



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

LESSONS FROM JOB AND HIS 'FRIENDS'! PART I

Warm Greetings to the WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS!

We are well on the way to 4 years of weekly articles totally by the grace of God!

BASIC INTRODUCTION TO JOB:

Scholars do not agree whether the Book of Job is the oldest book of the Bible, but it is certainly up there among the oldest. The Book of Job contains scores of wise sayings and above all is a Testament to the faith of the man Job and his relationship to The Almighty God.

Scholars also cannot agree on where the Land of UZ was, there are at least four wildly varying suggestions, but they are at least around and near the land we call Israel today; the location could have been Edom, even as far south as Yemen, northern or North East Syria and even beyond! All we know for sure is that it was somewhere east of the Jordan River.

What better way to begin a new

year than learning what we can from the Book of Job! We are certainly going to need the 'Lessons' from his life in the days ahead I believe. So let's begin!

In this issue, part I, I will 'only', be focusing on

- **Who Job is,**
- **Lessons from the spirit world,**
- **Job's reaction to personal disaster,**
- **And other fascinating facts!**

(We know his friends were unable to help him, as they gave the wrong advice, and that is a large part of the book.)

We are looking at Job chapters 1 and 2 in this edition and hope to follow up and finish it in part II with the final victory of dear Job, against all odds! As well as a collection of some of the best verses and wisdom of Job very soon, God willing!

I will use the Amplified Translation text and make comments in italics.

Chapter 1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who [reverently]

feared God and **abstained from and shunned evil** [because it was wrong].

2 And there were born to him seven sons and three daughters.

- 3 He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and a very great body of servants, **so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the East.**
- 4 His sons used to go and feast in the house of each on his day (birthday) in turn, and they invited their three sisters to eat and drink with them.
- 5 And when the days of their feasting were over, Job sent for them to purify and hallow them, (make holy; consecrate.), and rose up early in the morning and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed or disowned God in their hearts. Thus did Job at all [such] times.

Job! Such a wealthy man, blessed by God, ten children and seemingly countless animals

of value! Despite all this he followed God's commandments, whatever they were at that time, which he must have known all about. We can see he earnestly wanted his children to follow in his footsteps and cared greatly about their spiritual condition and relationship with God! This is an incredible and strong desire for true godly men and women; that their progenies will also follow God in the same way as they are attempting to do.

In today's world we don't often meet such vastly wealthy Christian believing men, do we? Maybe you know some, I have known a few, but as we see, Job was the wealthiest man of the East. (Verse 3). However, all is not going to continue peacefully with dear Job. When things are going well, our age-old enemy is always looking to throw something at us.

○ 6 Now there was a day



when the sons (the angels) of God came to present themselves before the Lord,

and Satan (the adversary and accuser) also came among them.

- 7 And the Lord said to Satan, from where did you come? Then Satan answered the Lord, from going to and fro on the earth and from walking up and down on it.
- 8 And the Lord said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who [reverently] fears God and abstains from and shuns evil [because it is wrong]?
- 9 Then Satan answered the Lord, Does Job [reverently] fear God for nothing?
- 10 Have You not put a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have conferred prosperity and happiness upon him in the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.
- 11 But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has, and he will curse You to Your face.
- 12 And the Lord said to Satan (the adversary and the accuser), Behold, all that he has is in your power, only upon the man himself put not forth your hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

The Spirit World

'Stuff' happens in the spiritual world ALL THE TIME! We just don't get to see it. Here we see the spiritual court and counsels or events that happen in God's

unseen world. There are a few other examples of this in Scripture also. The Devil, Satan, still had access to Heaven at this time, strange as it might seem to our finite brains. The day would come when he would be cast out of heaven and never allowed back, but at this time, he was 'allowed' or permitted by God to visit. He was a fallen angel. Luke 10: 18 And he (Jesus) said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. And for more information on how these courts or meetings or battle plans function in Heaven, there is a good example here! 1 Kings 22:19-23!

After God asked him, 'where have you been'? Satan says he has been checking out the earth, as was his 'right' and viewing the global situation. Satan, like all the other of the hundreds of millions of angels* (both those who stayed true to God and those who rebelled in the great rebellion) could fly. *Daniel 7:10, Revelation 5:11

God was obviously very proud of this one person on the earth, Job, and told Satan, 'look at my best man! What a great example of a human who follows Me'. In verses 9 to 11, Satan tells God, He (God) is wrong, and that **Job will give up his faith as soon as his wealth is taken away from him, and also His protection that God has given him!** PROTECTION! Yes, God had protected Job, and Satan knew it, what he was asking for, was access to Job. He was specifically asking God to put forth His hand and take all that away, and see what kind of man Job really was. Satan was confident, that once God removed His Protection, Sources

of Wealth, that it would be clear that Job was only obedient to God because of his earthly success, wealth and so on. And that specifically he would 'curse God to His face'. Let us note that Satan always belittles God's people. Satan at least acknowledges that God had 'conferred prosperity and happiness upon Job.'

God Himself took up Satan's challenge with a stipulation in verse 12. Satan left the scene.

- 13 And there was a day when [Job's] sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house [on his birthday],
- 14 And there came a messenger to Job and said, the oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them,
- 15 **And the Sabceans swooped down upon them and took away** [the animals]. Indeed, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.
- 16 While he was yet speaking, there came also another and said, the **fire of God** (lightning) has fallen from the heavens and has burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you.
- 17 While he was yet speaking, there came also another and said, **The Chaldeans divided into three bands** and made a raid upon the camels and have taken them away, yes,

and have slain the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.

- 18 While he was yet speaking, there came also another and said, Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house,
- 19 And behold, **there came a great [whirlwind]** from the desert, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you.

Satan wasted no time to bring down the destruction, great anguish and pain of the type few humans on earth experience. In one day as we see above, there came two different bands of Robbers, and two different 'natural disasters', one after the other. Everything Job treasured was gone in these 4 calamities, except his wife, who will shortly meet!



- 20 Then Job arose and rent his robe and shaved his head and fell down upon the ground and worshipped
- **21 And said, Naked (without possessions) came I [into this world] from my mother's womb, and naked (without possessions) shall I depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed (praised and magnified in**

worship) be the name of the Lord!

- 22 In all this Job sinned not nor charged God foolishly.

Job responded like most of us don't, by a statement of faith of the highest level in verse 21! The Lord holds out Job's message for all believers in the world in all generations. And that is the end of the first chapter, almost total annihilation and destruction, thanks to the devil's approved by God efforts. Job's initial response is phenomenal.

A couple of years ago, I was astounded to read these two verses in Ezekiel, where God is speaking:

Ezekiel 14:14

Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, they would save but their own lives by their righteousness (their uprightness and right standing with Me), says the Lord God.

Ezekiel 14:20

Though Noah, Daniel, and **Job** were in it, as I live, says the Lord God, they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would but deliver their own lives by their righteousness (their moral and spiritual rectitude in every area and relation).

Read the whole Ezekiel 14 chapter to get the full picture!

I learned from this, that yes, it seems God has those few who are especially His favourites due to their dedication. Three of them listed here, one being Job, what a fantastic message this is!

Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord and was upright in his generations. (Genesis 6:8-9)

Daniel was called greatly loved and beloved of God (Daniel 10:11, 19)

Job, the Lord said 'that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man', (Job 1:8)

Job Chapter 2

- 1 Again there was a day when the sons of God [the angels] came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan (the adversary and the accuser) came also among them to present himself before the Lord.
- 2 And the Lord said to Satan, From where do you come? And Satan (the adversary and the accuser) answered the Lord, From going to and fro on the earth and from walking up and down on it.
- 3 And the Lord said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who [reverently] fears God and abstains from and shuns all evil [because it is wrong]? And still he holds fast his integrity, although you moved Me against him to destroy him without cause.

Chapter 2 begins with a very similar spirit world faceoff between God and Satan. God has won round one, but the accuser has not finally finished yet.

- 4 Then Satan answered the Lord, Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has will he give for his life.

- 5 But put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse and renounce You to Your face.
- 6 And the Lord said to Satan, Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.
- The Lord gives permission for the devil to 'touch' Job's body, after Satan's challenge that Job would mess up as soon as his own life, skin and bones might be destroyed and his own life was on the line!
- 7 So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord and smote Job with loathsome and painful sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.
- 8 And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself, and he sat [down] among the ashes.

The devil again got straight to the job at hand.

Testimony about Boils:

Have you ever had boils? I spent most of my teen hood with boils, severe boils on both cheeks of my face, also frequently up my nose and behind my knees. My mother used to (lance) pierce them with a hot needle, and drain them as much as possible. This was also a painful process! They were huge and I had to attend high school like that often. They often took weeks to fully go away and left purple and red and even green marks for a long time after. **So I have often related to Job, who had a lot more boils than I did and

which were even more loathsome and painful.

I was completely healed of boils at the age of 18 years and one month, when an American pastor met me at a fellowship, and he was so shocked at my appearance, that he called a couple of elders, laid his hands on the two boils I currently had on my



face, and 'cast them out never to return.'

Sure enough, they left the same day and never returned! God is a God of miracles, but He likes to use somebody!

Job's wife: But wait here comes somebody who is going to encourage him in their mutual sorrow.

- 9 Then his wife said to him, do you still hold fast your blameless uprightness? Renounce (Curse) God and die!
- 10 But he said to her, you speak as one of the impious and foolish women would speak. What? Shall we accept [only] good at the hand of God and shall we not accept [also] misfortune and what is of a bad nature? In [spite of] all this, Job did not sin with his lips.

Today I found a couple modern interpretations of this story, which I have just researched; some people are rewriting Job's wife (Uzit) as a good wife and simply misunderstood, and equally blessed by God in the end. When I studied this, I realised that feminist doctrine had struck another blow inside God's Word. Obviously, Job's wife experienced the same evil and pain as her husband. However it is clear that in Job's response to her, that he strongly corrected her for speaking like a wicked and foolish woman. Pain is pain. But how we each react to pain is a key point. Only great faith, like Job, will survive extreme tests. James 5:10-11

- 11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came each one from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar

the Naamathite, for they had made an appointment together to come to condole with him and to comfort him.

- 12 And when they looked from afar off and saw him [disfigured] beyond recognition, they lifted up their voices and wept; and each one tore his robe, and they cast dust over their heads toward the heavens.
- 13 So they sat down with [Job] on the ground for seven days and seven nights, and none spoke a



word to him, for they saw that his grief and pain were very great.

Job, disfigured by unimaginable heart pain and boils and the scraping of them, made him unrecognisable.

His friends arrived, they were so amazed at his grief and condition that nobody said a word for seven days!

Coming in the next edition of Job part II

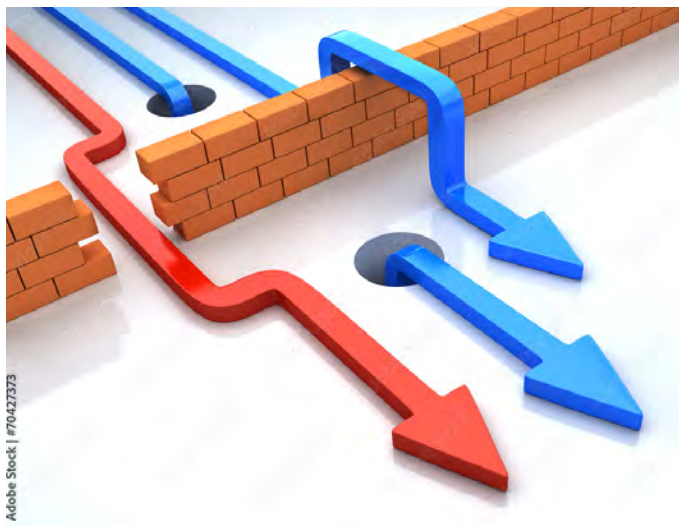
The final victory of dear Job, against all odds!

The Mighty blessings God gave him.

As well as a collection of some of the best verses and wisdom of the book of Job very soon, by God's grace!

Questions for us from the Book of Job!

Until next week,



YOU CANNOT STOP THE MAN OF FAITH! YOU CANNOT DISSUADE HIM! YOU CANNOT DIVERT HIM! HE'LL GO ON, WITH OR WITHOUT YOU, OR RIGHT OVER YOU, IF NECESSARY

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