

Still, I will Hope in God...

Job 13

PK- Job has been noted as one of the most righteous men in the bible next to Jesus Himself. The book opens with his introduction,

S- Job 1:1 *“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was **blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.**”*

PK- In this simple verse we see a man that lived a life conscious of God and sought to live a *blameless and righteous life. He feared God and shunned evil.* This was a man who God Himself lifted up as righteous even in a time of God’s judgement against sinful Israel.

S- Ezekiel 14:14 *“Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness, **‘says the Lord GOD.’**”*

PK- God’s love for the believer is expressed in a multitude of ways. But one that is misunderstood and at the top of the questions is if “God is Love, Why, is there pain and suffering for the righteous?” That question is answered throughout God’s word but nowhere better than in the book of Job. In this teaching we will see how God loves Job so much that He desires that Job would know Him more intimately and seek to please Him more deeply. It is no different for us, God knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows how to break down our presuppositions and hardness and teach us the truth about Him and ourselves in ways we would never choose for ourselves.

Let’s dig into Job’s life a little and see what God was doing in his life that we might not see in him or ourselves.

S- Job 1:2-5, *“And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. ³Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female*

donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

⁴And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus, Job did regularly.”

David Guzik gives us some understanding here.

S- “The Book of Job is not primarily about one man’s suffering and pain; Job’s problem is not so much financial or social or medical; his central problem is *theological*. Job must deal with the fact that in his life, God does not act the way he always thought God would and should act. In this drama, the Book of Job is not so much a record of solutions and explanations to this problem; it is more a revelation of Job’s experience and the answers carried *within* his experience.”

PK- God loves us so much He will not overlook areas in our lives that need correction or realignment. This is the case of all believers, regardless of their maturity or position.

So, we see that Job was a very wealthy and righteous man with a large family that he loved and prayed for regularly.

At this point, the text changes from earth to heaven where we see a gathering of angels before the LORD.

S1- Job 1:6-12, “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. ⁷And the Lord said to Satan,
“From where do you come?”

So, Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”

S2- *Then 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 fears God and shuns evil?”*

⁹ So Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side?”

S- *You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”*

¹² And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.”

So, Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.”

PK- So, the stage is set for the testing of Job’s faith. **Note** that Job has no insight into where or who is causing all that is about to take place. Note also that Satan is a created being, not equal to God in any way, although he would like everyone to consider him equal to God Almighty. Satan must get permission from God before he goes after one of God’s own.

Quick note: when Satan accuses Job he is fulfilling his role as accuser of the brethren.

S- Revelation 12:10, *“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.”*

PK- Now comes the catastrophic loss...

S1- Job 1:13-19, *“Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house; ¹⁴ and a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ when the Sabeans*

raided them and took them away—indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

S2- *While he was still speaking*, another also came and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

¹⁷ **While he was still speaking**, another also came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

S3- *While he was still speaking*, another also came and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, ¹⁹ and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

PK- Now consider how you would react to such a catastrophe event in your life? Now also remember this is Satan’s doing, not God’s. But Job has no knowledge of the source.

But also remember, as hard as it would be at such a time, what the Apostle Paul wrote to the Roman believers.

S- **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.”

PK- Don’t misunderstand this, suffering is suffering and pain is pain. We live in a fallen cursed world, but we are not of this world, we are God’s chosen people and must trust that our God is good, merciful and kind and always has our best in mind.

Now we are going to fast forward through all the consol of Job's friends who out of their own understanding were telling Job that there must be some deep sin that brought God's judgement on him and that he needed to repent, but we know that was not the case. Remember, Satan has challenged God that if all Job's possessions were taken from him that Job would **curse God to His face**, but God knew Job's deep faith.

Now in chapter 13 Job will confront his friends about all that they have told him. Job begins by informing them that he knew all that they claim Job does not know.

S1- 13:1-14, "Behold, my eye has seen all *this*, *My ear has heard and understood it*. What you know, I also know; I *am* not inferior to you. **But I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God.** But you forgers of lies, You *are* all worthless physicians. Oh, that you would be silent, And it would be your wisdom! Now hear my reasoning and heed the pleadings of my lips.

S2- Will you speak wickedly for God, And talk deceitfully for Him? Will you show partiality for Him? Will you contend for God? **Will it be well when He searches you out? Or can you mock Him as one mocks a man?** He will surely rebuke you if you secretly show partiality. Will not His excellence make you afraid, And the dread of Him fall upon you?

S3- Your platitudes *are* proverbs of ashes, Your defenses are defenses of clay. Hold your peace with me, and let me speak, Then let come on me what *may*! Why do I take my flesh in my teeth, And put my life in my hands?"

PK- I would like to point out a few things here. First when Job states that he wants to speak to God and reason with Him to find out why these things have taken place in his life. Let's be clear, God

is not afraid of your questions but to think that we can understand God's ways and thoughts is beyond our abilities.

To be sure we will see how Job does respond to standing before God in the last three chapters of this book. But that's for another teaching. *"They only give me 45 minutes!"*

Isaiah transcribed when God spoke this truth through him.

S- **Isaiah 55:8-9**, *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."*

PK- Next Job is calling out his friend for speaking for God! Claiming that they know the mind of God. He then asked them how they think it will go when they stand before God for what they have done?

Now we come to understand Job's faith, though he has some misunderstanding why this disaster occurred, his faith is unshakeable and his trust that God is his salvation is astounding to say the least.

S- **Job 13:15-16**, *"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him. He also shall be my salvation, For a hypocrite could not come before Him."*

PK- As we look at these two verses we see Job's great faith and confidence in God. Job is a man of faith that stands along side of Daniel and Noah, that is exclusive company.

Charles Spurgeon comments on Job's speech.

S- "There are three things in the text: *a terrible supposition — "though he slay me"; a noble resolution, "yet will I trust in him"; and, thirdly, a secret appropriateness.* This last will require a little looking into, but I hope to make it clear that there is a great

appropriateness in our trusting while God is slaying us — the two things go well together, though it may not so appear.”

S1- “Charles Spurgeon goes on to list several reasons why he thought that “slaying times” were good times.

- **S2-** Such times show us that we are really His sons and daughters because He only chastens His children.
- **S3-** Such times – slaying times – are when real faith is created.
- **S4-** Such times are when God tests and affirms our faith.
- **S5-** Such times are when we can grow in faith.
- **S6-** Such times allow the child of God to prove that he is not a mercenary professor of faith.
- **S7-** “Once more, *the grim supposition of the text, if ever it was realized by anybody it was realized by our Lord Jesus.* Our great covenant Head knows to the full what his members suffer. God did slay him, and glory be to his blessed name, he trusted God while he was being slain.” *Spurgeon*

PK- Another statement Job made was “***He also shall be my salvation***”

Guzik comments on this.

S- “*Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him... I know that I shall be vindicated(saved):* Before his crisis, Job believed himself to be a *blameless and upright* man, as indeed he was (Job 1:1 and 1:8). He steadfastly clung to this belief throughout all his experience of calamity, and through all the protests and arguments of his friends. Even **before** God, he would **defend** his **own ways**, not in arrogance, but in determined connection with reality.”

PK- Job knew that God Himself would agree that Job's disaster did not come upon him because of special or severe sin; he knew God Himself would agree that Job was a *blameless and upright man*.

The account continues with Job's "friends" debating Job's situation. And why all this disaster occurred with noted truth and good counsel along the way though chapter 37 at which point God steps in and challenges Job with truths that Job had never considered, starting with...

S- Job 38:2 "*Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge?*" and

Job 38:4-5, "*Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?*"

PK- God continues with an awesome lecture of His great power and intellect proving that man cannot comprehend God in all His glory. And as a result, Job repents of his assumptions and seeks God's mercy.

I encourage you to sit down and read through this great book and learn of Almighty God and Creator.

Finally, as we face the many trials and suffering that come to us in this age, let us not turn away from our Lord Jesus who suffered for us beyond anything we could experience and He did it that we would have access to His great grace and mercy unto salvation.

The Apostles encourage us in our suffering and trails.

S- 1Peter 1:6-7, "*In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ...*"

2Corinthians 4:17, *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory...”*

Romans 8:18, *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*

1Peter 5:10 *“But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.”*

Let's Pray