

## **JOB - TRIED AS GOLD** **(Job 23:10)**

### **I. How was Job destroyed?**

- A. In Job 2:3 God said that Satan had moved God against Job to “destroy him without cause.”
- B. We need to see how Job was destroyed, or how Job suffered.
- C. Satan had accused God of bribing Job to keep him faithful, which said two things about God:
  - 1. God was not worthy of worship;
  - 2. Man would only worship God if things always went right for man and if he was paid well.
- D. Satan then challenged God by saying that Job would curse God if he lost all that God had given him.
  - 1. Satan was allowed to cause Job to suffer through loss but couldn't be touched himself.
  - 2. We see that Satan has limitations, only being able to do what God permitted.
- E. Now Job is caught in the middle of a battle between God and Satan.
- F. Notice now what happened to Job in 1:13-19.
  - 1. Job isn't allowed to catch his breath between rounds of bad news.
  - 2. Each thing that was taken from Job was more valuable than the last.
  - 3. Each servant that survived made it in to Job just before the last one got finished with his message of destruction and loss.
- G. The first round was total destruction and loss of all that Job possessed.
- H. The second round was against his flesh.
  - 1. God pointed out to Satan that Job maintained his righteousness, never having turned against God in all of the loss he suffered.
  - 2. Satan felt as if that was really a trial and said that Job would curse God if he would be allowed to touch Job physically.
  - 3. God gave him the freedom to touch Job but not kill him.
- I. Notice what Satan did to Job physically (2:7).
- J. As we go to our next point, we will see that Job was not only struck physically in this second round, but that he would be struck mentally and emotionally as well.

### **II. How was Job tried in the fire?**

- A. As we first noticed, Job lost all of his physical possessions.
  - 1. It is very probable that Job worked very hard for that which God had given him.
    - a. He had great herds of oxen, donkeys and sheep.
    - b. He had a great number of camels.
    - c. He had a large number of servants.
  - 2. In just a few minutes time, Job went to the greatest of the east to a pauper.
  - 3. Job lost what to us is a great fortune in a matter of moments.

- B. Job lost his high social standing in his community.
  - 1. Notice 29:7-25.
  - 2. Job was looked at as a chief and protector of the innocent.
  - 3. Job went from the gate of the city to the trash heap, literally.
  - 4. He went from wearing robes to wearing sackcloth and ashes.
- C. He was rejected by his family and friends.
  - 1. Notice 30:1-14.
  - 2. Notice 19:13-19.
  - 3. The little children who had loved Job now hated and ridiculed him.
- D. He had lost all his children.
  - 1. No doubt Job loved his children deeply (1:5).
  - 2. They are always listed first among his possessions because they were the most valuable to him.
  - 3. He lost all 10 at once.
- E. Job had to endure what seemed like torture.
  - 1. His pain existed for many months (7:3).
  - 2. His flesh was full of boils that would begin to scab over and another would break out next to it (7:5).
  - 3. He suffered depression (3:24-25).
  - 4. His face was red from crying (16:16).
  - 5. He was skin and bones (19:20).
  - 6. His great pain would not ease up long enough to allow him to swallow (3:24; 7:19).
  - 7. He ran a constant fever (30:30).
  - 8. He was scared to sleep because of the nightmares he had (7:14-15).
  - 9. Satan did everything he could to Job within the limits he was given by God.
- F. Job had his wife urge him to curse God and die (2:9).
  - 1. We do need to remember that she had lost all that Job lost.
  - 2. They were her children as well and, as his wife, it was her wealth as well.
  - 3. Not only that, she had to watch her husband go through all of the physical suffering he was enduring.
  - 4. Satan was attempting to use her to get to Job to do that he was not allowed to do to him.
  - 5. Satan looks for any advantage he can find, and he found help in the form of Job's wife.
- G. Job was treated horribly by his three friends.
  - 1. You've heard the statement, "With friends like that, who needs enemies."
  - 2. This was very true in the case of Job and his three supposed friends, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar.
  - 3. They originally came to comfort him and were so moved by his affliction that they sat with him for seven days without saying anything (2:11-13).

4. After Job cried out in pain and bewailed the fact that he had ever been born, the friends began to speak.
  5. Each but Zophar gave three rounds of speeches all with the basic message that Job must have been a grievous sinner because suffering is a punishment for sin.
  6. Job rightly called them forgers of lies (13:4).
  7. Job was suffering because he was righteous, not because he was a sinner.
  8. His friends told Job no one died being innocent (4:7).
    - a. God doesn't trust the angels, let alone men (4:18-21);
    - b. God was trying to chastise Job (5:17-21);
    - c. Job's children died because of their sins (8:4);
    - d. Job's sacrifices had been worthless (8:8-13);
    - e. Job was godless (8:13);
    - f. Job trusted in riches (8:15);
    - g. Job mocked God (11:3);
    - h. Job claimed sinless perfection (11:4);
    - i. Job had stretched out his hand against God out of pride (15:25);
    - j. Job was a hypocrite (15:31);
    - k. Job had gotten his wealth from robbing the poor and widows (20:18-19);
    - l. His wickedness was great (22:5-10).
  9. These men were so convinced that they were right in their doctrine that they would not allow the truth and facts to get in their way.
  10. It is often the case that the person who so insists they are right and so prejudiced against someone else has problems in his relationship with God.
  11. God would later point out their error and His great displeasure with them (42:7).
  12. Notice what Job said of them (6:14-23).
- H. Job thought God had abandoned him and was even trying to kill him.
1. Satan had done things to Job in such a way as to leave the impression that God had done them to Job.
  2. It was the fire of God that had destroyed the sheep and a great wind that had collapsed the house of his oldest son.
  3. Job believed God had given and also taken back (1:21).
    - a. One bit of conjecture here, based on the fact that God never told Job it had been Satan that had done all this.
    - b. I believe that God allowed Job to be inspired to write this account so that he would know exactly why all of this had come about.
  4. His account lets us know the source of suffering is not God, but Satan and sin in this world.
  5. Job thought God had hedged him in with suffering and not allowing him to die (3:23).

6. His friends hadn't helped, trying to convince him that God was the source of his suffering due to sin in his life.
7. Notice how Job thought God was treating him.
  - a. He felt God was shooting him with poison arrows (6:4).
  - b. He felt God was harassing him constantly (7:11-12).
  - c. He felt God was inflicting wounds without cause (9:17).
  - d. He felt God was killing him (13:15).
  - e. He felt God was hiding His face from him and counting him and enemy (13:24).
  - f. He felt God was giving him a body slam by the neck (16:12).
  - g. He felt God was walling him and depriving him (19:9).
  - h. He felt God was persecuting him (19:22).
  - i. He felt God was not allowing him to have his day in court (24:1).
8. He even challenged God to a debate.
  - a. He listed a number of things that showed his righteousness that he had done and a number of things that were wicked he had kept himself from.
  - b. He then said...(31:35).
- I. In all of this, Job never questioned that the wicked would eventually be destroyed, but he wanted to know why the wicked seemed to prosper in life and the righteous suffer and die young.

### III. How did Job come out of this as gold (go to chapter 31)?

- A. How was Job able to suffer all of this patiently?
- B. This should be of the utmost importance to us.
  1. We will never suffer as completely as Job did.
  2. We will suffer in some of the areas Job did but not all of them.
  3. Since we will suffer, we need to know how Job came through it with his righteousness intact, never having questioned God in a sinful way.
- C. Job had long been faithfully serving God.
  1. The type of respect that Job had been receiving does not come immediately, rather it is earned over time.
  2. Job had always trusted and obeyed.
  3. Doing that fortified him for the trials ahead.
  4. When suffering and trials come, we can't magically reach out for faith.
  5. It is indeed built over a life time.
- D. Job was a faithful steward of his mind (go to chapter 31).
  1. The pure in heart will be blessed (Matthew 5:8).
  2. The things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, or mind (Matthew 15:18-20).
  3. In his heart, Job feared God and hated evil (1:1).
  4. He refused to break his covenant with God and lust after a woman (31:1).
  5. He refused to commit adultery (31:9-12).

6. He trusted in God and not his wealth (31:24).
7. He refused to practice astrology (31:27-28).
- E. Job had been a faithful steward of his riches.
  1. His treasures were in heaven (Matthew 6:19-20).
  2. He had used his riches wisely (31:16-21, 31-32).
- F. Job had always treated others well.
  1. He refused to deal in falsehoods and lies (31:5).
  2. Instead of taking advantage of his position, he took care of the needy (29:12-17).
  3. He listened to his servants (31:13-15).
  4. Job showed his great attitude when his friends were railing on him (16:4-5).
- G. Job had great faith in the resurrection and judgment.
  1. 14:15.
  2. He even warned his friends about the judgment.
- H. No matter what, Job was going to keep his integrity before God.
  1. He knew he had not “denied the words of the Holy One” (6:10).
  2. He maintained his righteousness (13:16 & 19).
  3. What we see with Job is a growing knowledge of what was happening.
    - a. In the beginning, he did feel that God was persecuting him.
    - b. As he progressed he began to realize he was undergoing a test (23:10-12).
  4. Job had great faith in God’s word, which allowed him to know the life he had lived was right.
- I. Really, all that God allowed Satan to do to Job was a testament to the great faith of Job.
  1. He knew Job would come through else God would not have pointed him out to Satan.
  2. He knew Job would not fail.
- J. Can that be said of us?

#### IV. Was Job blessed after his trials?

- A. God answered Job, but not in the way that he wished.
- B. God challenged Job to face Him and stand up and answer His questions.
  1. What God did to Job was let him know the universe was a lot bigger than Job.
  2. Notice Job’s response to God (42:3-6).
- C. God never told Job in this discussion why he had suffered, only that God knew and He cared and that was enough for Job.
- D. God thought so highly of Job that He had the three sorry friends come to Job for mediation on their behalf with God.
  1. What is amazing is that Job, despite their treatment of him, immediately went to God on their behalf.
  2. This shows the true character of Job.
- E. God then blessed Job greatly, doubling his possessions he had lost.
  1. All his herds doubled.

2. He gained 10 more children, which shows us that his children were in paradise, and not lost in sin.
- F. His family and friends returned to him and gave him tokens of their new found love for him.

From a manuscript by Curtis Cates.