

*inspiration
look, line*

Pinebrook Bible Conference
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THE JOB QUESTIONS

Some questions raised during the study of the Book of Job...just a few of them for consideration in this conference and, as always, the questions are better defined, probably, than the answers. But if the answers are not clear, the speaker will be glad to discuss them with any of the conferees during this week of fellowship.

The choosing of the questions came from a reading of the book and observing interrogative statements and noticing questionable settings. The total list was large and so I have taken the following items from it and will limit the discussion to these.

I. A GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO OUR STUDY

A. Job: his time, location and relation to the redemptive work of God.

B. The Order of the Book:

1. The setting for the narrative.....1-2
2. The argument sequence.....3-31
3. Elihu's ministry.....32-37
4. The voice of God.....38-41
5. The resolution.....42

C. The Point of the Book: Not the cause or cure of human suffering but role of the wisdom and power of God in our lives.

II. A QUESTION THAT ARISES FROM THE SETTING OF THE TEXT:

Message # 1 HOW MUCH SUFFERING CAN ONE TAKE?

A. Introduction

1. The nature of our problems and the estimate of suffering
2. The Biblical account: chapters 1-2, 42
 - a. The family of Job 7 sons 3 daughters
 - b. The plot
 - c. The reality of his predicament
 - d. And the eventual question: Why? and then How?

B. Discussion

1. The events:

- a. The loss of property /
- b. The loss of servants /
- c. The loss of children /
- d. The loss of health 2
- e. The loss of his wife 2
- f. The loss of friends (1) 2

2. What does Job have now?

- a. Some material things
- b. Some family
- c. Some personal servants
- d. Some metaphysical assurances and hope
- e. An acquaintance with God

3. But the question is plain: How much suffering can one take?

- a. As much as one's trust in God will allow! 1:20-21
- b. As much as a comparative view will allow! 1:20 - 2
- c. As much as one knows it is not one's own fault! 2

C. How much? Conclusion

A lot more than many of us are willing to admit. (Read Hebrews 12) In every hard situation we need to show trust, fidelity, and, then, just sweat it out! He will not allow you to be tested beyond that which you are able. 1 Corinthians 10:13 as well as 2 Corinthians 12:9

III. A QUESTION THAT ARISES FROM THE SITUATION

Message # 2 WHY WAS I (WERE WE) ALLOWED TO LIVE?

A. Introduction:

The text is chapter 3...and it is a painful recollection of events. The question is rhetorical but probing. Job, in effect, says that if this is the way it is to be, why was he born at all.

B. Discussion:

1. The problem: The trials of the moment outweigh the fact of life or the interest of God. The text shows this analysis: 1-12, in retrospect...looking backward

13-22, an assumption...a preliminary opinion

23-26, an evaluation...not very happy no matter how you see it.

We will look at these in a random fashion and note some of the ironies and difficulties expressed. It must be remembered that Job is not charged with sinning as a cause or response to the troubles. The honest presentation is not to be condemned. The Lord will deal with his spiritual relationship later but for the moment things are pretty tough..

2. The resolution:: We live not for our convenience but that

- a. God's purposes may be fulfilled *Ch 38-39*
- b. God's blessing may become a witness to the world *4:11-12*
- c. the truth of God's character might be displayed *4:2:11-12*
- d. lessons might be given in endurance and strength (James 5:11)

C. Conclusion:

Why was I (we, you, etc) allowed to be born? That we might fulfill a purpose which we might not be able to identify on our own. But with patience God may well let us see it and in His time it may be clear and encouraging to all. A good example (apart from Job) is found in Esther 4:14m etc.

Why was I born?

*I would have been better off dead
trouble comes in spite of*

*How can you doubt
my words*

*An good of water
an set of help
a guide for difficult path*

*- That God might be
glorified and he
witnesses across the world
-3- That's why we live
Our steps make it more
apparent*

IV. A QUESTION THAT ARISES FROM THE TEXT

Message # 3: HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

A. Introduction

Our study is mostly in chapters 9-10. The immediate background is the ongoing debate between Job and his "friends". They have many errors and some aspects of truth as well but our discussion is not with them but with Job. We are working with a continuous monologue and the verse divisions are not so plain but in chapter 9 Job analyzes the affair and in chapter 10 he protests to God. In all of his responses to his friends, there is a sad note as well as a defiant note mingled with a petitioning note. We feel for him now many centuries later and when we think we have really paid the price (!) we should read Job and then read Jeremiah. In fact we have seen nothing yet!

B. Discussion: To understand (!) our circumstances and hard situations, the following items are gleaned in the text.

1. The Lord's presence is real...even if we are not aware of it in full measure 9:11-15
2. Dependence on Him is the key 9:16-24
3. All our circumstances are time-dependent...a fancy way to speak of things as temporary 9:25-31
4. In our relationship with the Lord...be sure to come to Him as petitioners, not directors 9:32-35 10: 1-9

These are all repeated many times in Job...not in the same words but identical concepts. It is when Job finally grips these things (in his last discourse given to God) that he becomes healthy and finds restoration and peace.

C. Conclusion: It is not comfortable to face these things but it is certainly true that the difficulty in facing our circumstances has these roots:

1. A lack of patience
2. Slowness or unwillingness in understanding
3. A failure in being open with the Lord
4. A hesitation in accepting resolution that we may not have designed ourselves...to our own satisfaction.

But remember that, in Christ, we are more than conquerors and should live out a life of triumph in Him.

*Enjoy the Lord.
Be honest in
your relationship
w/ the Father & you
have to your advantage
Speak honestly*

*Be patient
Ask for help
Be honest
Take the resolution
that is available*

14:1-14
19:23-27

Job responds to Zophar
= calls for a man
wishes God would
problem is in

V. A QUESTION THAT ARISES FROM THE TEXT:

Message # 4: If a man die, shall he live again? Job 14:14

A. Introduction:

1. The continuing debate: Note the persistence of his friends in their false concept of God's dealings. God will rebuke them in chapter 42. They are determined to find fault in Job and if I become sick I don't want anyone such as these fellows to come to see me.
2. The text is found in chapters 14 and 19 it has a lot of quotable verses but the general breakdown is this:
 - 14:1-12, an assessment
 - 14:13-22, the plea *a change will come but until then*
 - 19:23-27, the answer *my redeemer and I*

B. Discussion

1. Our present inequities are known and understood by the Lord 1-12
2. A change is coming in the presence of God and in a glorious resurrection in truth and form. 13-22
3. There is life after physical death...we shall be with God 19:13, etc.
4. The temporal things, however and thankfully I suppose, will not be resumed.

C. Conclusion The great thrust of the passage deals on these lines:

1. Look up more, inward less, behind-very little. I will try to explain these esoteric concepts\
2. Keep the expectation on what God will do and watch for progress on the journey
3. Continue life in the plan of God and be assured that the steps taken in his will are to be rewarded.
4. We who believe will live again...we will see Him...the fruits of eternal life will be more than just nourishing.

responds to Zophar

12:10-25
the work of the Almighty
will he live again?
No - not to take up
where he left off
to be with God
and forever

introspective

29: 1-11 (read 1)

VI. A QUESTION THAT ARISES FROM THE TEXT AND FROM THE CIRCUMSTANCES

Message # 5: **WHY IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS NOT ENOUGH?**

A. Introduction

What we know of our own righteousness in theological thought is that we don't have any until we are brought into the family of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. But moral righteousness is the subject in this discussion as Job reviews his life and works. When anyone has done so much good as he had done, why was the situation so desperate? And you and I are not likely to have the testimony that Job had but we will still not be guaranteed a happy existence by our good deeds. Acts of mercy, deeds of benevolence, general kindness considerations are all in good order but they were not enough in Job's day and are not enough in ours. The question is "Why?"

moral
social

29: 12-55
30: 1, 9-16, 25-26
31: 1-9 = "if"
(49)

The text is Job 29-31 and the chapters are analyzed in this way:

- 29--a summary of Job's service, impressive
- 30--a summary of the rejection by his peers and others
- 31--a plea of innocence, one of the most touching chapters in the Old Testament

B. Discussion....but Why

1. The totality of need is too great...see the areas to which he refers and realize the enormity of the project
2. The appreciation of others is too minimal...it leaves one empty at some point.
3. The expectation of Divine standards is too high!
4. The understanding of depravity is too little
5. In spite of all we do, we remain sinners and fall short of the glory of God.

31: 13 & 23
generalized
31: 13, 23

It is not enough for
others, it certainly
not enough for God.

C. Conclusion: God provides the righteousness we need, not through our works but in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not our circumstances that produce it but our relationship with God. That we be right with Him is all important, that we do good in our situations is nice but not enough for the above reasons and others.

VII. CONCLUDING NOTES FOR THIS SERIES

1. We can endure much if we trust...2. We are alive, apart from everything else, to honor the Lord. 3. Our circumstances call us to Him. 4. We live in the assurance of glory and resurrection. 5. And our righteousness is found in the Lord as an established state. Read Job often and be thankful for saving grace!

Romans 4:5
1 Cor 1:30