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Satan in the Book of Job.

(2013)

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Satan in the Book of Job.

Topics.

- Job was a righteous and godly man.
- The sons of god come up before the LORD.
- Satan comes among the sons of God.
- Job views God as the source of all his troubles.
- Shall we not receive good and evil from the LORD?
- Suffering is common to all mankind.
- Will you condemn the LORD that you may be righteous?
- Leviathan.

The meaning of satan: the word satan is from the Hebrew word satan (saw-tawn') and from Strong's Concordance means adversary, oppose and withstand. In the Hebrew language the word satan does not have a capital *S* and as the following verses will show can apply to a supernatural angel sent by God to accomplish God's will and purpose or to any individual or organization (religious or secular), government or nation that acts as an adversary to God or acts in opposition to God's plans and purposes or withstands Gods will.

Job 1

Job was a Righteous and Godly Man.

Job 1:1 ----- ¹There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

Here we are told that Job was a good and decent man who not only did what was right before God, but also eschewed evil meaning he had a disdain toward wrongdoing and consciously and deliberately had nothing to do with anything that was offensive to God. The word perfect in this context does not mean without sin, there has only ever been one man who attained to that glorious state of righteousness. Perfect in this context means Job was a decent good honest man who lived his life with integrity and did what was right and good. If it was possible for us to attain to a life totally free of sin then Christ died for no purpose.

Verses two to five show us the following five things: -

1. Job had seven sons and three daughters.
2. Job was very rich.
3. Job was the greatest of all the men of the east.
4. Jobs sons and daughters were not righteous as Job was.
5. Job continually offered burnt offerings for his sinning sons and daughters.

Because of these five facts Job would have been known by all throughout the land.

The Sons of God come up Before the LORD

Job 1:6 ----- ⁶Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves *before the LORD* and Satan came also among them.

The sons of God in the Bible are always people this means that this could easily be in an assembly of people gathered together with the purpose of coming before the LORD to get instruction and to worship. Israel in the wilderness is described as coming before the LORD. The expression coming before the LORD is a term used many times in the Old Testament when Israel or God's people came before God's high priest to sacrifice and worship.

The Bible states that all the following was done before the LORD: -

- Moses and Aaron went up *unto the lord* and spoke words *before the Lord* (Exod. 19:3) (Exod. 28:29).
- All Israel's males appeared *before the Lord* (Exod. 34:24).
- Korah, all his company and all Israel stood *before the Lord* (Num. 16:16).
- All Israel appeared *before the Lord* thy God (Deut. 31:11).
- Joshua and all the tribes of Israel, the elders, the judges, and the officers and all their wives and children presented themselves and stood *before the Lord* (Joshua 24:1) (Judges 20:26).
- All the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto the house of God, and wept and sat there *before the Lord* and fasted that day until even, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings *before the Lord* (Judges 20:26).

In all these examples (there are many more) those who came up before the LORD came before Him not in heaven, but on earth. The expression came up before the LORD means that the people came in faith and with the mindset that the LORD was present with them. When the people were gathered together and the prophet or priest read the word of the LORD it was written in the following manner: -

- All the people of Israel came, *before the LORD* and the LORD through the prophet or priest said.....

This could also be expressed in the following way: -

- All the sons of God came up *before the LORD* and the LORD through the prophet or priest said.....

When a prophet or priest called by God or an angel spoke God's word it was considered the same as the LORD Himself speaking, throughout the Old Testament it is often written that the LORD spoke to the people then later it is shown that the words spoken to the people were actually spoken by a prophet or priest. Many times when one of God's chosen prophets, priest or angels speak the word of the LORD it is written, the LORD spoke. For further information see the title: "Before the LORD," in (Satan and his Family) (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Satan comes among the sons of God: (v6) the sons of GOD in this verse refers to the faithful of Israel who have come before the LORD, while satan coming amongst them could refer to an angel appearing as a man on earth with direct access to God in heaven or to an angel in heaven that comes into God's presence (before the LORD) at the same time as the sons of GOD are in God's presence (before the LORD) on the earth. Whichever of these two satan maybe we do know that in this story he is not a powerful evil spirit creature that is opposed to God and His ways since he acts in obedience to God and only according to God's will and God's permission. For these reasons and others as we will discover as we travel through the story of Job it is more likely that satan in this story is an angel of God who suspects the only reason Job worships God is because God has blessed and abundantly prospered him.

God uses this angel as his servant to prove that what he is saying is not true and to bring about a much deeper faith in Job so the angel becomes an adversary to Job (in accordance to God's will) and in this sense the angel is called or titled satan which simply means in the Hebrew language to act as an adversary against another.

God Speaks to Satan.

Job 1:7 ----- 7 And the LORD said unto Satan Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

God approaches this angel called satan and asks him what have you been doing today, and he replies I have been travelling and walking around the earth, notice there is no evil going on here, the LORD and this angel are simply have a chat.

God Brings Job to Satan's Attention.

Job 1:8-10 ----- 8 And the LORD said unto Satan Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? 9 Then satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? 10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

The LORD and satan are continuing to chat, notice satan is not slandering or accusing Job of anything evil, in fact it is most likely that if the LORD had never brought Job up in this conversation by highlighting the goodness of Job satan probably wouldn't have even bothered giving him any attention. It is only when the LORD asks satan if he has ever thought about Job that satan becomes aware of Job. Naturally satan answers the LORD'S question, "Has he considered Job?" by saying that the only reason Job worships the LORD is because the LORD has blessed and abundantly prospered him.

NOTICE: once again satan is not slandering Job or accusing him of any evil, he is just giving his honest thoughts in answer to the LORD'S question.

The character of satan so far does not seem to be one of an evil powerful spirit creature that is opposed to God and his will, but of an angel of the LORD that is obedient to God and is simply expressing his honest thoughts concerning Job who after this conversation God uses as his servant to prove that his statement about Job is wrong. The angel acts against Job according to God's will and God's permission and becomes an adversary to Job and is therefore naturally given the title satan which in the Hebrew language means to act as an adversary.

A possible conversation: after travelling the earth satan comes back to God and they have a conversation that maybe went something similar to the following: Satan says, "Wow it is very hard to find a righteous man on earth today." God replies: "Yes I know, but look, over there, see that man named Job, I am very pleased with him." Then Satan looks at Job's life, ponders and replies: "Yes Job is a good man, but look how great his life is, he has wealth in abundance of course he is going to worship you, but I often wonder if his life was not so prosperous and charmed whether he would still be so faithful or would he forsake his devotional attitude of worship toward you.

Notice, Satan is not accusing Job he is just expressing his thoughts as he believes it to be. Satan's concept of men only worshipping God because their life is materially blessed, prosperous and charmed is expressing the natural thinking of much of mankind. Satan in his statement to the LORD is expressing the natural way the human mind thinks. So God uses Satan as an adversary to Job for the following two reasons: -

1. To prove not only to Satan, but to all the world that the mindset and belief that people only worship God because their lives are prosperous, blessed and charmed is not a true statement.
2. To do a work in Job that not only brings him to humbleness and repentance and brings his faith to a far greater depth, but also gives him a far greater understanding of his own fallen nature before God and a far greater understanding of God Himself.

How thrilled God must have been when Job said, "Though He slay me yet will I praise Him" (Job 13:15) what an absolute delight to the heart of God Job was.

PERFECT: Job is said to be a perfect man, this does not mean 'He was without sin if it was possible for anyone of us to achieve this glorious state while in this mortal and fallen body then Christ died for no purpose. Rather the words, perfect mean that Job lived a lifestyle that honoured God in contrast to those who didn't. It means he did what was right, just and good in contrast to those who act corruptly. Today we would say that Job was a decent and kind man who treated others with respect, justice and compassion.

Satan becomes an Adversary to Job.

Job 1:11-12 ----- ¹¹Satan says to the LORD: put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. ¹²And the LORD said unto Satan Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Satan is basically saying, "I bet if Job's life was thrown into a crisis" he would turn against the LORD and forsake his faith. This mindset is universal amongst many people all over the world even today. When people see a rich and famous person worship or testify to the goodness of the LORD the immediate thought of many is, "Of course it's easy for them to say that, when their life is so prosperous and charmed." This the thought Satan is expressing to the LORD.

NOTICE: Satan does not have the power to inflict Job he makes the suggestion to God and God gives him the permission and the power. God uses Satan now to test Job's faith and to show that the concept and mindset of men only worshipping God because he materially blesses and prospers them is false. The Bible says, "The LORD tries the righteous" (Psalm 11:5). The word, tries from Strong's Concordance carries the idea of testing and proving the heart for its honesty and sincerity. Peter wrote: -

- The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:6-7).

Peter is saying that the testing of our faith will be more precious to us than gold at the appearing of Christ. This is because the reward of enduring faith and faith that overcomes the hardships and troubles of this life will be salvation to eternal life and everlasting glory.

Job 1:13 ----- ¹³And there was a day when Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

Notice the statement, "There was a day," does not give us any idea of how much time had passed between the time Satan left the presence of God and Job's troubles began. Verses fourteen to sixteen show that Satan inflicted the following troubles and hardships on Job.

- Sabeans stole all Job's oxen and donkeys and killed his servants watching over them (v13-16).
- Fire burned up Job's sheep and his shepherds watching over them (v16).
- Chaldeans stole Job's camels and killed his servants watching over them (v17).
- A great storm destroyed the building Job's sons and daughters were in and it killed them (v18-19).

Though we read of these events very quickly it does not necessarily mean they happened very quickly, it is possible these events could have taken place over a period of many days, weeks, months or even years.

The first four troubles that came upon Job were: -

1. Sabeans stealing Job's oxen and donkeys and killing Job's servants watching over them.

2. Jobs sheep and the shepherds watching over them being burned by fire.
3. Chaldeans taking Jobs camels and killing his servants watching over them.
4. Jobs sons and daughters being killed by a great storm of some kind.

NOTICE: Satan's works all came about by natural disasters or natural means the Sabeans and Chaldeans stole and killed, fire destroyed Jobs livestock and a great storm killed Jobs sons and daughters, if we were watching these events unfold we would think of them as being natural events that were common to all mankind. It is only because we are able to read the story of Job that we know that God is orchestrating the events and is in control of them.

In the Old Testament we often see God using kingdoms and nations to bring about His plans and purposes. To bring judgment on Tyre God not only used Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon, but also paid him wages because his armies performed a great service for the LORD by bringing Tyrus to ruin. God through the prophet Ezekiel said, "Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon was paid no wages for the service that his armies served against Tyrus therefore I will give the land of Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar for wages for his army because they worked for the Lord GOD (Ezek. 29:17-20). Anyone without faith watching these battles would simply think the stronger and smarter army won, they would not see that God was not only orchestrating the events, but was also in control of them.

NOTE: the fact Job's sons and daughters were drinking wine does not mean that drinking alcohol is a sin. What made it wrong for Jobs sons and daughters was that they were drinking an excess of it. The Bible clearly warns against excessive drinking because it is dangerous and can lead to sin. Even the secular world understand that excessive drinking weakens the will and leads to loose morals and often violence and results in behavior that is often regretted when the drunken mind returns to its sober state this is the reason the Bible warns against excessive drinking.

Naked I came Out of my Mother's Womb, and Naked I will Return.

Job 1:20 ----- ²⁰Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped.

Here is the wonder and glory of Jobs great faith how thrilled the heart of God must have been to see Jobs first response after suffering such enormous hardship, troubles and sorrow was to fall down and worship. This is not only the expression of true faith, but also an expression of great faith. What a contrast Jobs faith is to the modern day gospel of prosperity and material blessing in this world here and now. Jobs great faith is an enormous smack in the face of satan and totally destroys his mindset and reasoning before God that people only believe in God and worship Him because their life is prosperous, blessed and charmed.

Job views God as the Source of all his Troubles.

Job 1:21-22 ----- ²¹And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." ²²In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

So far Job has suffered the loss of all his livestock, the death of his sons and daughters and the death of all his servants. These are all troubles, hardships and sorrows that are common to mortal human life and that can happen to any man or woman (Christian or non-Christian).

NOTICE: nowhere does Job credit any of his hardship, troubles and suffering to a powerful evil spirit creature, but instead sees all his great sorrow as coming from the hand of God. Job even says, "God has become cruel to him: with his strong hand and that God has opposed Himself against him" (v21)

Consider: who is Jobs real adversary? an angel of God acting as an adversary to Job who is totally under the control of God and acting according to God's will and His permission or to a powerful evil spirit creature that is working against Gods will

and who Job, his wife and his three friends do not even know exists? The following verses shine a spotlight on the stunning glory, beauty and wonder of Jobs great faith. In all his enormous affliction and even though he credits God as being cruel to him and acting like a giant to crush him Job spiritually keeps his devoted and faithful attitude toward God.

Jobs Great Faith: -

- Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him (Job 13:15).
- Thou art become cruel to me: with thy strong hand thou opposest thyself against me (Job 30:21).
- He breaketh me with breach upon breach, he runneth upon me like a giant (Job 16:14).

These statements of Job shine a light on the truth that Job sees God as the source of his afflictions. Generally such great suffering, loss and sorrow do not normally come to one family, but the loss of financial wealth and security, good standing in the community, the loss of health and the loss of all that is loved are common sufferings that do come to individual humans worldwide whether they are religious or secular. This story of Job highlights the following truths: -

- Satan and natural circumstances are under the control of God.
- No matter how bad a Christian's life may seem it does not mean that God is punishing them because they have some great sin.
- God trust in Jobs integrity was so great He knew he could test his faith to the extreme so that this story of faithful devotion and overcoming faith against great adversity would become one that is spoken of throughout all generation.
- God is often working behind the scenes of what appears to us to be natural events in history and natural events in our own lives.

Job 2

The Sons of God Present themselves Before God.

Job 2:1-3 ----- ¹Again 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*. ²And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. ³And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

For an understanding of these verses see the notes following (Job 1:6-9) (above) since these verses are identical to them and because of this the focus of this chapter is upon the following key points contained within it.

The words of the LORD, "Although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause" (v3) refer to Satans conversation with the LORD in the previous chapter where Satan said to the LORD that the only reason Job worships the LORD is because the LORD has protected Jobs life, his family and everything he has from harm and abundantly blessed everything Job has done and after saying this then said, "If the LORD removes his hand of protection and blessing from Jobs life it is certain Job will forsake his faith and curse the LORD" (Job 1:10-11).

It is in this sense that Satan has moved the LORD to act against Job to prove to Satan and to the world that this universal mindset is false. It should be highlighted here that though Satan is the one actually bringing about Jobs troubles the LORD credits Himself as being the one that is acting against Job.

The Bible teaches that angels are: -

- All ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? (Heb. 1:14).

It would appear that satan in this story of Job is not some powerful evil spirit creature that is acting independently of God or against God's will (as many believe), but is one of God's angels who under God's control and permission is acting as an adversary to Job and has therefore been given the title satan which in the Hebrew language does not have a capital *S* and simply means to act as an adversary. In the book of Revelation God has many of His angels bringing havoc and destruction to the earth, yet they are all under the authority, power and control of God.

NOTE: certain religions believe that if a brother or sister in Christ is suffering in some great way it is a result of some hidden sin. This story of Job totally destroys this idea since God Himself tells Satan that Job has done nothing wrong to deserve the troubles that have come upon him (v3).

A Man will Give All He Has to Save His life.

Job 2:4-6 ----- ⁴And satan answered the LORD, and said, skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. ⁵But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face ⁶And the LORD said unto satan Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

Job's livestock has been stolen, his sons and daughters killed by a storm and his servants have been slaughtered by those who stole his livestock and still he worships God, so satan now approaches the LORD and says, "If Job's life is at stake then he will forsake his faith in the LORD and curse God. This is the universal battle of faith every brother and sister in every nation of the world faces, when trouble, sorrow and suffering come will we forsake our faith and turn bitter against God or be as Job was and look our troubles and hardships in the face and say as Job did, "Though he slay me yet I will trust in him" (Job 13:15).

Shall we Not Receive Good and Evil from the LORD.

Job 2:4-10 ----- ⁷So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. ⁸And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes. ⁹Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die. ¹⁰But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

Satan goes from the LORD'S presence and strikes Job's entire body with boils and his wife tells Job to forsake his integrity, curse God and die (v9). Notice Job's wife credits God for Job's troubles and sickness she tells Job to curse God, why wouldn't she say curse Satan? The answer to this question is because neither Job or his wife nor his three friends had any concept or belief in a powerful evil god. Job credits all of his afflictions as coming from God, so far he has suffered the death of his livestock, his servants and his sons and daughters and now his body is covered in boils and it is not only very clear that he credits God for all of these things, but we are also told in all this Job did not sin with his lips (v10). There is no doubt this is a difficult concept for our fallen, limited, mortal and finite minds to comprehend, especially since it raises the following questions: -

1. If Satan exists as a powerful evil spirit in the way that traditional religion thinks of him and it was this evil spirit who brought all this suffering upon Job, why does God not point out to Job that it was not Him that caused all his afflictions but an evil powerful spirit creature named Satan?
2. If Satan exist as an independent separate powerful evil spirit, but can only do what God gives him permission to do then he has absolutely no power at all outside of what God allows.

3. If Satan does exist as an independent separate powerful evil spirit and can act independently of God then God is not the all-powerful Almighty God who has all things under his control.

Satan is not mentioned any more in the book of Job, for further information concerning Satan see the title: "Satan" in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

SUMMARY: Job chapter One and Chapter Two.

Job was a righteous and godly man who was not only very rich, but also was a very successful business man throughout the land and therefore would have been known by all in the region. When the faithful of Israel gather together at a place of worship on earth and stand before the LORD an angel called Satan who by permission of God later becomes an adversary to Job comes amongst them. This could be: -

- An angel appearing as a man on earth with direct access to God in heaven
- An angel in heaven that comes into God's presence or before God at the same time as the sons of GOD who have gathered together are standing on earth before God in His presence, much like the angels gather together before God in heaven when brothers and sisters in Christ gather together in a temple or church to worship God on earth.

This angel called Satan is not the accuser of the brethren he is not accusing Job of anything, but expressing his thoughts to God as he believes things to be. His mindset is that men and women only worship God because their lives are prosperous, blessed and charmed, this is a universal mindset of much of the world's populations concerning Christians whose lives have been financially blessed and who worship and testify of God's goodness

God trusts Job and uses this angel to show that Job's faith is not dependent on his wealth or status in life or even his health. How thrilled must God have been when Job said, "Though He slay me yet will I trust in Him" (Job 13:15) what an absolute delight to the heart of God Job was. At this point God's angel becomes a Satan to Job which simply means he is acting as an adversary to Job. The angel does not have the authority or power to inflict Job according to his own will, he makes the suggestion to God and God gives him the permission and the power.

The Bible says the LORD tests and proves the heart of the righteous and in this story of Job we see how God uses one of His angels to test a righteous man's faith. Peter tells us that the testing of our faith will be more precious than gold at the appearing of Christ. This is because enduring faith will result eternal life and everlasting glory. Job credits God as the source of all his anguish and sorrow, he even says "God has become cruel to him, yet he still continues to worship God. At the end of the book of Job, God greatly rewards Job for his constant attitude of worship, even though Job accused God of being cruel to him and acting like a giant to crush him.

This story is shining a floodlight on the truth that faithful Christians who have an honest heart of integrity before God keep the same attitude of praise and worship in their heart during times of blessing and during times of suffering. Job's life is a graphic picture of the spiritual journey that all God's servant's will travel to a lesser or greater degree and shines a brilliant floodlight on the truth that a great reward is stored up in heaven for those that overcome and endure in faith to the end. When the faithful servant of God is standing in the Father's house, nothing he or she has lost in this life will matter

Suffering is common to all mankind: Job's loss of financial wealth and security, good standing in the community, loss of health and all that he loved are common to all mankind though they come in various degrees and different forms. The story of Job is showing that no matter how bad a Christian's life may seem it does not mean God is against them regardless of what outward circumstances look like. The word satan simply means adversary so satan in this context is an angel of God's who God is using to act as an adversary against Job to test his faith and prove to

the world that the worship and faith of those whose life is prosperous blessed and charmed is independent of their status, fame and wealth in this world (though they should certainly thank the LORD for such blessings). Some in the Christian faith tend to determine whether God loves them by their good or bad circumstances. They feel if life is charmed and blessed God loves them, but if it suddenly takes a turn for the worse and trouble comes they feel God has withdrawn his love, but this is superstition and judging God according to the fickle circumstances of this world.

When anyone who believes in Christ doubts God's love all we have to do is look back to the bloodstained cross and see what it cost the heart of the Father to save us and how much his Son suffered to redeem us and spiritually crown and clothe us with a royal and majestic robe of righteousness so that we could be justified and granted eternal life in everlasting glory apart from self-effort and strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days or keeping religious customs and traditions.

- In the remaining forty chapters Job continues to credit all his afflictions as coming from the LORD Himself. After chapter one and two Satan is not mentioned.

Job 6-30

Chapter Six to Chapter Thirty.

The following are verses selected from chapter six to chapter thirty that highlight the truth that Job saw God as the one who brought his afflictions, suffering, sorrow and loss upon him.

- The arrows and terrors of the Almighty are set against me (Job 6:4).
- Thine hands have made me, yet thou dost destroy me (Job 10:8).
- He hath made me weary and made desolate all my company (Job 16:7).
- He breaketh me, he runneth upon me like a giant (Job 16:14).
- He made me a byword and aforetime I was as a tabret (Job 17:6).
- God hath overthrown me and compassed me with his net (Job 19:6).
- He hath fenced up my way and set darkness in my paths (Job 19:8).
- He hath stripped me of my glory and taken my crown (Job 19:9).
- He hath destroyed me and mine hope he removed like a tree (Job 19:10).
- He hath kindled his wrath against me and counteth me as his enemy (Job 19:11).
- His troops come together and raise up their way against me (Job 19:12).
- Thou art become cruel to me and thou opposest thyself against me (Job 30:21).

These verses (there are many more) shine a spotlight on the truth that Job credited God with being the one who brought about his affliction, suffering and loss. Here is the great faith of Job even knowing that God has brought all his great suffering upon him Job still makes the follow two fantastic statements: -

- Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him (Job 13:15).
- I know that my redeemer liveth, 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).

Jobs words are gloriously stunning and prophetic, "My Redeemer liveth," this statement shows that Job understood the following two things: -

1. When he did die his body would decay in the grave until a redeemer came at the end of the worldly age we live in and he would be resurrected.
2. He would not be raised from the grave as a spirit, but as a complete person with a body of immortal flesh and that he will see God.

For further information see the title: "Resurrection" (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Job 30

Job Prays to God, but God does Not Regard His Prayer.

Job 30:20 ----- ²⁰I cry unto thee, and thou dost not hear me: I stand up, and thou regardest me not.

After crying, begging and praying (no-doubt asking God to remove his pain, grief and deep sorrow) Job feels that God is not listening to his prayer or even considering him. It is certain that almost all faithful brothers and sisters in Christ can relate to how Job is feeling. Clearly God not only heard Job's prayer, but was watching him suffer.

It is in these moments of silence from heaven that our faith is tested and made strong and though in these times of heavens silence and God not responding to our prayer every brother and sister should rest in the comfort that God is not only working behind the scene (remember Job had no idea of what was going on in the spiritual world, we only know because it is written), but also rest in the comfort that our redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after our skin worms have destroyed this body, yet in our flesh we shall see God (Job 19:25-26).

Job 38

God comes to Job.

Job 38:1-3 ----- ¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind ²Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? ³Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

The LORD comes to Job basically tells Job that his counsel is darkened meaning his understanding is limited and that what he has spoken is without knowledge referring to knowledge of his own nature (Job believed he was righteous because of his good works) and knowledge of the character and awesomeness of the Almighty God.

In the King James Bible it is recorded that Job said: -

- Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before the LORD (Job 13:15).

The English Standard Bible translates it this way, Job said: -

- Though he slay me, I will hope in him; yet I will argue my ways to his face (Job 13:15).

Even though Job was a compassionate, decent and good living man the conversations with his three friends in the previous chapters show that he believed he was righteous by his own good works and could prove he was righteous and that God was being unjust in bringing all these afflictions upon him. Job claimed if he could have the chance to plead his case before the LORD he would prove God unjust and himself righteous. Now here is the glory of this story and the wisdom of God, the LORD does come to Job and tells him to prepare his case, but before Job begins speaking the LORD says that He will ask Job some questions and if he can answer them He will hear his case. The next two chapters (38/39) the LORD asks Job some very difficult questions that Job has no hope of answering.

Will you Condemn the LORD that You May be Righteous?

Job 40:1-6 ----- ¹Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said, ²Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it. ³Then Job answered the LORD, and said, ⁴Behold, I am vile (of small account in ESV) what shall I answer thee? ⁵Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further. ⁶Then answered the LORD unto Job will you also disannul my judgment? will you condemn me, that you may be righteous?

Jobs words, "Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further" (v5) carry the ideo of Job standing in stunned silence and putting his hand over his mouth in absolute shame and humbleness because he had considered himself righteous enough to argue against God and judge and condemn the Almighty as being unjust. In the last two chapters the LORD has been asking Job questions that he could not answer. Job had been desiring to stand before the LORD to plead his case to prove himself right and now he is before the LORD he cannot answer one question the LORD has asked him. Job of course feels totally shamed and humiliated.

In these verses the LORD is basically saying to Job if you cannot even answer one of these questions I have asked you how, do you think you could possibly contend with the Almighty and instruct Him when He knows all the answers to the universe? Job stands in shame, because he had been accusing and blaming the LORD for treating him unfairly and cruelly and in doing this was judging and condemning the LORD and by doing so was making himself righteous. God is basically saying who are you to question me, if you can't even answer my questions, why would you exalt yourself above my judgments by questioning, judging and condemning me.

God's Challenge to Job.

Job 40:7-14 ----- ⁷The LORD says to Job: "Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me ---- NOW GO TO VERSE FOURTEEN ---- ¹⁴Then will I also acknowledge to you that your own right hand can save you.

The LORD challenges Job to prepare himself to answer some questions and if he can answer them then the LORD will agree with him that he is righteous and therefore is right in judging the LORD and is able to save himself by his own righteousness, knowledge and wisdom. God then continues (to the end of the chapter) asking Job questions so big that he cannot answer even one of them.

Job 41

Leviathan.

Job 41:1-34 ----- ¹The LORD asks Job: "Can you draw out leviathan with a fishhook or press down his tongue with a cord? ---- NOW GO TO VERSE THIRTY-FOUR ---- ³⁴He sees everything that is high; he is king over all the sons of pride."

This chapter contains far too much symbolic language to go into in any detail in this study since the focus is upon the LORD asking Job questions concerning a creature called leviathan who some believe to be: -

- A crocodile or some other similar large carnivorous creature that lives near water and has a thick-skinned body and a head with strong jaws.
- An evil powerful god called satan.

The following notes may help and inspire those who are interested in discovering who this fearful creature called leviathan might be. We are told that leviathan is king over all the children of pride therefore leviathan has to be symbolic of something that has power over every human filled with pride. This means that leviathan could be seen to be a symbol of sin, and death personified as a great

monster. There is no-doubt death is the king over all the children of pride and over all sin. Leviathan in its widest sense appears to be a symbolic picture of sin which embraces all aspects of sin, including pride and death. Sin and death in this chapter appears to be personified as a fearful and powerful dragon like creature, named leviathan that no human can restrain.

This creature is pictured as a universal monster roaming amongst the populations of the world that no one can control and who all are afraid to challenge or confront. The fact no one can control this fearful creature certainly fits the character of sin and of death especially since God is pictured as a person that is able to play with this monster as a toy in his hands and use it to achieve his eternal plans and purposes (Job 41:1-34). For further information see the title: "Leviathan," in, Satan and his family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Job 42

No Thought can be Hidden from God.

Job 42:1-5 ----- ¹Then Job answered the LORD, and said, ²I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. ³Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered (things) that I understood not, things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. ⁴Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. ⁵I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear but now mine eye seeth thee. ⁶Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

Job after being left in stunned silence, because he could not answer any of the LORDS questions confesses that no thought can be hidden from the LORD and that the LORD can do everything, this carries the idea that the LORD is just in everything he does. After the LORD'S questioning, Job is brought to the realization that his knowledge and wisdom is left totally lacking when placed before the LORD Himself and to the realization that he has spoken many things of which he had no depth of understanding. When Job was faced with the LORDS questions he was clearly humbled and brought to proclaim that the LORDS understanding and wisdom is so high that it is far too wonderful for him to comprehend or even begin to know.

Job desired to speak with the LORD to declare his case to prove his point and his righteousness and demanded that the LORD would present His case. It is certain Job believed he could prove that God was unjust in the way he was treating him and that he could prove that this was the case if God stood before him to hear what he had to say. This is stunning (though understandable considering Jobs suffering) poor Job was so convinced he could prove God unjust and no-doubt had so much that he wanted to say, yet when he did have the opportunity he was left humbled, feeling ashamed and in stunned silenced. After facing God Job makes the following glorious statement: -

- I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear but now mine eye seeth thee (v5).

And after making this glorious statement Job says: -

- I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes (v6).

Prior to Job's afflictions he had heard about God, most likely by the teaching and testimonies of others, but now at the end of his afflictions he personally knows what it is to be in communion with God. The statement, "Mine eye seeth thee," does not mean that Job literally saw God, but that he perceives who God is and perceives his own unrighteousness before the LORD, whereas prior to this Job believed he was righteous because of his good works.

The LORD Commends Job for speaking what is Right.

Job 42:7 ----- ⁷And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right as my servant Job hath

The LORD'S words "Eliphaz and his two friends," had not spoken what was right as Job did" does not refer to every chapter, but to Job's confession that: -

- God can do everything (meaning God is just) (Job 42:1).
- No thought can be hidden from God (Job 42: 2).
- He spoke things that he did not understand or know (Job 42:3).
- He abhors himself and repents in dust and ashes (Job 42:6).

God Accepts Job when he prays for his Friends.

Job 42:10-11 ----- ¹⁰And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends ¹¹Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him.

Job had some pretty strong and heated debates with his friends throughout the book of Job which could have left him in bitterness and division, but now having perceived the true character of God he prays for his three friends and the LORD abundantly blesses him. We are told that Job was a decent man who did what was good, just and right etc., but it appears that because of his own goodness he believed he could be saved to eternal life because of his good lifestyle and the good works he did. Though Job was a good and decent living man on earth his heart attitude before God seems to be one of self-righteousness.

NOTICE: the words, "All the evil that the LORD had brought upon Job," even now at the end of the entire book God is still being credit as the one that brought all Job's afflictions, sufferings and sorrows upon him. Every brother and sister in Christ should know that there are not two super universal spirit minds and powerful gods that are able to have control over their lives. The only power in the universe that has authority, control and power over all things is God who at this present time has given it to his Son the Lord Jesus Christ. The only other universal and global power that has influence over every man and woman living on earth is sin (self, ego, pride and greed etc.) manifested in all its evil forms throughout every kingdom and nation of the world.

SUMMARY: through the entire book of Job, Job credits God as the one who has brought upon him all his afflictions, suffering and loss and nowhere in the entire book does God say to Job that it was not Him that brought all this evil on Job. God's answer to Job was to say, "Who are you to judge and condemn me, will you judge me to make yourself righteous? This is a very common attitude amongst servants of God; even today it is expressed in words or thoughts that imply God is not fair. God's answer to this question is simple, He says to Job and by extension all mankind, "If you can answer all my questions in Job chapter thirty-eight to Job chapter forty-two then I will declare that you do not need me to save yourself to eternal life and everlasting glory since you have all the wisdom and righteous needed to deliver yourself from sin and death and save yourself to eternal life and everlasting glory.

For further information see the titles: -

- Job in, Commentary OT (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- Satan, in (Satan and his Family) (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- Before the LORD, in (Satan and his Family) (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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