

Job 42

This is the final chapter of Job. The book of Job begins with God saying that Job was *perfect and upright and feared God and hated evil*. In chapter one God says that Job is *his servant; and there is none like him in the earth*. In Job 42 God concludes by saying that *God accepts him*. The conclusion on Job's life is stated in James 5. His patience is exemplary among all believers. Additionally, he was compared to Daniel and Noah as being alone in their righteousness in their generations. Job is pronounced bo-Yah in Hebrew; and means to come back or one who returns to God. Job was from Teman. Jeremiah 49 describes the wisdom of Teman; as if it is a well-known thing.

Read Job 42:1-6: Job hears from God and also sees him (must have been Jesus). It produces immediate repentance and amazement and fear. The sight of God always exceeds the expectation. Job is completely humbled and intimidated and in awe of God. This is a universal reaction to anyone who has seen God...or even an angel.

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:....(Revelation 1:17)

Being aware of God in his presence as an overpowering experience.

The twenty four elders fell down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before his throne, saying You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for you have created all things, and for your pleasure they are created. (Revelation 4:10-11)

How is it that Jesus came to us in a way that was common and unimpressive to some? Men did not know that Jesus was God when he camouflaged himself as a regular person.

...he had no form or attractiveness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. (Isaiah 53:2)

Read Job 42:7-9 : God sets the record straight with Job's counselors. God tells Eliphaz and Job's other two friends that he is angry with them. They have not said the right things. God adds that Job has spoken appropriately. The point of this is

that God is more interested in our intentions than our accuracy. We can beat up people with the Bible. Job's friends were throwing around universal platitudes. They were not comforting him.

God tells Job's friends to bring sacrifices for God to Job. Job will then pray for them. This is a total reversal of position between Job and his friends. This means that Job is acting as a priest. Job would have to suck up a ton of hurt feelings and anger against his friends to sincerely intercede. This is the first specific mention of burnt offerings. It is long before Moses was given instruction (in Exodus) about the priest's burnt offerings. Job is the first intermediary in the Bible. God has accepted Job. God will accept Job's sacrifice on behalf of his friends; but he will not accept their sacrifice.

Read Job 42:10-17: Here is the conclusion of the book of Job. God doubled the possessions of Job. That was an enormous increase... after having lost it all. God also restored the family and friend relationships that had been shut down during his spiritual warfare. It must have been humbling for Job to receive alms and financial gifts to get him back on his feet. He had been a man who supported an entire region of the world with his commerce and benevolence. Now he was on his back and destitute. I have experienced this sensation in a small way myself. I had made efforts to help the poor with spiritual and other needs. Then my finances caved in on every side. At the very bottom, I was pulled up off of the ground by the poorest of the poor. I see a pattern here. It is one thing to feel magnanimous and to play a part in being a helper to the lost and least. You cannot out give God. Oddly there is always a way that God will out give you. A poor man's prayers may heal your family.

Job fully recovered to a degree that he lived long and had children. His new family was even more of a blessing. Our children that come during prosperity tend to get spoiled. Children who witness our troubles and turnaround are much more real in their understanding and appreciation.