

The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 7: Job 26-42

Tuesday Night Bible Study, August 5, 2008

--OUTLINE:

MISC POINT: SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE THAT BOOK OF JOB IS INSPIRED
PURPOSE OF SUFFERING IN JOB'S LIFE ON A PERSONAL LEVEL
PURPOSE OF SUFFERING IN OUR LIFE ON A PERSONAL LEVEL

--MISC POINT: SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE THAT BOOK OF JOB IS INSPIRED

--Job 38:25 states that "the path of the thunderbolt" causes it to rain. In 1964 science discovered this same fact. The discharge of lightning changes the electrical polarity of water molecules which causes the water molecules to coalesce into raindrops.

--PURPOSE OF SUFFERING IN JOB'S LIFE ON A PERSONAL LEVEL

--for most of the book, Job and his friends argue about why he is suffering...

--Job's friends argue that Job's suffering is the result of sin in his life

--Job argues that he is an upright person who never deserved the suffering that came upon him

--the book of Job begins by concurring with Job and declaring his innocence, that he "was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil." (Job 1:1)

--in essence, Job's friends argued that bad things happen to bad people while Job questions why bad things happen to good people.

--then God speaks...

--in the midst of Job's frustration after long hours of debate with his friends, God speaks and causes Job to see everything from a new perspective...where the question that surfaces is not why do bad things happen to good people but rather why do good things happen to bad people!

--Job's words after God spoke reveal that even though Job was an example of faith, his relationship with God was distant because of his limited knowledge of God.

--after God revealed himself to Job in a new way, he grew closer to God... Job 42:5: "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, **but now my eye sees You.**"

--we don't know what exactly Job meant when he said "now my eye sees You."

--Job could have simply been referring to his mind's eye and a greater understanding.

--or in addition to the words God spoke, Job could have seen some kind of manifestation comparable to something like the burning bush Moses saw. Job 38:1: "Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind..."

--as Job grew closer to God his own imperfections and weaknesses stood out more...

--Job 42:1-6: "Then Job answered the LORD and said: 2 "I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. 3 You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 4 Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.' 5 "I have heard of

You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. 6 Therefore **I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes."**

--then the wisdom of Job's friends is turned upside down when God chooses Job to be a priest for them...

--the one that they wrongly thought was suffering because of sin becomes the one who restores them from their own sin.

--Job 42:7-9: "After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. 8 So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has." 9 So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite did what the LORD told them; and the LORD accepted Job's prayer."

--after Job fulfills the ministry role of serving as a priest to his friends, then God restores everything he lost in his time of suffering.

--Job 42:10-17: "After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before. 11 All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the LORD had brought upon him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring. 12 The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. 13 And he also had seven sons and three daughters. 14 The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. 15 Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers. 16 After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. 17 And so he died, old and full of years."

--PURPOSE OF SUFFERING IN OUR LIFE ON A PERSONAL LEVEL

--Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

--the radical suffering and material loss in Job's life led to radical material gain, but the least visible blessing of growing closer to God was by far the most important!

--Paul spoke of the way that suffering can draw us closer to God as "the fellowship of His suffering..."

--Phil. 3:8-10: "Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings..."

--while we may not experience the same kind of material restoration that Job experienced, we actually have opportunity to gain much greater spiritual wealth!

--Job could know very little about God, but we have the full knowledge of God's plan of salvation - the final revelation of Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit!

--Job could say, "**I know that my Redeemer lives**" but we can know the words of Jesus: "**I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.**" (Revelation 1:18)

--while Job sensed his imperfections in light of God's holiness and cried out "**I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes**", we can read in Scripture...

--without God's grace, "There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

13 "Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips"; 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes." (Romans 3:10-18)

--"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..." (Romans 3:23-24)

--we can experience the "riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Colossians 2:2-3)

--mystery referring to the full plan of salvation in Christ which was a mystery in Old Testament times.

--Colossians 1:26-27: "the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

--1 Cor. 2:11-14: "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

--Ephesians 1:15-21: "Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come."

--suffering and spiritual growth results in greater ministry capacity...

--the more real our salvation becomes to us the more we want to share it with others!

--when God delivers us and restores us the more we want to help others find the same deliverance and restoration... 2 Cor 1:3-5: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ."

--the ultimate restoration will occur in heaven...

--when we suffer and lose material wealth in this life, we learn to appreciate and cherish all the more that which we cannot lose.

--Greg Laurie recently spoke of the death of his son, "My heart is broken, but I also know I will see him again. This all has made heaven closer and earth less attractive to me. It has increased my burden for people who do not know the Lord."

--while every suffering Christian will not experience material wealth in this life like Job did, in heaven every Christian will experience a material restoration that is far greater than what Job experienced!

--compared to life in the Garden of Eden, life for everyone is comparable to the period of suffering in Job's life...and in heaven everyone, like Job, will be restored to a place far greater than life in the Garden of Eden!

--in heaven we will experience the ultimate relationship with God as we talk to Him face to face with perfect, new bodies and minds!

--and in heaven we will experience the ultimate ministry!

--2 Tim 2:11-12: "This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. If we endure, We shall also reign with Him..."