

BEFORE

AFTER

#190, January 26, 2025



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

7 Sons and
3 Daughters7 Sons and
3 Daughters

7,000 Sheep

14,000 Sheep

3,000 Camels

6,000 Camels

500 Oxen

1,000 Oxen

500 Donkeys

1,000 Donkeys

Job 1:2-3 /42:11-15

A comparison of
Job's wealth before
and after his suf-
fering and loss

LESSONS FROM JOB AND HIS FRIENDS PART II

James 5:11

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard **of the patience of Job**, and have seen the end **of the Lord**; that the Lord is very pitiful, and **of tender mercy**.

In this issue:

A brief summary of Chapters 3 to 41.

The final victory of dear Job, against all odds!

The Mighty blessings God gave him.

A collection of some of the best verses and wisdom of the book of Job.

Lessons and Questions for us from the Book of Job!

God bless you! Let us continue the sufferings and final victory of Job. We left him last time in chapter 2, in a pile of pottery, new found poverty, and his body filled with boils and covered with ashes.

He has lost ALL his vast wealth and possessions and all his children have been killed in

one demonic disaster. All

this in one day!

He only has one dwelling place and his lovely wife left. His three friends have just arrived!

A brief summary of Chapters 3 to 41.

In chapter 3, Job basically curses the day he was born in a very eloquent and passionate way. **However in no way does he blame God**, only the fact that he is still here on the earth.

From Chapters 4 to about 37, we see his friends, Johnny, Alex and Malcolm (**), denigrate Job and say that there **MUST** be something wrong with Job, that he should repent, that God is good.

Job defends himself and towards the end of these long and deep chapters talking and discussing back and forth together, Job gets truly and finally fed up with his friends, and he is actually correct.

Their advice has totally missed the mark and been of very little help, or no help whatsoever! Although we have to admit that it all **sounded** very good. Which goes to show that only

our righteousness before the Lord is what counts, and not really what others say or think about us.

At this point in chapter 38, 39 and parts of 40 and 41 God Himself arrives on the scene, and asks Job 77 questions!

I think even if God asked me one question of this nature, I would be in fear and trembling, but Job went through 77 of them.

The Lord also sternly rebukes his three friends, whose real names are (**) Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar.

At the end of these questions, Job has comprehended that really, compared to God, he knows just about nothing or zero or zilch! His final reaction to the Lord then, is commendably this:

Job chapter 42 1Then Job said to the Lord,

2 I know that You can do all things, and that no thought or purpose of Yours can be restrained or thwarted. **3 [You said to me] Who is this that darkens and obscures counsel [by words] without knowledge? Therefore [I now**

see] I have [rashly] uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

4 [I had virtually said to You what You have said to me:] Hear, I beseech You, and I will speak; I will demand of You, and You declare to me.

5 I had heard of You [only] by the hearing of the ear, but now my [spiritual] eye sees You.

6 Therefore I loathe [my words] and abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.

Job simply understood this one fact; he was nothing, God was Everything and he therefore, after seeing the Lord in the Spirit, repented in dust and ashes, having nothing else he could do before God!

The Lord, all along had been expecting to bless Job for His righteousness, and also for his steadfastness in God. It can be said that that God was in a chess game with the devil over the Righteousness of Job.



The time came for a checkmate: here it was:

7 After the Lord had spoken the previous words to Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My **wrath** is kindled against you and against your two friends, **for you have not spoken of Me the thing that is right, as My servant Job has.**

8 Now therefore take seven bullocks and seven rams and

go to My servant Job and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept [his prayer] that I deal not with you after your folly, in that you have not spoken of Me the thing that is right, as My servant Job has.

9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the Lord commanded them; and the Lord accepted [Job's prayer].

10 And the Lord turned the captivity of Job and restored his fortunes, when he prayed for his friends; also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.

The statement of Job right back in Chapter 1 was: 'The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.'

*He had kept his faith right through such devastation and loss, as well as the criticism and doubts of his three friends. Here in verse 10 the Lord turns his captivity, **after** Job even prayed for these friends who had also caused him grief!*

And then we also see the mighty blessings God gave him for enduring such affliction and holding on to God.

11 Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; and they sympathized with him and comforted him over all the [distressing] calamities that the Lord had brought upon him. Every man also gave him a piece of money, and every man an earring of

gold. (to start a new life!) Praise the Lord.

12 And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys.

13 He had also seven sons and three daughters.

14 And he called the name of the first Jemimah, and the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-happuch.

15 And in all the land there were no women so fair as the daughters of Job, and their father gave them inheritance among their brothers.

16 After this, Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons and his sons' sons, even to four generations.

17 So Job died, an old man and full of days.

What a stupendous victory for (i) Job, (ii) for faith in God (iii) and also for the Lord Himself.

A collection of a few of the best verses and wisdom of the book of Job very soon, by God's grace! Please enjoy these amazing verses and study more as the Lord leads you.

Job 3:25 For the thing which I greatly fear comes upon me, and that of which I am afraid befalls me.

(Sometimes this is very true and according to our faith it will be done to us. Philippians 4:6-8) Once loosely translated by President Roosevelt in the USA as; 'we have nothing to fear but fear itself')

Job 4: 14 Fear came upon me

and trembling, which made all my bones shake.

15 Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up!

Job 5:2 For vexation *and* rage kill the foolish man; jealousy *and* indignation slay the simple.

How true today in these last days!

7 But man is born to trouble as the sparks *and* the flames fly upward.

BUT SEEK FIRST
the
kingdom of god
and
his righteousness
AND ALL THESE THING
will be added to you

8 As for me, I would seek God *and* inquire of *and* require Him, and to God would I commit my cause—

12 He (God) frustrates the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise or anything of [lasting] worth. Amen. I often claim this verse and others similar in prayer.

13 He catches the [so-called] wise in their own trickiness, and the counsel of the schemers is brought to a quick end.

18 For He wounds, but He binds up; He smites, but His hands heal. *Hope for all of us who are in trouble or battling with our sins!*

19 He will rescue you in six troubles; in seven nothing that is evil [for you] will touch you. Job 6:22 Did I ever say, Bring

me a gift, or Pay a bribe on my account from your wealth

23 To deliver me from the adversary's hand, or Redeem me from the hand of the oppressors?

30 Is there wrong on my tongue? Cannot my taste discern what is destructive?

Job 7: 21 He will yet fill your mouth with laughter [Job] and your lips with joyful shouting.

Job 9 3 If one should want to contend with Him, he cannot answer one [of His questions] in a thousand.

4 [God] is wise in heart and mighty in strength; who has [ever] hardened himself against Him and prospered or even been safe?

Job 10 12 You have granted me life and favour, and Your providence {and mercy} has preserved my spirit.

Job 12: 23 He makes nations great, and He destroys them; He enlarges nations [and then straitens and shrinks them again], and leads them [away captive]. ++

24 He takes away understanding from the leaders of the people of the land *and* of the earth, and causes them to wander in a wilderness where there is no path. ++

Job 13:15a I do it because, though He slay me, yet will I wait for and trust Him. *(it has been said that here has been no greater statement of faith in the Bible than this one simple yet profound sentence of Job 13:15!)*

Job 14: **7** For there is hope for a tree if it is cut down, that it will sprout again and that the tender shoots of it will not cease. [But there is no such hope for man.]

8 Though its roots grow old in the earth and its stock dies

in the ground,

9 Yet through the scent [and breathing] of water [the stump of the tree] will bud and bring forth boughs like a young plant.

Job 16: 5 [But] I would strengthen *and* encourage you with [the words of] my mouth, and the consolation of my lips would soothe your suffering. Job 19: 21 Have pity on me! Have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me!

Job 19: 25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: (Job already knew about the second coming. So he must have been aware of the first coming! He already knew Jesus Christ was his Redeemer.)

26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: *(take these above promises for yourself! Praise the Lord)*

Job 23:12 I have not gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed *and* treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. *(Apply to yourselves!!)*

Job 24: **2 (The wicked)** Some remove the landmarks; they violently take away flocks and pasture them [appropriating land and flocks openly].

3 They drive away the donkey of the fatherless; they take the widow's ox for a pledge.

4 They crowd the poor *and* needy **off the road**; the poor *and* meek of the earth all hide themselves. (see the whole chapter).

Job 28 the whole chapter interestingly describes the comparison of wisdom to precious metals and

precious stones!

Job 29 Please read the whole chapter to see Job's explanation of his whole life and his positive influence on people. Very inspiring.

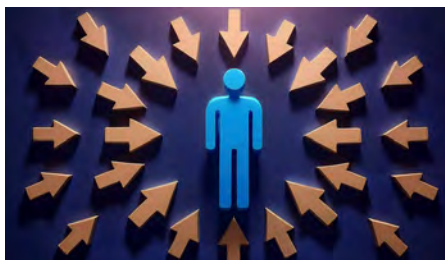
Lessons and Questions for us from the Book of Job!

These are a few thoughts and questions. I have put these in bullet form and I pray you will take time with Jesus to think and pray about these things. The Lord may easily show you many other great and mighty things.

- Praying for those who speak ill of you.
- Praying for your 'friends' expect God will reward you. Bless those who curse you.
- The Book of Job teaches us above all others that the END of our testing from or permitted from God will be wonderful; despite all the pain, difficulties, severe agony, some from the devil and some from our own disobedience. **The END and the DESIRE OF GOD is to make our lives happy and fruitful both during our lives and at the end, and from there onto the ETERNAL future He has for you!**
- This is a major lesson of JOB. But FIRST in many cases, there is an interim period of great suffering, of which we often have no idea the length of time it may be; all humans experience suffering. Here in the case of wonderful Job, it was the most severe suffering any human

being could experience, and so the Lord has held him up to us a supreme example.

- So here in the Bible is an example of a person who suffered greatly for a very long time, before he finally reached the point and actually he IMMEDIATELY reached the point of surrender to God (upon 'seeing God') His Creator!
- How are **you** going to react when such calamities befall you? Will you be like so many believers today, who lament and ask others to 'please pray for me?' or will you determine in your heart to keep trusting and even glorifying God and Jesus Christ in such times of phenomenal difficulties? If you don't know, then now is a good time to pray, before this ever happens! I will also be doing the same, because I know I am very far from the 'Truth of Job'.



A personal note:

In my own spiritual life, I especially like the book of Job.

I feel I could never endure what Job endured. He was (unfortunately) an exception, although a great example. I have to confess that I have met less than a handful or

people I can count on my two hands (perhaps 9 to 10) who have come close to being the vaguest example of Job. That is over 40 years as a pastor and missionary; but I think that even that could be a high number, all things considered!

However it is still 'doable'. There may in fact be many 'Jobs' out there today, and I believe there will truly undoubtedly be many more.

For the Lord is purging the human race now, and for this He is going to need many Godly examples. This could be you! Ask God to make you pliable and ready like Job!

When I was in my mid thirties, I realised there were three people (friends like Job) in London England who spread defamation about me. They, (various Christian leaders), said some very destructive things. This severely impacted my family and my own fellowship in that city.

From that year, about 33 years ago, at the time of writing, **I never returned to London except to minister in African or Caribbean churches, and I never fellowshiped with those people again.**

All those three pastors or elders of their churches have since died from cancer or heart attacks, and I bear them no ill will; they left behind wives and children and two of them did not live to see their grand children! This is deeply saddening.

During this time of writing this article I have begun to pray, following the example of Job, to bless the lives and families

of those who hated me (and who in times past) hurt my ministry so much. I have since felt a great relief personally in my spirit.

May this be true for you whose 'friends' have caused you harm or even great harm in the past and even presently. Forgive them as soon as you can with God's help; begin to pray for them and their families and that God will bless them and restore them to true fellowship with Him. As soon as you forgive them and begin to pray BLESSINGS UPON THEM, you will not be truly free from your own sins of lack of forgiveness and lack of love.

The truths about JOB are very direct and severe.

You are either going to try to be like Job or really there is no other way to go forward for the Lord.

Job is the ultimate truth of the three humans who loved God so much, and that is why they are honoured specifically by God in Ezekiel chapter 14 verses 14 and 20!

Ezekiel 14:14

Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and **Job**, were in it, they

should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God. **Ezekiel 14:20** Though Noah, Daniel, and **Job** were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.

May the Lord help us all to have the same reactions as Job did when our time of testing comes. I know I have failed significantly in this area, but while there is life and prayer and confession, there is yet hope.

I suggest we should pray now to be ready and in the Holy Spirit, so we can understand what is happening in the Spirit World, so we can react like precious Job. Amen.

Our love in Christ
Jerry and the WCF TEAM

The story of Job might initially seem disconnected from the challenges of today's world—until we reflect on the countless tragedies and hardships happening all around us. Whether it's losing everything in the devastating California wildfires, enduring the horrors of war in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, or Yemen, or facing the aftermath

of natural disasters like Hurricane Helene, Job's journey suddenly feels deeply relevant.

In an era marked by global economic instability, personal losses, and widespread suffering, Job's story speaks to anyone grappling with the question, "Why me?" His narrative reminds us that faith and perseverance can endure even in the darkest of times. Job's unwavering trust in God, despite his overwhelming loss and pain, provides hope and encouragement to those facing unimaginable trials.

Whether it's the grief of losing loved ones, the struggle to rebuild after natural disasters, or the economic hardships affecting millions worldwide, Job's story becomes a timeless reflection of resilience, faith, and the human spirit's ability to rise above adversity.

In every tragedy—be it personal or global—Job's experience reminds us to seek hope, trust in God's purpose, and find strength in the promise of restoration and healing.

Visit us at:

www.weeklychristianfocus.org



If you enjoyed this week's edition and are not a premium subscriber or if you just wish to help these messages go further, use this link below to donate by either PayPal or debit/credit card Thank you. God bless you.



Get 6 editions of the Weekly Christian Focus completely free, by visiting our web site. You can also become a Premium member. see details on the site.