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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Job 12.

(2015)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Job 12.

Topics.

- I am a laughingstock to my friends, a just and blameless man.
- Tents of robbers are at peace and those who carry their god are secure.
- Does not the ear test words as the palate tastes food.
- Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days.
- If God tears down, none can rebuild; the deceived and the deceiver are His.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION: the book of Job is considered both a theological and a literary masterpiece it is an honest discussion of why God allows good people to suffer. The test of Job's faith, allowed by God in response to a challenge from Satan, reveals God's sovereignty and the supremacy of divine wisdom over human wisdom (personified by Job's four friends).

Believing that God is good despite the apparent evidence to the contrary, Job rested in faith alone. In the depths of agony he could still proclaim, "I know that my Redeemer lives" (Job 19:25). In the end God silenced all discussion against the truth that He alone is wise (Job chpts. 38–41). Yet he vindicated Job's trust in him (chpt. 42), proving that genuine faith cannot be destroyed. The unknown author was probably an Israelite writing sometime between 2000 and 500 B.C.

Helpful facts: before reading Job it is helpful to understand when Job, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Elihu are speaking they are not speaking, "thus sayeth the LORD", they are simply giving their opinions on how they personally perceive things to be. Amongst their conversations there is truth and wisdom, but it must be kept in mind not everything they are saying is true or even wise, in fact God rebukes Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar and tells them they have spoken foolishness, but Job has spoken what is right (Job 42:7-9).

The book of Job is not about doctrinal truth, but human suffering and the questions regarding God that arise during a person's calamity and pain.

Job speaks

I am a Laughingstock to My Friends a Just and Blameless Man.

Job 12:1-5 ----- ¹Then Job answered and said: ²"No doubt you (Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar) are the people, and wisdom will die with you. ³But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you. Who does not know such things as these? ⁴I am a laughingstock to my friends; I, who called to God and he answered me, a just and blameless man, am a laughingstock. ⁵In the thought of one who is at ease there is contempt for misfortune; it is ready for those whose feet slip.

It is safe to say that when Job told Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar that wisdom would die with them he was speaking with sarcasm. Despite all his suffering and loss he does not allow Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar to intimidate him or make him feel inferior in knowledge and wisdom to them. He has patiently listened to all that they have said and not only understands the things they have said, but already knew them.

Job was a just and blameless man, God Himself said Job was His servant a blameless and upright man who feared God and turned away from evil and that there was not a man like him on the earth who holds fast his integrity even though Satan had incited Him against Job to destroy him without reason. (Job 1:1) (Job 1:8) (Job 2:3). Despite this he has become a laughing stock to his friends because of his calamities, sufferings and afflictions.

This attitude stems from what we who live in Australia call the tall poppy syndrome, those who lack love to see the successful and rich fall and when they do they look upon them without mercy or compassion or even worse with mocking and scorn. Such an attitude before God is a great sin, especially when the fallen are as Job was in the land a righteous and blameless man who turned away from evil.

Those who are at ease: primarily refers to Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar, but by extension embrace anyone with the same attitude. It seems Jobs so called friends judged people by their station, prosperity and standard of life.

If a person's life was charmed and they had a good home and a job and loads of money they were a person of value and worth, but if they were like Job brought to ruin, had no job and no money and suffering long term illness or disease they were not only considered to be worthless, inferior and undeserving of respect, but also looked upon with an attitude of dislike and disgust.

This attitude is called the spirit of the world and is seen in the world today, people are valued according to the size of their house, the prestige of their car, the designer clothes they wear and the size of their bank account. In contrast to this God's Spirit judges a person according to the love, compassion, kindness, mercy, grace, forgiveness etc., that is dwelling in their heart and that they show to others.

Tents of Robbers are at Peace and those who Carry their god are Secure.

Job 12:6-12 ----- ⁶The tents of robbers are at peace, and those who provoke God are secure, who bring their god in their hand. ⁷"But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; ⁸or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. ⁹Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? ¹⁰In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind. ¹¹Does not the ear test words as the palate tastes food? ¹²Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days.

When someone is suffering as Job is they become very aware that many criminals and multitudes of those who deny God and worship idols are at ease and prospering. Job's faith is such that even this injustice upon earth is only because God allows it.

The hand of the LORD has done this: (v9) refers to the statement, "robbers are at peace, and those who provoke God are secure, who bring their god in their hand (v6). The LORD has done this means the LORD has allowed evil on earth. It is in the sense that the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind is in His hand that he has allowed evil on earth in that He has the power to take the breath from those who are evil and wicked and preserve the life of the righteous and blameless.

These truths should make us aware of the following two things: -

1. Though we will all naturally be grieved as we see the suffering of the innocent we should never be stressed over the corruption rampant in the world since it is only rampant because God at this present time is allowing it to be so. It could be said that we are living in the long day of death and the long day of grace.
2. A time is coming when God will not allow thing to continue as they are. At the right time Christ will return in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to destroy the antichrist and his kingdom and establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign.

The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce (Isaiah 65:17-25). All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

In Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The great prophet Isaiah wrote: -

- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The voice of creation: the statement, "the animals of the earth, the birds of the sky, the bushes of the forests, the fish of the sea will teach and declare that the hand of the LORD has done this," (v7-9) refers to the evil and wickedness upon earth. The reason the animals, birds, bushes and fish declare that the hand of the LORD has allowed wickedness upon earth is because one only has to open their eyes and see that animals, birds, bushes and fish do not sin (especially tame ones), yet they suffer sickness, death, hurt and harm (especially by the hand of man) even though they have done nothing deserving of such affliction and suffering.

Does not the ear test words as the palate tastes food: (v11) this is the surest safeguard against being deceived by false prophets and false teachers, the apostle John in his letter said the same thing, but in different words: -

- Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1).

The advice of Job and John to, “not to believe every spirit and test the words,” carry the same idea. It means listen to everyone’s teaching and opinion but don’t be intimidated by their authority, their ministry or their knowledge, search out what they say for yourself, talk to others about it, listen to opposing views and then make up your own mind. It is only by doing this that our faith truly becomes our own and not the copy of others.

Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days: (v12) this statement is generally true, but it should be remembered in the ancient days of Job women were married from around age fifteen and were bearing children not long afterward and men were counted fit for war at age twenty.

Added to this there are today many young men around the age of thirty running multi-million dollar global companies and others with very successful churches and ministries so though it is generally true that the aged have wisdom and understanding mostly because they have a greater experience of life, it should never be used as a dogmatic statement that prevents younger people being placed in positions of great authority and responsibility since there are always exceptions to the general rule of things.

If God Tears Down, None can Rebuild; the Deceived and the Deceiver are His.

Job 12:13-25 ----- ¹³“With God are wisdom and might; he has counsel and understanding. ¹⁴If he tears down, none can rebuild; if he shuts a man in, none can open. ¹⁵If he withholds the waters, they dry up; if he sends them out, they overwhelm the land. ¹⁶With him are strength and sound wisdom; the deceived and the deceiver are his. ¹⁷He leads counselors away stripped, and judges he makes fools. ¹⁸He looses the bonds of kings and binds a waistcloth on their hips. ¹⁹He leads priests away stripped and overthrows the mighty. ²⁰He deprives of speech those who are trusted and takes away the discernment of the elders. ²¹He pours contempt on princes and loosens the belt of the strong. ²²He uncovers the deeps out of darkness and brings deep darkness to light. ²³He makes nations great, and he destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away. ²⁴He takes away understanding from the chiefs of the people of the earth and makes them wander in a pathless waste. ²⁵They grope in the dark without light, and he makes them stagger like a drunken man.

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight upon the following truths: -

- God’s eternal wisdom supersedes all the collective wisdom of man on earth put together.
- Nothing is out of God’s sovereign control and all that is happening on earth is only happening because He is allowing it.
- Should God choose to intervene in the affairs of man on earth there is nothing any king, nation or government no matter how powerful can do to stop Him
- When it serves God’s plans and purposes He destroys nations and humbles and makes fools of crooked and oppressive kings and princes no matter how strong, mighty and powerful they might be.
- God enlarges and makes nations great and sets free those who are in bondage by corrupt and oppressive rulers and leaders and brings to ruin deceitful counsellors, judges, priests, elders, and set free those who by their clever speeches of deceit and deception have been led astray.
- God takes away wisdom and understanding from the heads of the populations of the earth so that they and those they rule over grope in the dark without light and stagger like drunken men so that they wander in nations that are brought to financial oppression and ruin.

Clearly no-one can stand against God if He plans a thing no-one can stop it. Sadly the further the world moves away from God the further its kings, rulers and leaders will lack wisdom to rule their nations and instead of bringing their nations to prosperity they will bring them to ruin.

This means when the faithful see a leader of a nation making foolish decisions they should not fret, but know that it is because God has taken away understanding and wisdom from them, because they prefer to follow the way of the flesh (self, ego, pride and greed) rather than acknowledge God and the Lord Jesus Christ and follow his teachings and his ways.

FOOTNOTE: always keep in mind that Job is not speaking, “thus saith the LORD,” but giving his own personal opinion concerning suffering and because it is his own viewpoint it should be remembered that even though much of what he says maybe true it does not always mean that his reasoning and suppositions are always according to the word of the LORD.

End.