in their place.

13 Hide them in the dust together,
Bind their faces in hidden darkness.

14 Then I will also confess to you
That your own right hand can save you.

Job had made 74 false charges against God! Such as:

There is no justice from Him (Chapter 19:7)

Cruel

Wounds without cause

Hates me

Job had accused God personally of destroying him even though He was completely innocent.

Job 40:15-24 (NKJV)

15 **"Look now at the behemoth, (colossal creature ... something really majestic ... really strong ... maybe a dinosaur) which I made along with you;**

He eats grass like an ox.

16 See now, his strength is in his hips,
And his power is in his stomach muscles.

17 He moves his tail like a cedar;
The sinews of his thighs are tightly knit.

18 His bones are like beams of bronze,
His ribs like bars of iron.

19 **He is the first of the ways of God;** *(Other translations: "The most amazing of all my works" or "The Foremost")*

Only He who made him can bring near His sword. *(Only God can control this beast)*

20 Surely the mountains yield food for him,
And all the beasts of the field play there.

21 He lies under the lotus trees,
In a covert of reeds and marsh.

22 The lotus trees cover him with their shade;
The willows by the brook surround him.

23 Indeed the river may rage,
Yet he is not disturbed;

He is confident, though the Jordan gushes into his mouth,

24 Though he takes it in his eyes,
Or one pierces his nose with a snare.

Job wouldn't be able to take on and overcome one of God's great creations. So God's point is ... does he really think he could take on the Actual Creator?

Job 41:1-11 (NKJV)

1 **"Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook,** *(an awesome marine beast. Something that will strike fear into anyone)*

Or snare his tongue with a line which you lower?

2 Can you put a reed through his nose,
Or pierce his jaw with a hook?

3 Will he make many supplications to you?

Will he speak softly to you?

4 Will he make a covenant with you?
Will you take him as a servant forever?
5 Will you play with him as with a bird,
Or will you leash him for your maidens?
6 Will your companions make a banquet of him?
Will they apportion him among the merchants?
7 Can you fill his skin with harpoons,
Or his head with fishing spears?
8 Lay your hand on him;
Remember the battle—
Never do it again!
9 Indeed, any hope of overcoming him is false;
Shall one not be overwhelmed at the sight of him?
10 No one is so fierce that he would dare stir him up.

Who then is able to stand against Me?

**11 Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him?
Everything under heaven is Mine.**

Job 41:18-21 (NKJV)

18 His sneezings flash forth light,
And his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.

19 **Out of his mouth go burning lights;
Sparks of fire shoot out.**

20 Smoke goes out of his nostrils,
As from a boiling pot and burning rushes.

21 His breath kindles coals,
And a flame goes out of his mouth. (It breathes fire)

The commentaries tell us it's a crocodile. Rubbish! The Greek OT for "Leviathan" uses the word "Drakon" or ... we pronounce that "dragon". We might think it is like a dinosaur.

Job 41:31-33 (NKJV)

31 He makes the deep boil like a pot;

He makes the sea like a pot of ointment.

32 He leaves a shining wake behind him;
One would think the deep had white hair.

33 **On earth there is nothing like him,**
Which is made without fear. (*There is nothing on earth like him*)

Job is powerless and insignificant before Leviathan. This is before an animal. So ... what is Job like before God?

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.

God didn't treat Job in a rough manner ... threatening and condemning. But He did put him in his place. "What do you know about ... What great power do you possess".

Job had been frustrated. Where was God in his trial? Now ... God is talking directly to him. So ... Job acknowledges his ignorance. He doesn't have the knowledge or the wisdom.

6 **Therefore I abhor myself,** (*Abhor 'myself' = in the NKJV "myself" is in italics ... so shouldn't be there. Probably "I abhor and repent of my foolish words"*)
And repent in dust and ashes." (*I repudiate all of my words*)

Job 42:6 (GNB)

6 So I am ashamed of all I have said and repent in dust and ashes.

Job 42:7-9 (NKJV)

7 And so it was, after the Lord had spoken these words to Job, that the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has.

8 Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you. For I will accept him, lest I deal with you according to your folly; because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has."

9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the Lord commanded them; for the Lord had accepted Job.

God sorts out Job's 3 friends!

They were convinced that they were so right! (Even had a spirit communicate with a special message!)

They were shocked by God's correction (God's wrath was against them. He was probably gentle with Job)

They needed to humble themselves before Job

Job needed to be forgiving

God wanted reconciliation ... not let satan separate good friends

One question you might have ... how long were Job's troubles? Years? No ... probably months.

Job 7:1-3 (NKJV)

1 "Is there not a time of hard service for man on earth? Are not his days also like the days of a hired man?

2 Like a servant who earnestly desires the shade,

And like a hired man who eagerly looks for his wages,
3 **So I have been allotted months of futility,
And wearisome nights have been appointed to me.** (*Talking of his troubles. Months of futility?*)

Job 29:1-4 (NKJV)

1 Job further continued his discourse, and said:
2 **"Oh, that I were as in months past, (months past)
As in the days when God watched over me;**
3 When His lamp shone upon my head,
And when by His light I walked through darkness;
4 Just as I was in the days of my prime,
When the friendly counsel of God was over my tent;

A few months ago ... when life was good to me. So ... Job's tribulations lasted 3/4/5 months? Not years!

Then God turned up and blessed Job greatly!!

Job 42:10-17 (NKJV)

10 **And the Lord restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.** (*NB Twice as much. When God turns up ... you are blessed*)

God turned back Job's captivity; satan had taken captive ... God had released **(2 Timothy 2:26 (NKJV)**

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

is a warning to believers. Satan can do to us today what he did to Job all of those years ago.

11 Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his

house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the Lord had brought upon him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and each a ring of gold.

Where had Job's brothers, sisters, acquaintances been? Fair-weathered friends? Probably also believed he was a wicked sinner that God was punishing? That appeared to be the philosophy of the day. They stayed away. They didn't want to get too close ...?!

12 **Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning;** for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys.

13 **He also had seven sons and three daughters.**

14 And he called the name of the first Jemimah, (*daylight*) the name of the second Keziah, (*a pleasant smelling herb*) and the name of the third Keren-Happuch. (*Horn of eye paint ... Mascara?*)

15 In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers.

16 After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations.

17 So Job died, old and full of days.

God restored all of Job's losses ... twice over!

So endeth the story of Job. Happy ... healthy and prosperous.

Some people think they're going through a Job experience. Look at calamities ... troubles ... problems ... "I'm just like Job". Honestly ... I doubt it ... but ... cheer up! It only lasted a few months ... then you will be doubly-blessed!!

So ... what lessons can we learn? There's a few"

Bible may be inspired ... and accurate. But not every conversation ... verse ... passage ... is truth. It contains opinions of men ... and at times ... lies. Be alert!

If you are going through difficulties ... trials ... calamities ... don't be too quick to accuse God as the author! Don't do a "Job". Most problems are of our own making. Then there's also satan.

Don't assume that leading a good life means automatically protected from all harm. Presumptuous.

Watch out for the advice and opinion of other church members if you are in trouble. Some are like Job's miserable comforters. Don't know their Bibles well ... and offer ... plenty of human opinions.

Don't misunderstand the term "Sovereignty". God is ruler ... King ... the ultimate in authority. But He is not personally approving every mugging ... rape ... murder ... theft ... adultery, etc that takes place. God long long ago gave humanity free choice. What we do with it is our choice. Job thought that God ... as Sovereign ... must be the personal author of his troubles. Ignorant words ... nonsense.

Good reminder of satan as our enemy. Job's adversary then ... nearly 3,500 years ago ... still ours today. Still important to be vigilant and stop him from taking advantage of us as he did of Job.

1 Peter 5:6-9 (NKJV)

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

7 **casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.** (*God cares!*)

8 **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.** (*To devour ... Swallow up. Nothing has changed*)

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Resist! Ephesians chapter 6 tells us to put on the whole armour of God ... especially the shield of faith with which we can quench all of the fiery darts of the wicked one. Ephesians chapter 4 says to give no place to the devil.

These are not just nice religious verses. Satan is dangerous. We need to heed. Don't just assume knowing about the Sabbath and the Holy Days is equal to automatic protection.

Stay alert! Know your enemy! My wife's first sermon at church was "Know Your Enemy ... It is Satan". Well ... that is absolutely right!

Know your enemy! And ... it's not God!!

One lesson from Job. Watch out for Satan ... Job's adversary. And he's yours and mine too!!