



What You Need to Know About Having

# Ash Pile FAITH

Job 2 : 11 - 13

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• All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted.

• God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.

• Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

## A. Study Section

**Job 2:8, NASB95** - <sup>8</sup> *And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among the ashes* [Josephus said, "The pile of ashes was as close as a hopeless man could come to the city" (ANTIQUITIES OF THE JEWS, 5.8.12). When the trash burned in the Valley of Gehenna, on the outskirts of Jerusalem, ash piles formed at the back of the fire pit. At night, lepers, and other diseased individuals came to the ash piles to seek the scraps of food tossed there by loved ones. Josephus said, "The ash pile represented the lepers some trifling of hope in their otherwise hopeless condition" (AOJ), 5.8.14). The ash pile represented about as bleak, despairing, and miserable a condition a person could be in. Josephus also said, "The burning of the trash and the custom of piling up ashes reaches back as far as the time of Job, who also found himself atop the ashes soon after he experienced the loss of all things" (AOJ, 5.9.2)]. . . . <sup>11</sup> *Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, they came each one from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite* [He is identified as "the Temanite" because he was from the city of Teman in Idumea (Edom), a city known as a home of sages and wise men (see Jeremiah 49:7)],

*Bildad the Shuhite* [He is called "the Shuhite," probably belonging to Shuah, a district in Arabia, named after Shuah, the sixth son of Abraham (see Genesis 25:2)] and *Zophar the Naamathite* [This name is suggestive of how he acts. It comes from a root meaning "to twitter" {"To 'twit' is to deal with profound things in a more lighthearted or flippancy way, in a manner deemed socially deplorable." Source: EDOBW by Stephen Renn, Ph.D.} (Josh. 15:41ff);] and they made an appointment

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## B. Message Section

### 1. Here's What They Did.

**Job 2:11–13, NLT** - <sup>11</sup> When three of Job's friends heard of the tragedy he had suffered, they got together and traveled from their homes to comfort and console him.... <sup>12</sup> When they saw Job from a distance, they scarcely recognized him. Wailing loudly, they tore their robes and threw dust into the air over their heads to show their grief. <sup>13</sup> Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and nights. No one said a word to Job, for they saw that his suffering was too great for words.

**They did five good things:** 1. They came to him. 2. They wept with him. 3. They tore their robes. 4. They threw dust in the air and on themselves. 5. They sat in silence with Job for a week.

"So far—so good." – Pastor Joe

### 2. Here's What They Would Say Later.

**Eliphaz** – "Remember, I pray thee, who ever perished, being innocent? Or where were the righteous cut off? <sup>8</sup> Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, And sow wickedness, reap the same. <sup>9</sup> By the blast of God they perish, And by the breath of his nostrils are they consumed." (Job 4:7–9, KJV 1900)

**Bildad** – "Your Children sinned, and God had no choice but to cast them away in their transgressions." (Job 8:3, DARBY 1890)

**Zophar** – "And thine age shall be clearer than the noonday..." (Job 11:17, KJV 1900)

**The Point:** Eliphaz's, Bildad's, and Zophar's words represent "**Retribution Theology**" at its best!

## C. Five Theological Truths for Those on the Ash Pile

1. Satan's aim is to **break your faith**; God's aim is to **build your faith**.
2. God does grant Satan limited power to cause pain in your life.
3. Heaven is the answer to your pain.
4. God will use that pain to bring Glory to Himself.
5. **Your God is sovereign** and will ultimately prevail over evil—**once and for all!**

"Blessed be the name of the Lord!" – Job 1:21c