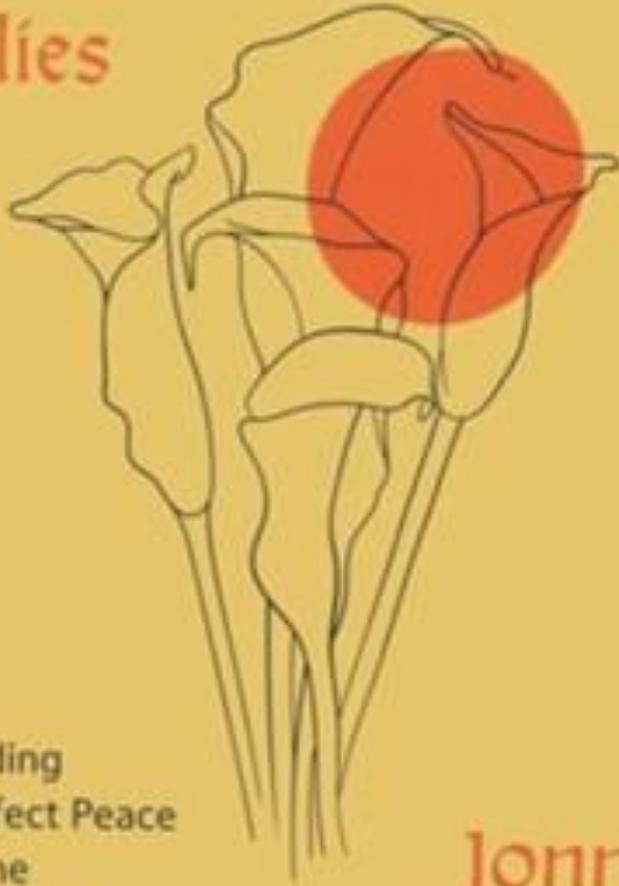


Consider
the
Lilies

"This book is exceptional
in every way."
—JOHN MACARTHUR



Finding
Perfect Peace
in the
Character
of God

Jonny
Ardavanis

Consider the Lilies

Chapter 2: *Perfect Peace?*

*You keep him in perfect peace whose
mind is stayed on you, because he
trusts in you. (Isaiah 26:3)*

Remember our definition of anxiety? It's the inevitable worry, fear, and unrest that arises in our minds when we direct our gaze to the problems, pressures, and uncertainties of life rather than to God Himself. In most of life's seasons, we don't have a say about the pain or trouble we endure, nor the unknowns we face. We do, however, have a choice where we look – either at our worries or at God. People who behold the faithful character of God come to find that He, and He alone, is the one who calms the raging seas of our hearts. Even as the waves crash around us, God's character is constant and His power and love are sure. (pg. 17)

Job 1:1-3

¹ There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil. ² Seven sons and three daughters were born to him. ³ His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

Job 1:1-3

¹ *There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was **blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.*** ² *Seven sons and three daughters were born to him.* ³ *His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men of the east.*

Job 1:6-8

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." ⁸ The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."

Job 1:9-12

⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD, “Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.” ¹² Then the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.” So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

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Job 1:20-21

²⁰ Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. ²¹ He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."

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Faith is not a blind jump, it's a reasoned response to the truth of who God is. (pg. 26)

Job 1:22

Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

Job 2:1-6

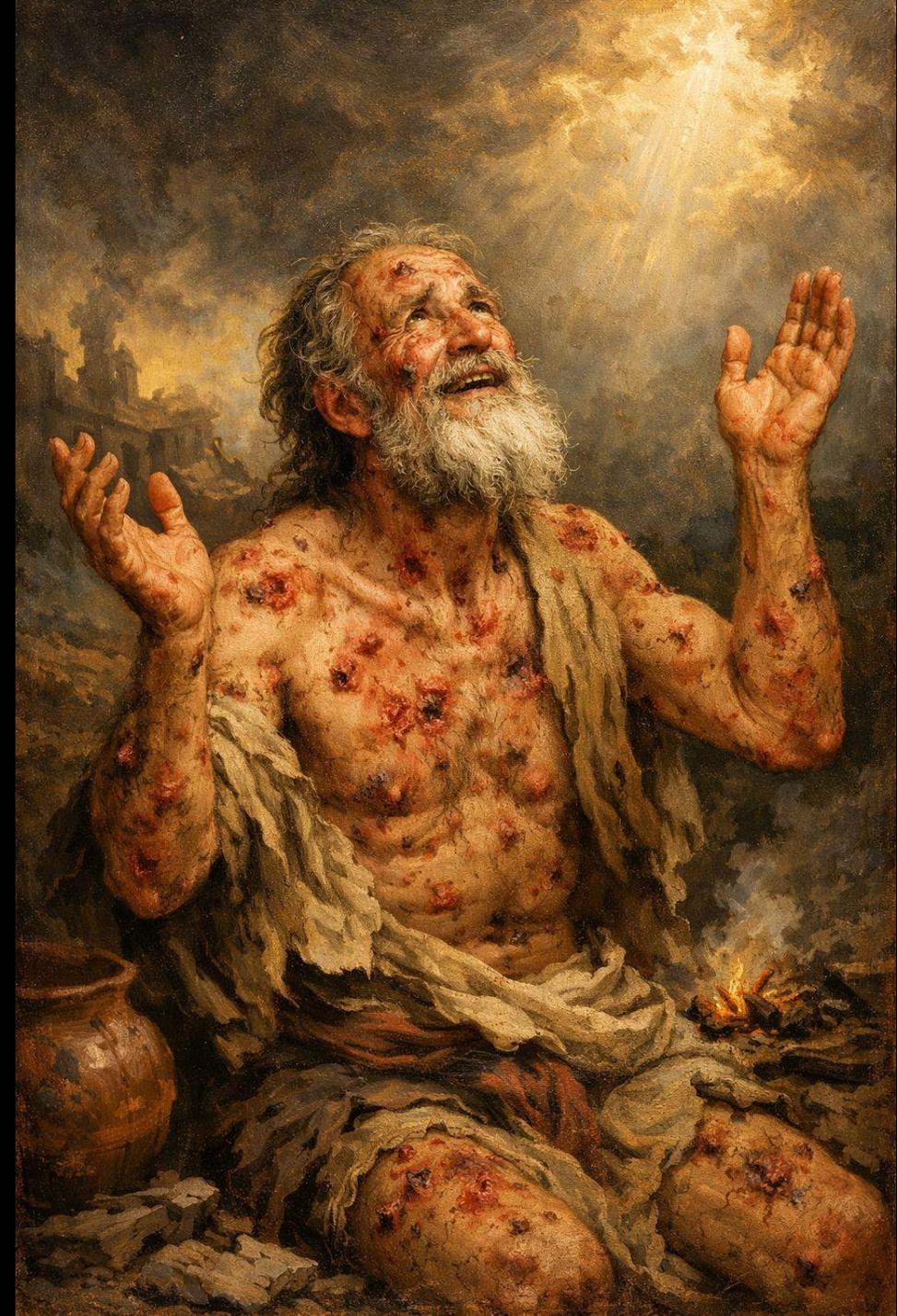
¹ Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. ² The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." ³ The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause." ⁴ Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵ However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face." ⁶ So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life."

Job 2:7-8

⁷ Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among the ashes.

Job 7:4-5

⁴ "When I lie down I say, 'When shall I arise?' But the night continues, and I am continually tossing until dawn. ⁵ My flesh is clothed with worms and a crust of dirt, my skin hardens and runs.



Job 2:9-10

*⁹ Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!” ¹⁰ But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?”
In all this Job did not sin with his lips.*

Job 2:9-10

⁹ Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!” ¹⁰ But he said to her, “*You speak as one of the foolish women speaks.* Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?”
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⁹ Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!” ¹⁰ But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. *Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?*”
In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job 2:11-13

¹¹ 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, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite; and they had made an appointment together to come to sympathize with him, and comfort him.

¹² When they lifted up their eyes at a distance and did not recognize him, they raised their voices and wept. And each of them tore his robe and they threw dust over their heads toward the sky. ¹³ Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights with no one speaking a word to him, for they saw that his pain was very great.

Job 10:2-3

² *“I will say to God, ‘Do not condemn me; let me know why You contend with me. ³ ‘Is it right for You indeed to oppress, to reject the labor of Your hands?”*

Job 31:35

“Let the Almighty answer me!”

By the middle of the book, the afflicted man who had initially said “Blessed be the name of the Lord” (1:21) was crying out with a profound level of anxiety and despair:

“And now my soul is poured out within me; days of affliction have taken hold of me.” (30:16)

“God has cast me into the mire, and I have become like dust and ashes. I cry to you for help and you do not answer me; I stand, and you only look at me.” (30:19-20)

“My inward parts are in turmoil and never still; days of affliction come to meet me.” (30:27)

Job 38:1-3

¹ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: ² “Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³ Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.”

Job 38:1-3

¹ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: ² “**Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge?** ³ Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.”

Job 38:4-11

⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, ⁵ Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? ⁶ On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? ⁸ Or who enclosed the sea with doors when, bursting forth, it went out from the womb; ⁹ when I made a cloud its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, ¹⁰ and I placed boundaries on it and set a bolt and doors, ¹¹ and I said, ‘Thus far you shall come, but no farther; and here shall your proud waves stop’?”

Job 40:1-2

¹ Then the LORD said to Job, ² “Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it.”

Job 40:3-5

³ Then Job answered the LORD and said, ⁴ “Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth. ⁵ Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; even twice, and I will add nothing more.”

Job 40:6-8

⁶ Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm and said, ⁷ “Now gird up your loins like a man; I will ask you, and you instruct Me. ⁸ “Will you really annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me that you may be justified?”

Job 42:1-3

¹ Then Job answered the LORD and said, ² “I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. ³ ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.”

Job 42:5-6

⁵ “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You;
⁶ Therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes.”

Job’s anxiety and despair may have seemed reasonable in light of the circumstances, but in view of God’s character and questions, Job said, “I repent.” (pg. 22)

Job 42:10

The LORD restored the fortunes of Job [...] and the LORD increased all that Job had twofold.

Job 42:12

Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.

Job 42:16-17

¹⁶ After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. ¹⁷ So Job died, old and full of days.

James 5:11

You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

Our understanding of God's character constitutes either the cause or the cure of our anxiety.

One of the primary purposes of the trials in our lives is to wean us from this world and strip us of earthly hope so that we would cling to the hope and strength that can only come from God (James 1:2-3).

Remarkably, for those who set their minds and fix their gaze on God, He provides His children with what our hearts are searching for – peace. God did not remove Job's problems, but He does, for those who draw near to Him, provide a supernatural peace even amidst unfathomable pain and relentless uncertainty. (pp. 22-23)

Next Time: Chapter 3

Embodied Beings

