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

Job 10.

(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 10.

Topics.

- I loathe my life and will give free utterance of my complaint to God.
- You have made me like clay; and will you return me to the dust?
- God granted me steadfast love and hid in it in his heart.
- If I sin, you will not acquit me of my iniquity if I am guilty, woe to me!
- Why did you bring me out from the womb and not carry me to the grave?

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 loathe my Life and will Give Free Utterance of My Complaint to God.

Job 10:1-7 ----- ¹"I loathe my life; I will give free utterance to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. ²I will say to God, Do not condemn me; let me know why you contend against me. ³Does it seem good to you to oppress, to despise the work of your hands and favour the designs of the wicked? ⁴Have you eyes of flesh? Do you see as man sees? ⁵Are your days as the days of man, or your years as a man's years, ⁶that you seek out my iniquity and search for my sin, ⁷although you know that I am not guilty, and there is none to deliver out of your hand?

Bitterness: comes from the Hebrew word (*mar*) it literally means bitter it carries the idea of being angry, discontent, resentful, cheated, greatly grieved and hard done-by. Job should not be judged harshly simply because he says that he loathes his life, who wouldn't under his circumstances, his family has been wiped out, everything he had establish had come to ruin, he is suffering horrific sickness and his friend instead of comforting him treat him like a gross sinner and turn all his

words into a dogmatic legalistic debate. In this chapter Job is speaking from the discontent in his heart there is no doubt he is grieved and feeling, resentful, cheated, and hard done-by, since he had done nothing deserving of such calamities and afflictions.

Job asks God not to condemn him: (v2) Job is of course is totally confused, he knows he has not committed any crime or done anything wrong and even more than this he helped the poor, yet he feels that he is being condemned by God, because of his great afflictions. The story of Job shines a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that not all suffering is a result of some hidden secret sin or even some outward sin as some religious people teach.

Job asks God to let him know why He is against him: (v2) Job cannot understand why God is against him. Though God is certainly not against Job it is easy to understand why Job would feel that He is. We know Job is mistaken in thinking God is against him because we are told he was a righteous man and God Himself considered him blameless. (Job 1:1) (Job 1:8) (Job 2:3).

Job asks God, does it seem good to Him to oppress and despise him? (v3) obviously God takes no delight in the suffering of anyone. God's entire purpose for Job was to prove to all mankind that believe as Satan did that the faithful only worship God because their life is charmed and blessed is not a true statement. The fact God allowed Job to suffer such affliction shines a brilliant spotlight upon how much God respected Job and trusted his faith. Had Job forsaken his faith and turned against God Satan would have been proved right.

Job asks God why does He favour the wicked and allow him to suffer: (v3) this question no doubt arises from two things, firstly, when Job ponders his own suffering and sees the wicked living in ease and prospering and secondly, when he sees that violence, wars, rape, murders and theft etc., are rampant upon the earth and the innocent suffering. The reason for this sad state of affairs upon earth is because we are not yet living in God's Kingdom, but the kingdom of man. It could be said that God has leased the earth to mankind to do as he pleases until the cup of iniquity is overflowing and He says, "Enough is enough," and judgment comes.

The apostle Peter wrote: -

- The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (2 Peter 3:9).

The answer to the question, why does God favour the wicked and allow the innocent to suffer is because He desires that none would perish, but find salvation. It could be said that we are living in the long day of death and the long day of grace until the Lord descends from heaven with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God and the dead in Christ are raised and those who are alive are caught up together with them in the clouds to be forever with the Lord. (1 Thess. 4:16-17).

Job asks God if He has eyes of flesh and see as man sees: (v4) the expression "the flesh," is often used throughout the Bible it refers to natural mortal human life with its fallen corrupted and sinful nature: -

- God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. (Gen. 6:13)
- A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field (i.e., withers and perishes) (Isaiah 40:6)

Following is a list of the character and nature of the eyes of flesh: -

- They are limited by distance and will be dimmed by age and shut by death.
- They cannot see in the dark and are in one place at a time.
- They are envious sensual and full of ignorance lust and craving.

- They can only see outward behaviour and judge by appearances.
- They are uncharitable and inclined to construe everything in the harshest manner.
- They cannot search out secret sins and hidden motives and deceptions and are easily deceived.

In contrast to the eyes of the flesh God's eyes are: -

- Not limited by distance, but are in every place, running to and fro through the whole earth (2 Chron. 16:9) (Psalm 34:15).
- Never dimmed, but eternal and ever the same from generation to generation.
- Are not limited by darkness since both light and darkness are alike to Him
- Not envious but Holy, righteous, just and full of love mercy and grace.
- Never deceived and sees all things upon the face of the earth.
- Are in every place beholding the evil and the good of life on earth. (Prov. 15:3).
- Not limited by outward actions and visible appearances, but sees the hidden motives of the heart and all that is in them.

The eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the earth: the following verses show that God's eyes are forever roaming the earth seeking humble and good hearts and those who as yet have not heard any teaching on earth concerning God, but do hear the unspoken voice of the heavens declaring God's existence each time they look up toward the night sky and ponder the heavenly host, the sun, the moon, the stars and the milky way and the awesome beauty of the billions of other celestial planets that light up the darkness of the heavens.

- For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless (perfect in KJV) toward him. (2 Chron. 16:9).
- The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. (Psalm 34:15).
- The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good. (Proverbs 15:3).

Some have the idea that everyone who does not believe in God is a wicked person, but this is not true, certainly we are all sinners no matter how good our behaviour, but not all are wicked. Many who have not heard the message of the bloodstained cross of Calvary and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ do amazing acts of kindness and charity toward others and many even give their lives to helping the less fortunate and helpless. Others in countries where God's word is not as available as it is in Western world look to the heavens and creation and hear their silent testimony of God's greatness and His glory and believe.

- The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
²Day to day they utter out speech, and night to night reveals and shows knowledge.
³There is no speech, nor language, where their voice is not heard. ⁴Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. (Psalm 19:1-4).

Upon this simple faith and limited knowledge they live a lifestyle of goodness before God. Based upon the universal principal, "To those who are given much, much is expected, but to those who have little, little is expected," I am certain at the second resurrection (called the second death) when the sea and the grave give up the dead to stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment many will be judged according to the light of God they were given and the lifestyle they lived before Him. For further information concerning the Great White Throne Judgment, see the title: -

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU)

Job asks God why does He seek out his iniquity and search for his sin: (v6) though we are told Job was a righteous and blameless man it does not mean he was without sin. It means he was a man that did what was right and good and helped the poor. The only man who has ever walked on this earth without sin was the Son of God the Lord Jesus Christ. If any of us could attain to the glorious state of living a sin free life Christ died for no reason. It is certain Job was aware of the sin that dwelt within his fallen corrupted body (i.e., self, ego, coveting, anger, bitterness, resentment, jealousy and such like things). He feels that God is contending, oppressing and tormenting him for the sole purpose of seeking out these hidden and secret sins.

Job says though I am not guilty who can deliver me out of God's hand? (v7) Job knows he is innocent of any criminal activity and wrong doing and underserving of the calamities and afflictions that he is suffering and also knows that no one has the power to deliver him out of God's hand should God continue to afflict him.

Job's so called friends were not only treating him with harsh judgment and condemnation, but also accusing him of hypocrisy and some kind of hidden and secret transgression, so it is highly possible that Job felt that God was treating him the same way which would have totally bewildered and confused him since he knew that God knows all thing and does not need to use calamities and afflictions to examine him and certainly does not need to deal with him as though he was an ungodly, wicked and corrupt man.

You have made Me like Clay; and will You Return Me to the Dust?

Job 10:8-11 ----- ⁸Your hands fashioned and made me, and now you have destroyed me altogether. ⁹Remember that you have made me like clay; and will you return me to the dust? ¹⁰Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? ¹¹You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews.

Job takes us back to Genesis and our earthy father Adam who God made from the dust of the earth and gave skin, bones and flesh, and now feels that God is in the process of returning him to dust.

Poured me out like milk: (v10) can carry the following ideas: -

- In modest terms God's work in making man from conception and the seed of his parents, out of a small white milky, substance, comparable to milk, from being a liquid and for its colour:
- In the book of Lamentations it is written, "Her princes were purer than snow, whiter than milk," (Lam. 4:7) showing that milk is an emblem of purity and holiness. In this light it could be seen as referring to the original and pure formation of man, who came out of his Maker's hands a pure, holy and upright creature, made after his image and in his likeness, created in righteousness and holiness, and so, like milk, pure and white.

Curdle me like cheese: (v10) can carry the following idea, God formed and preserved Job for misery symbolised by milk being poured out and churned into cheese.

God Granted Me Steadfast Love and Hid in it in His Heart.

Job 10:12-13 ----- ¹²You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit. ¹³Yet these things you hid in your heart; I know that this was your purpose.

These two verses give us a beautiful insight into Job's great faith, even in all his suffering he is able to say God has preserved his spirit and given him steadfast love, yet He has kept His steadfast love hidden from him.

This is a fascinating insight into Job's faith, he credits God for all his loss, agonising suffering, and his despair and does not feel God's love in his inner most being, but despite this he knows God loves him and is keeping his spirit (meaning keeping him alive). This shines a brilliant spotlight upon Job's great faith and that it soars far beyond his emotions and troubling circumstances.

Sadly some today do not perceive the love of God and because of this lack of perception of God's love and grace 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 today 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 cloth us with his 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.

This truth should comfort every faithful brother and sister in Christ since it is certain if God was prepared to sacrifice his Son for us, while we were indifferent and apathetic toward Him and uninterested and unconcerned about what honoured Him and what didn't He will with great joy do everything to keep us for eternal life now we love His Son. (He does this by daily lavishing us with grace)

If I Sin, You will Not Acquit Me of My iniquity if I am Guilty, Woe to Me!

Job 10:14-17 ----- ¹⁴If I sin, you watch me and do not acquit me of my iniquity. ¹⁵If I am guilty, woe to me! If I am in the right, I cannot lift up my head, for I am filled with disgrace and look on my affliction. ¹⁶And were my head lifted up, you would hunt me like a lion and again work wonders against me. ¹⁷You renew your witnesses against me and increase your vexation toward me; you bring fresh troops against me.

Job says even if he is blameless in the eyes of mankind he cannot lift up his head, meaning he cannot boast of the fact he is outwardly blameless or boast of his righteous deeds because he knows sin (ego, bitterness, jealousy, lustful thoughts, anger and such like things) dwell in his inner most being.

Added to this he fears the LORD would hunt him down like a fierce lion and increase his troubles and afflictions if he did dare to boast (lift up his head in pride) that he was in the right and worthy of salvation by his own works and good deeds.

Why did You Bring me Out from the Womb and Not carry Me to the Grave?

Job 10:18-22 ----- ¹⁸"Why did you bring me out from the womb? Would that I had died before any eye had seen me ¹⁹and were as though I had not been, carried from the womb to the grave. ²⁰Are not my days few? Then cease, and leave me alone, that I may find a little cheer ²¹before I go—and I shall not return—to the land of darkness and deep shadow (the grave) ²²the land of gloom like thick darkness, like deep shadow without any order, where light is as thick darkness."

Job is in such deep loathing that he wishes he had never been born he reminds God that mortal life on earth is very brief and because of this asks Him to leave him alone so that he can at least have a little time on earth to enjoy a some happiness before he goes to the grave.

Before I go the land where light is as thick darkness and not return: refers to the grave, but it does not mean Job will not be resurrected to eternal life, but that he will not return to his life and family on earth. When we arrive at the final chapter of Job we read that God blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. (Job 42:12) and that he lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, four generations and died, an old man, and full of days. (Job 42:16-17). Clearly God answered Job's prayer.

Concerning the resurrection and eternal life in chapter nineteen Job says: -

- 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).

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.