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

Job 14.

(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.

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Job 14.

Topics.

- Man born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble and continues not.
- Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?
- When cut down there is hope for a tree, but when man dies where, is he?
- If a tree is cut down or it dies of old age it still has hope.
- Oh that you hide me in Sheol, and conceal me until your wrath passes.
- If a man dies, shall he live again? All my days I wait, till my renewal come.
- Waters wear away stones and wash away soil; you destroy man's hope.
- The LORD prevails against man and changes his countenance until he dies.

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

Man Born of a Woman is Few of Days and Full of Trouble and Continues Not.

Job 14:1-5 ----- ¹"Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble. ²He comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not. ³And do you (God) open your eyes on such a one and bring me (Job) into judgment with you? ⁴Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? There is not one. ⁵Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have appointed his limits that he cannot pass,

In the previous chapter Job said he desired to speak to the Almighty and argue his case with God. (Job 13:3).

This is the beginning of his argument and conversation toward God. He begins by highlighting the vanity of human life by shining a light upon the truth when a baby is born it flourish's like a beautiful flower, but after a few days (compared to eternity) of trouble withers and dies.

Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean: (v3) the unclean thing refers to all humans, we are all descendants of our earthly father Adam and as such are all born with pride and ego and a focus upon self and a leaning toward wrong doing (i.e., anger, jealousy, lustful thoughts, greed, coveting and such like things). With this in mind Job asks, "If this is the case of humanity who can make themselves perfect and holy before God?" He rightly concludes that no-one can make an unclean human clean or make an imperfect human perfect. He then asks God if this is the case of human life why does God judge mankind against His Holy and perfect standard especially since human life is determined by God and held in His hand.

Job is right in saying that no one on this earth can make any one of us clean (or perfect) before the perfection of the law and the Holiness of God. This is because every new born baby is a descent of Adam and as such has inherited a fallen corrupted body that is tainted with sin. This is why Job never trusted in his own righteousness to be saved, but in his Redeemer.

- I know that my redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God (Job 19:25-26).

When Cut Down there is Hope for a Tree, but when Man Dies where, is He?

Job 14:6-10 ----- ⁶look away from him and leave him alone, that he may enjoy, like a hired hand, his day. ⁷"For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. ⁸Though its root grow old in the earth, and its stump die in the soil, ⁹yet at the scent of water it will bud and put out branches like a young plant. ¹⁰But a man dies and is laid low; man breathes his last, and where is he?

Though Job speaks of himself what he says applies to all mankind. He asks God to look away from mankind and leave him alone, that he may enjoy life (Job 14:6-13). It seems that Job sees all suffering on earth as a result of God's wrath toward the collective sin and evil of all humanity across the face of the globe. His universal view of human life on earth seems to be that he saw mankind's denial of God and all sin (i.e., wars, cruelty, evil, violence, rape, oppression etc.), committed by the inhabitants of the earth as one gigantic global black cloud ascending up before the throne of God.

The repercussion of this is that God's wrath rather than God's favour descends upon earth. The book of Revelations tells us that one day this black cloud of iniquity and sin will be so thick with darkness that seven angels will be released to pour out God's wrath without restraint.

This event will not only change the world as we know it and usher in a New Age of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth, but will also bring about the will return of the Lord Jesus Christ 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).

If a tree is cut down or it dies of old age it still has hope: (v7-8) because at the scent of water it will bud and put out branches like a young plant, but when a human life is taken and their body laid in the ground their hope is utterly perished they cannot do the same as the tree no matter how close to water they maybe they lie in the darkness of the grave and decay and rot away.

Oh that You Hide Me in Sheol, and Conceal Me until Your Wrath Passes.

Job 14:11-13 ----- ¹¹As waters fail from a lake and a river wastes away and dries up, ¹²so a man lies down and rises not again; till the heavens are no more he will not awake or be roused out of his sleep. ¹³Oh that you would hide me in Sheol, that you would conceal me until your wrath be past, that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me!

Job's statement, "A man lies down and rises not again" (v12) is sometimes used to support the theory that those outside of Christ will not rise, but that is reading far more into what Job is saying and what is intended, we know this because Job goes on to say that those who have laid down are asleep and will not awake until God's wrath is past. The focus of this conversation is the end of human life by death; Job is basically saying no human can return from the grave without Gods supernaturally intervening. For further information concerning those who have died without faith in Christ, see the title: -

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.
- In Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Hide me in Sheol, and conceal me until your wrath passes: (v13) Job faith of salvation was not in his own righteousness but in his Redeemer and because of this he was fully aware that in the latter days his redeemer will stand upon the earth and after worms destroy his skin and his body he in his flesh would see God (Job 19:25-26). But at the present moment because of his overwhelming afflictions and suffering he wishes that God would hide him in the grave until his wrath is past, because he knows at the right time (being the day of the resurrection) God would remember him.

In my forty-five years of Christianity I have heard this same desire expressed in some faithful men and women who in their old age were suffering crippling illness's and wished God would take their lives and let them sleep in peace and rest in Christ until the glorious day of their resurrection.

If a Man Dies, shall he Live Again? All My Days I wait, Till My Renewal Come.

Job 14:14-17 ----- ¹⁴If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my service I would wait, till my renewal should come. ¹⁵You would call, and I would answer you; you would long for the work of your hands. ¹⁶For then you would number my steps; you would not keep watch over my sin; ¹⁷my transgression would be sealed up in a bag, and you would cover over my iniquity.

Jobs words, "I would wait, till my renewal should come," refer to the resurrection. Job clearly understood the doctrine of the Resurrection. His words, "God will long for the work of His hands shine a brilliant spotlight upon his great faith. Amongst all his suffering and underneath his conversations to God he had faith that God was moulding and shaping him for some sovereign purpose beyond his own understanding.

He was aware that he would go to the grave and that all his transgressions and sins would be wrapped in a bag and be cast away, and that a day would come when God will call and he will awake from his sleep and rise from the grave to eternal glory and everlasting happiness.

You would long for the work of your hands: (v15) these words of Job shine a brilliant light upon a truth that is often not seen or taught. Every man and woman who has faith in the invisible, immortal, Holy Almighty God the creator of all things and source of all life the, I AM of the Bible and God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Exod. 3:14-15) look with great joy to that glorious day when all things will be subjected to God and the Son himself will also be subjected to God who put all things in subjection under Christ, that God may be all in all (1 Cor. 15:28), but what is often not considered is that God looks forward with the same joy to gathering the faithful who have endured through the troubles and hardships of life to Himself.

Waters wear away Stones and Wash away Soil; You Destroy Man's Hope.

Job 14:18-22 ----- ¹⁸"But the mountain falls and crumbles away, and the rock is removed from its place; ¹⁹the waters wear away the stones; the torrents wash away the soil of the earth; so you destroy the hope of man. ²⁰You prevail forever against him, and he passes; you change his countenance, and send him away. ²¹His sons come to honor, and he does not know it; they are brought low, and he perceives it not. ²²He feels only the pain of his own body, and he mourns only for himself."

The focus of these verses is decay: the earth and everything upon it is wearing out and destined for decay. From the day we are born we live a life of continual decay until we are taken by death, because of this principle of decay the hope of any human to live a long and safe life is taken. When the decaying process has reached its final goal life is ended and the lifeless person goes to the grave.

The LORD prevails against man until he dies: (v20) Job rightly sees this decaying process as coming from the hand of God. This is because ever since the fall of Adam and Eve the curse of death came upon all mankind and because of this we are all destined to be taken by it. A wise man once wrote: enjoy life while you can no one gets out alive.

You change his countenance and send him away: (v20) can refer to the following three things: -

1. The condition Job is in (i.e., from riches to ruin and sickness to death)
2. Old age (i.e., from the vitality of youth to the crippling of old age)
3. Death (i.e., from life to death, from running on top of the green grass to lying under it without breadth).

His sons come to honour, and he does not know it: (v21) carries the idea of a family going to visit those in old age and who are near the end of the decaying process, but the aged do not know of their visit (probably because their memory is gone) and the family is reduced to tears and mourning, but the aged person does not perceive it because they are taken up with the pain of their own body such is the final destiny of man on earth.

Remember in Job's day they did not have pain killers, medical doctors and hospitals like we do today, but even so the principal still applies. Often modern doctors are only prolonging the inevitable process of the final decay to the grave in the aged person.

This is no-doubt why the preacher of Ecclesiastes wrote: -

- Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passes away. (Psalm 144:4).
- I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. (Eccles. 1:14).
- For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. (Eccles. 3:19).
- If a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity. (Eccles. 11:8).
- Vanity of vanities all is vanity (Eccles. 12:8).

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.