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# THE REAL LORD OF JOB

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By Dr. Randy C. Brodhagen

## INTRODUCTION

For years the church has been deceived about who the Lord of Job is. People have been taught that the Lord gives and the Lord takes away. When in reality, Jesus says, *“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”* (John 10:10)

Paul prays in Ephesians, chapter one, that the people come to know who the heavenly Father really is. This book is written to remove the deceptions that the church has taught falsely concerning who the Lord is and to give answers as to how the Lord operates in the situations that we face in life.

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# THE REAL LORD OF JOB

## Who the Lord Really Is

### Chapter One

#### LEARN WHO THE LORD IS

I was just laughing one morning, friends, as I thought about Psalm 2:4 where the Lord laughs from the heavens at those who are opposing Him. The Lord is so good! It is true futility to go against Him, for He will have His way on earth as in heaven. That is the bottom line. Everything man does apart from what the Lord wants comes to nothing, as Jesus said in John, chapter 15, “*..apart from me you can do nothing.*” When you are attached to the Lord, He is the vine, you are the branch. The fruit will happen, the love will happen, the joy, the peace, the patience, kindness, gentleness, meekness, and self-control will happen. Everything of God will happen.

“*The Lord makes all things beautiful in its time,*” Solomon said, by the Spirit of God. That is the way it is. The Lord reigns, and those who put their trust in Him will never be ashamed, they will never be confounded, they will never lose. Even if we die, we live, as Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life. Those are the facts.

As you learn who the Father in heaven is, how He operates, and all that He has given you, know that His very precious and great promises are yours now in Christ Jesus (2 Peter 1).

#### WHAT A LIFE!

The promises will enable us to live this life as the Lord lives and has His being, because our life is hidden with Christ in God. “*In Him we live and move and have our being.*” Everything that we need has already been given by the Lord. It is there waiting for us at every stage of life that we enter into. Every day is ordered of the Lord, and He gives us our daily bread as we put our trust in Him. We never have to lose the peace, love, or joy that God has given us because it is *His* love, peace, and joy. It is not based on circumstances around us. It is based on the fact that the Lord

reigns and He is in us. All that He has provided and supplied comes with Him.

Wow! What a life this is in spite of commotion, confusion and frustration in the world, in spite of the hateful, hurtful things that people do to one another and what the devil tries to do through evil people. The Lord turns whatever is intended for evil around for good to those who put their confidence in Him. He will make a way just like He has throughout history. He is taking care of those who put their trust in Him. That is the way it is. *“Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience”* (James 1:2) because the Lord is greater than the situation.

## THE GREATER ONE

Anyone who looks to the Lord will find that He is their very present help in time of trouble, He is their fortress, their shield, their buckler. He fights for us. In Jesus' name all the blessings and promises of God are ours. He will keep us from the evil of the world, for we do not have to let it get inside our head and heart. *“Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”* (Romans 12:12) You have the greater One in you, greater than whatever is going on in the world. In Jesus' name it all comes up to the forefront. So, keep your eyes and your mind fixed on Jesus. Think on the beautiful things in life in spite of all the horrible things that happen as man tries to save his life.

The Lord says when we lose our life for His sake and receive His life, we will then have life abundantly, and forevermore, with Jesus in the new heaven and new earth that He will bring. In the meantime, as you ask Jesus into your heart to be your Lord and Savior, He is there. As you honor the Lord, and do what He says, He will bring to pass every good thing He has planned. He knows the plans that He has for us, plans for good and not for evil, plans to prosper us and give us a hope and a future. Prosperity is about knowing the Lord. You know the Lord, and everything that comes with Him is yours.

## HOW TO LOSE PROTECTION

As we look at the book of Job, we see that what happened to Job was because he took down God's hedge of protection through fear for his children. All the things the Lord had blessed him with, the devil took away.

People have been taught that "*the Lord gives and the Lord takes away.*" That was how Job spoke, but it was out of ignorance about who the Lord is and how the Lord does things. Daily Job offered sacrifices on behalf of his children "*per chance they had committed sin.*" (Job, chapter one) It was fear-filled praying, it was a fear operation, and the Lord will not honor such a prayer because it is not out of faith in Him. It looked really religious, but it was not.

Every day Job's wife had watched him go out and do those religious acts. When the roof fell in on the children and they all died, she told him in her grief, "Why don't you forget your God; it isn't working for you, just die."

Job lost everything he had in one day, but the Lord said to the devil, "*You cannot take his life. Everything else is in your hands.*" Bless God that Job's life was not taken because over time the Lord was able to communicate truth to Job in order that his life could be turned around. What we need is God's knowledge and truth in our lives, where we can set our faith on Him and believe the way He would have us to believe. Then we will get the Lord's results by His grace working on our behalf.

As Job's friends came to him, he had a great revelation, "*That which I feared the most has come upon me.*" That revelation came by the Holy Spirit, and he saw clearly what had happened and why. It was not that "the Lord gave and the Lord took away." Job was ignorant of the Lord and he was ignorant of the devil's workings as well. He said in chapter 42, "*I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know*" (Job 42:3) "*Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.*" (Job 42:6) He humbled himself and asked forgiveness, "Lord, because I spoke about you, and I was not correct in what I was believing and thinking."

His friends accused him, and he began to defend himself (and what he believed), '*..though the Lord kill me, I will still praise Him.*' He acted on what he knew, but his knowledge was incorrect. Many are doing that today. They are believing facts about the Lord that are incorrect. They are

believing the Lord does what is incorrect. It is why there is no hedge of protection around them. It is why many things are happening that do not need to happen.

The devil himself made a statement to the Lord in Job, chapter one, “You have a hedge of protection around Job and I cannot touch the guy.” That is the protection we want. We want the devil not to be able to touch us. This is not to say that things do not happen in life. *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers us out of them all.”* (Psalm 34) The point is, the Lord will see us through everything. How very, very important.

### COMMUNICATING IGNORANCE OR TRUTH?

Job’s “friends” were not really friends. (People are not necessarily your friends, for they may be around you for what they can get from you. *“A friend loves at all times”* – in good times, hard times, come hell or high water, a friend is faithful). Those fellows were speaking ignorance out of their own hearts, out of their own thoughts. There were probably things they always wanted to say to Job. They didn’t really like him, but they hung on for what they could get. They spoke wrongly, and the Lord noted it in chapter 42 and dealt with them accordingly.

Elihu, the fourth fellow waiting there, spoke truth to Job and the other fellows. They needed the truth about who the Lord is and how He works. To follow up, the Lord Himself spoke to Job and got everything straight, *“Where were you when I made the heavens and the earth, and since when have you become my counselor?”* (Job 38:4)

### BE GLAD THAT GOD WATCHES YOU

It is possible that we can become legends in our own minds. We think that we are doing right, but the Holy Spirit will show us the truth about what is really righteous and what is not. Job made it out like he was righteous, that the Lord had done him wrong and was abusing him. Elihu spoke to Job in chapter 33:8.

*“But you have said in my hearing, I heard the very words, ‘I am pure and without sin.’”* Job said that he had done nothing wrong, which was absolutely a lie. He was self-deceived. Self-deception frees you from guilt because you think you are right.

Many people have done this during arguments and disputes with one another. "I'm right, you're wrong," and they deceive themselves. When both sides do not humble themselves under the Lord and with each other, no reconciliation can happen. Job said, as Elihu recounted, *"I am clean and free from guilt, yet God has found fault with me. He considers me His enemy. He fastens my feet in shackles and He keeps close watch on all my paths."* (Job 33:9-11) It is not a bad thing that the Lord is watching us. *"He knows when we sit down, He knows when we stand up."* (Psalm 139) He knows everything about us. What is bad is being out of line with the Lord.

When you are doing what is right, you will not be concerned about the Lord watching you and looking after you. In fact, as the Father said about Jesus, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* (Matthew 3:17) But Job was out of bounds with the Lord. He had become self-righteous. The Lord had done every good thing for him, and he made it out like the Lord was the bad guy. Job didn't know about the devil and how the devil works to *"...steal, kill, and destroy,"* while Jesus said, *"I have come that you may have life, and have it more abundantly."* (John 10:10) That is how the Lord works.

Job forgot that he had found fault, and he had feared. The Lord had shown him by revelation what had caused everything to happen to him. For example, you cannot cover fear for your children by not dealing with it. Many times people think the Lord is their enemy because bad things are happening to them. "Where is the Lord? Why isn't God helping me?"

## THE LORD IS FOR US

They are blaming God for causing something which is basically what Job was doing, not in so many words. He felt "righteous" and "The Lord is doing wrong things to me." (Job 34:5) It is what the devil would have you to believe and to act upon. *"He considers me his enemy."* (Job 33:10) While we were yet enemies, God himself came to save us. He wanted us to be friends and family, to be part of the His own. He wanted us to be back where Adam and Eve had been before they went against Him and followed the devil. Jesus paid the price Himself to set us free from the devil's tyranny and rule.

The Lord loved us and came for us. This is the opposite of what Job was thinking. Elihu said, *“But I tell you, in this you are not right.”* (Job 33:12) Thank God for friends who speak the truth in love. I do not believe Elihu even knew much about Job or who he was, but he was there and the Lord was using him to speak the truth in love. People can grow up, change, and come to their senses when the truth is spoken.

The truth has to be spoken, but it has to be spoken in love. The other friends of Job had no love in what they said. We need to know, *“For God is greater than man”* (Job 33:12), and Elihu knew who the Lord was. God is greater than man, and God is greater than the devil. The devil is a fallen, created angel who went amiss. He lost everything the Lord had made him to be and to do.

He lost it all because he renounced the Lord and went his own way. He wanted to be god of his life and god over everybody else. He wanted to take the Lord’s place. Nobody will take the Lord’s place. You cannot put man, angels and devils on the same level with God. The Lord is the Lord and there is none like unto Him. Everything He does is done out of love, justice, truth and mercy. Thank Him for that – that He is greater than man. *“Why do you complain to Him that He answers none of man’s words?”* (Job 33:13)

## HOW GOOD GOD IS

The Lord does not have to answer us. In fact, wisdom would say that a wise man walks away when he finds himself in the presence of a fool. He does not even listen. The Lord does not listen to man’s foolish words, or to the devil’s smooth, deceptive lies. *“For God does not speak now one way, now another, though man may not perceive it.”* (Job 33:14) The Lord was dealing with Job, but in his deception, he was not listening to what the Lord said. He was only listening to what he was thinking.

Again, he was under the deception that the Lord was not a good God. Job repented of this in chapter 42, and said, “I didn't know what I was talking about.”

*“In a dream and a vision of the night when deep sleep falls on man as they slumber in their beds, the Lord may sleep in their ears and terrify them with warnings.”* (Job 33:15-17)

The Lord will often give us warnings to stop us from doing something out of line or something that will cause problems. “*..to turn man from wrong doing, and to keep him from pride.*” (Job 33:17) We always want to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. We are not the Lord. We have no right to even think that we can run our lives the way we want to run them and do what we want to do.

Those that put their trust in the Lord lean not to their own understanding. They acknowledge Him in all their ways, and He will direct the path. We need to allow Him to bless us, love us, do all the good things He wants to do, but pride keeps us away from it. “I don’t want that; I want to do things my way.” “Go ahead,” the Lord says. “See how it will work out for you.” It would not be good, by the way, and it would not be pretty. Anything but beautiful.

#### WHO SAVES OUR LIVES?

“*..To preserve his soul from the pit...*” (Job 33:18) The Lord is trying to preserve us from the hateful, hurtful things of life: the sickness, the disease, the death, the wars, the famine. The Lord wants to preserve us from the things that the devil would try to bring upon us. If we do not humble ourselves under His hand, and Jesus is not our Lord, and we are not doing what He says to do, then in the time of trouble, “*Call unto Me.*” If we are not calling on Him and believing He will do something good, then it will not happen.

That is what Elihu was saying. The Lord is trying “*to save our lives from perishing by the sword, or a man may be disciplined or chastened on a bed of pain with a constant illness in his bones, so that his very being finds food repulsive and his soul loathes the choice meals. His flesh wastes away to nothing and his bones once hidden now stick out, his soul draws near to the pit, and his life to the meaninglessness of death.*” (Job 33:18-22)

The Lord tries to help us get out of that, but again, we need to call on Him in the day of trouble. He is our very present help in those times, in Jesus' name. “*Yet, if there is an angel on his side, as a mediator, one out of a thousand tell a man what is right for him, to be gracious to him and say, ‘Spare him from going down to the pit. I have found ransom for him.’*” (Job 33: 23-24) Jesus actually became the ransom to save us.

*“Then his flesh is renewed like a child’s. It is restored as in the days of his youth. He prays to God and finds favor with him.”* (Job 33:25-26) See how the Lord operates when we humble ourselves?

*Lord, I cannot cure myself, nothing can cure me except you. “Jehovah-Rapha, I am the Lord that healeth thee,”* He says.

*“He prays to God, finds favor with Him. and he sees God’s face.”* (Job 33:26) We find favor with the Lord through the blood of Jesus that was given to us on the cross. It is called grace in the Bible (God’s ability and favor) if we believe Him and humble ourselves. But Job had become arrogant and self-righteous. *“I have done no wrong...,” “yet God has found fault with me.”* (Job 33:9-10) Totally out of bounds. God in His mercy did not let him go where he was going – namely, the pit.

## THE TRAGEDY OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

King Asa in the Old Testament walked with God and the Lord blessed him and blessed the plans that the Lord accomplished through him. However, one time he did not get what he wanted, and he turned from the Lord. He sought the physicians only for his foot ailment, refusing to humble himself and seek the Lord. It says he died of that foot ailment. (1 Kings 15:23) (2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 16:11-13)

It is very tragic what self-righteousness will do. “I didn’t get my way, so I’m going to throw a tantrum.” How babyish. That is what the devil did when he was kicked out of the heavens. He was not asked to leave, he was thrown out, never to return, because he would never humble himself to seek God’s forgiveness and turn from his wicked self-seeking ways. That is what pride does. Man sets himself up as god. It is the lie and deception of the devil. He is a liar from the beginning and a murderer, as Jesus said.

When Job prayed to God, humbling himself, he found favor with God. Grace and mercy allows us to do right because the Lord could say, “You walk away from Me, you are not coming back!” I am of the thought that the Lord, because of who He is, would forgive the devil if he genuinely asked for forgiveness and humbled himself under the Lord’s mighty hand.

Many people say, “I’m sorry, will you forgive me?” but they do not mean it. It is not from their heart because they do not change their ways. *“You will*

*know them by their fruit.*” (Matthew 7:16) They are actually saying, “I’m sorry I got caught, and now I have this consequence in my life because of what I did.” They are not humbling themselves under the mighty hand of God. They are not loving the Lord. They are sorry that they have pain, sorrow, or some awful thing which came upon them. People have said, “Well, the Lord did it to me because I went against him.” No, the Lord didn’t do it.

What happens is, the Lord takes His blessing off you when you get out of line with Him. You moved outside the blessing! Consequently, the thief can now steal, kill, or destroy. Remember, the Lord had a wall of protection around Job and the devil said, “I cannot touch him. Take that hedge down and then let’s see if he prays to you.” (Job 1:10-11) People think that the Lord took the hedge down, but the Lord simply said, “*He is already in your hand.*” Job had taken the hedge down by his fear. “*That which I feared the most came upon me.*” (Job 3:25) Once it happened, other things were able to be stolen from him, because the hedge was down.

## THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR US

Get it straight. The Lord is a good God. He did not take the hedge down to allow us to be tormented and have pain and sorrow, just to play games with us. No, the Lord loves us. If we are experiencing a time of pain and sorrow, when the devil is attacking us, the Lord will fight for us if we are believing Him and in a right place with Him through the blood of Jesus. When something happens to me, the first thing I ask is, “Lord, am I out of your will? Because if I am out of your will, I want to get back where I belong, in Your will and under the shadow of the Almighty.” (Psalm 91) Where no evil can touch or have power.

Something may happen to you, but it cannot have you. Greater is the Lord in us than whatever is going on in our lives, and He will turn what is intended for evil around to His glory. He will help us through whatever we are going through, in Jesus’ name, if we are in right standing with Him. That is why I want to stay under the shadow of the Almighty, not out of fear of what the devil will do, but out of love for the Lord. He first loved me and gave Himself for me. Thank you, Jesus. Do the same, friends.

## RESTORATION COMES

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*“He is restored. He sees God’s face, he shouts for joy (this is the Lord’s deliverance), he is restored by God to his righteous state.”* (Job 33:26) It is exactly what the Lord did for Job in chapter 42, *“...and then he comes to man and says ‘I have sinned, I have perverted what is right.’”* (Job 33:27) A person who has humbled himself before the Lord in his own heart and before others will say, “I sinned. That is why this happened.” Other times it is a demonic attack. *“...I have perverted what is right, but I did not get what I deserved.”* (Job 33:27) God’s mercy came in. He spared Job. Job did not get what he deserved. *“The Lord restored me.”*

It was like the prodigal son who went away from the house of his father, and squandered everything he had. When he came back, he was forgiven and restored as a full son. He was not to take the place as a servant. He did not get what he deserved because of the Lord’s goodness, kindness and mercy. However, if you do not humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, that will not happen. *“He redeemed my soul from going down to the pit, and I will live to enjoy the light of life.”* (Job 33:28) Blessing. Job lived for 120 more years, his life was blessed on every side, and he received a double portion of what he had before.

## HOW GENEROUS IS OUR GOD

Even Job’s own family, who had been looking for something from him, brought gifts to him. How amazing! He had more sons and daughters after the Lord blessed him (chapter 42), and he gave the daughters an inheritance, which was unheard of in their culture. Praise God, that is who the Lord is. Out of His generosity He wants to bless everybody. *“God does all these things to a man – twice even three times... to turn back his soul from the pit, that the light of life may shine on him.”* (Job 33:29-30)

That is what the Lord wants to do for people. We have the most wonderful Lord in heaven and earth and everywhere. He is the Lord. He can be everywhere at the same time. Job did not have a clue who the Lord was. *“I’ve heard about you with the hearing of the ear.”* (Job 42), meaning he did not know how God worked. He was considered righteous that he was even seeking the Lord. You seek Him, you will find Him. He will reveal Himself to you. *“Call unto Me, and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, things that you know not of.”*

## THE TRUTH COMES OUT

It is God's desire that we get to know Him, but you do not come arrogantly before the Lord. You do not deserve anything from Him, no matter how many "good deeds" you do. They mean nothing to the Lord. As long as you have not received Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life, all of your works are worth nothing. They are self-works. It is what Job was shown to be doing, but the truth came out. It was self-righteous thinking that what he did gave him a right to come before the Lord, but he was just a man. The Lord looks at man this way: there is *"none that doeth good, no not one"* (Psalm 14:1), and *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23)

There is no way that anybody can work his way to heaven. The Lord would say, *"Depart from me, you worker of iniquity, I don't know who you are."* (Matthew 7:23) But, the Lord in his love, while we were yet enemies died for us, the godly for the ungodly, to save us from the pit.

Come to grips with this: apart from the Lord, I am nothing, but with the Lord I am his dearly beloved child. He has lavished his love upon me. All of the promises of heaven are mine. The same commandments, principles, and promises that the Lord operates by are mine in Christ Jesus. The Lord gives me relationship with Him. His grace, His ability, His favor is upon me.

Because of that we are blessed spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and in relationships. So blessed. That is what the Lord was communicating to Job. Thank God when people are presented with the truth, in love, so that they can change their ways, change their thoughts, and come into God's truth which will set them free.

*"Pay attention, Job, and listen to me; be silent and I will speak. If you have anything to say, answer me; speak up for I want you to be cleared..."* Elihu was saying, "Right now, you are blaming God for all that happened to you, but it was not the Lord who did it. You don't know what you are talking about. You are playing the fool; you need to change..."

*"But if not, then listen to me; be silent, and I will teach you wisdom."* (Job 33:31-33)

The wisdom of God and the wisdom of heaven is what we need to learn. The Lord wants us to have it. *“If any lack wisdom, ask the Lord and He will give it.”* (James, chapter one) He won’t hold anything back that we need to have and know. He will not find fault with us because the Lord is not into blame. That is man’s thing. Adam basically said, “If you hadn’t given me this woman, Lord, I wouldn’t have all of these problems.” Eve said, *“Well, the snake enticed me.”* and they were all cursed.

They cursed themselves by following the devil. The devil left the snake, and the snake remained to crawl on the ground. It had been walking and talking before. Cursed. Only Jesus can take the curse away from all of us. I am so excited and thankful today that the Lord did that for us because we could not be with Him If He had not. Let our thanks and love go up to the Lord.

Go ahead, right now,

*“In Jesus name, Lord, receive my love and my thanks for all that You are and all that You do on my behalf. I am so excited to be Your child. I am thankful in all things, Lord. I am thankful because I have relationship with You. I never want to let that go. Thank You for the salvation that You have given me in Jesus. Every day I thank You.”*

# THE REAL LORD OF JOB

## The Truth About the Lord

### Chapter Two

#### TO STAY OUT OF FEAR

People often talk about “poor Job.” I think they have forgotten that the devil could not touch “poor Job” because of the wall the Lord had put around him, a hedge of protection. The evil one could not touch him, by his own words. However, Job got into the fear for his life and the life of his children. He was offering fear sacrifices to God every day, and that opened the door to the thief.

Fear prayers and fear sacrifices are not going to do anything except make trouble. They will make you think that the Lord is not there and is not doing anything good. It blinds you from seeing the truth. As Job said, *“That which I feared the most is that which came upon me.”* (Job 3:25)

It is very important to note that you can offer prayers out of fear about what will happen down the road. All around us are words about shortages, or how people are trying to destroy our country and other countries. There are wars and other troublesome events happening, and it makes for a great uncertainty among the people. That is how fear of a disease shut down the whole world in days. Job was out there in fear for his children, offering sacrifices to God every day.

Job was out there by himself because fear isolates you into your circumstance and situation. Any good thing cannot come to you at that point. To stay out of the fear of all that is happening in the world, realize that you are in this world but not of it (John 15:19). We represent the Lord here, and the Lord is in our hearts. Heaven is in us so we need to rely upon the promises He gave. It is so important that we know whom we have believed and be fully persuaded and convinced that He is able to keep that which we have committed to Him until the day of His return (or we go home to Jesus). *“GOD is not a man that he should lie, nor the son of man that He will change His mind. Has He not said it, will He not do it, has he not promised and will He not fulfill?”* (Numbers 23:19)

## WHAT YOU DO IN TIME OF TROUBLE

*“My people perish for lack of knowledge... because you have rejected it..”* (Hosea 4:6) We want to get it because we do not want to perish. We want to have all that the Father has for us, in the time we are in. He has a promise for everything that we will ever face in this life. We need to find that promise, hold on to it, and believe that God will be faithful to perform it. We need to know in our heads and our hearts.

Godly counsel, God’s Word, and His Holy Spirit will give us what we need in each situation. People are not always telling us the right thing, so we need to have the Holy Spirit, the Word of God and the promise of God. “Lord, what do you want and how do you want to do it?”

Job was living in a time of trouble. What do you do in a time of trouble? You believe the Lord and His promises. Job was ignorant, as he later expressed, about knowing the Lord and His promises. He said, *“I heard about you with the hearing of my ear, but now I know who you are and I repent. I ask Your forgiveness about what I thought, what I said, and what I did because I was ignorant of you.”* *“I humble myself now in your presence.”* When he did, the Lord forgave him for what he said and did, and He blessed him. He was already blessed in the Lord in the beginning, but the Lord then gave him double of what he had. Amazing! As you look at Chapter 42 of Job, it wasn’t “poor Job,” it was “rich Job.”

## TRUTH ABOUT THE LORD

As Jesus said in the Beatitudes, *“Blessed are the poor in spirit.”* Many have missed that, thinking that the poor are blessed. No, the poor are cursed (Deuteronomy 28), and they need the blessing of heaven in their lives. They need to know the Lord. They need to know that He will satisfy every good thing for them, and every need. Blessed are the poor in spirit. They will have everything from the Lord. The Lord was able to bless Job and exalt and honor him to His glory as Job humbled himself under the mighty hand of God. Then Job knew who the Lord was. He walked with the Lord the rest of his life, free from care or trouble.

When we are in difficult situations, we really need to know who the Lord is, what He is about and what He will do, knowing that He loves us with an everlasting love.

Everything with the Lord is eternal. He will not ever leave us or forsake us. He knows the plans He has for us, plans for good, not for evil, plans to prosper, to give hope and a future. He wants us working with Him, spreading the good news about His love and how He cares, blesses, protects, defends, forgives and on and on...His people, because He is a good God.

Remember, Job was ignorant of the Lord and of his Word. He spoke out of his own heart.

Elihu had waited before speaking to Job because Job's friends were older than he was, and he saw that the three men had nothing more to say. His anger was aroused. I would say it was a holy zeal. He had the truth, and the truth brings comfort, strength, and hope. Truth is spoken out of love, and God's blessing can happen. Youth was not the issue because even a young person, in the Lord, who is speaking the truth should be reckoned with and understood. Paul told Timothy, *"Don't let people despise your youth."* The people who are *"...advanced in years should teach wisdom, but it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty that gives him understanding."* It is not only the old who are wise, not only the aged who understand what is right, just, and true... and live accordingly.

Elihu gave Job wisdom and understanding. *"I must speak and find relief; I must open my lips and reply, I will show no partiality, nor will I flatter anyone."* (Job 32:20-21) Truth does not show partiality and it is not flattering. *"...for if I were skilled in flattery, my Maker would soon take me away."* (Job 32:22)

The Lord does not want lies and deceptions. He will take away those who are giving that kind of word out to people. He told Job, *"Pay attention to what I am saying,"* and he presented to Job some things about the Lord that are true. It is what we need to hear in our time of trouble, in our times of commotion and confusion in the earth. We need a solid truth that will cut through all the lies and show us reality. The Lord reigns in spite of what is going on around us. People need to be talking about who the Lord is, and calling upon His holy name, *Jesus*, to make things happen in this earth.

*"But I tell you, in this you are not right, for God is greater than man. Why do you complain to Him that he answers none of man's words? For God*

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*does speak – now one way, now another – though man may not perceive it.”* (Job 33:12-14) People have said, “The Lord doesn’t talk to me.” No, He is talking to you all the time, you are just not listening, or you are not discerning that it is the Lord talking to you. He talks through many different ways. *“In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber in their beds, He may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, to turn them from wrongdoing and keep them from pride, to preserve them from the pit...”* (Job 33:15-18)

The Lord is warning us, talking to us, trying to save, help, heal and deliver us. *“Plans for good, not for evil. Plans to prosper, to give life and a future.”* (Jeremiah 29:11-12)

## A HUMBLING EXPERIENCE

*“[to preserve]...their lives from perishing by the sword.”* (Job 33:18) The Lord does not want us to perish by the sword, by the famine, by disease. These are ways of judgment that come upon people who are not seeking the Lord, and are doing what is wicked.

*“Or a man may be chastened on a bed of pain, with constant distress in his bones so that his very being finds food repulsive and his soul loathes the choicest meal.”* (Job 33:19-20) Job’s situation was intended to humble his person under the mighty hand of God, and turn him to the Lord for help, health, healing, and salvation.

*“His flesh wastes away to nothing and his bones, once hidden, now stick out. His soul draws near to the pit and his life to the messengers of death. Yet, if there is an angel on his side, as a mediator, one out of a thousand, to tell a man what is right for him.”* (Job 33:21-23) We need to hear the truth.

*“...to be gracious to him and say, “Spare him from going down to the pit.”* (Job 33:24)

We need intercessors, we need somebody standing in our behalf. *“...I have found a ransom for him. Then his flesh is renewed like a child’s. It is restored as in the days of his youth.”* (Job 33:24-25) In other words, the

Lord will turn the captivity and bless the person. That is God's heart and desire.

*"...he prays to God and finds favor with him. He sees God's face and shouts for joy. He is restored by God to his righteous state."* (Job 33: 26)

*"And then he comes to man and says, "I have sinned and I perverted what was right, but I did not get what I deserved."* (Job 33:27) The Lord showed mercy.

*"God has redeemed my soul from going down in the pit, and I will live to enjoy the light of life."* (Job 33:28) At first Job refused to humble himself before the Lord, saying and thinking from his own understanding.

*"God does all of these things to a man- twice, even three times- to turn back his soul from the pit. That the light of his life may shine on him. (Job 33:30)*

*'Pay attention, Job, and listen to me.'* (Job 33:31) Pay attention, all of us pay attention. Listen. *"...be silent and I will speak.*

*If you have anything to say, answer me; speak up, for I want you to be cleared. But if not, listen to me, be silent and I will teach you wisdom."* (Job 33:32-33) How we need God's wisdom!

*"Then Elihu said, 'Hear my words, you wise men, listen to me... (Job 34:3)*

*"Let us discern for ourselves what is right. Let us learn together what is good.'" (Job 34:4)*

*"Job says, 'I am innocent, but God denies me justice. Although I am right, I am considered a liar; although I am guiltless, his arrow inflicts a mortal, incurable wound.'" (Job 34:5-6) This was Job talking in his ignorance that God was not giving him justice. Remember, friends, he was not innocent. ("That which I feared the most is that which came upon me.") He acknowledged his fear, that he was not innocent. He needed to ask God's forgiveness for that fear and humble himself under the mighty hand of God.*

## HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE THE LORD

*"Is there anyone like Job, who drinks scorn like water? He keeps company with evildoers; he associates with the wicked. For he says, 'There is no profit in trying to please God.'" (Job 34:7-9) Oh, friends. This also*

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happened in Malachi, chapter 3. People were saying, “What does it profit us to give tithes and offerings? Why should we do this? What is in it for us?” Not realizing the goodness of God. The Lord calls them God-robbers.

How can a man be blessed who is saying that the Lord is the issue? *“It profits a man nothing when he tries to please God.”* You can see the deception of his ways.

The key is to look to the Lord in the time of trouble and realize He is not the problem. We have the problem, and for whatever reason we need to get it straightened out. Then the Lord will give us wisdom and understanding, if we humble ourselves before Him. Thank you, Jesus. This is the truth. If we humble ourselves before the Lord, in due season he will exalt us and help us. Thank you, Lord, for every good thing that you do for us every day,

The fact is, the whole world needs to humble itself under the mighty hand of God and return to the Creator who gave life and blessing, as well as seek His forgiveness for not following His ways and messing up the world. People do this all of the time. They make the mess, and then they blame somebody else for the mess, and consequently the mess never gets fixed. Not until people realize “I was wrong.” and go back and humble themselves.

Pride is an ugly thing. Go make it right. Get things rolling again. Pride comes before the fall, and that is where Job was. He let self-righteous pride come into his heart and into his life. The Lord had honored him before, but the Lord cannot honor this kind of ignorant behavior. This is the same thing for those in Malachi, chapter 3, who said, *“What does it profit us to seek to please God?”* Oh, my goodness, how deceived and ignorant is that? Those were the words and thoughts of Lucifer (Satan) in heaven, and is why he rebelled against God. He thought he could run the heavens better! The Lord removed him and took away everything that He had given him, in the respect that the devil lost himself by not remaining attached to the Lord, believing God. All that he was and could do came from the Lord. In leaving the Lord, he lost everything that the Lord had given him. In leaving, God did not take it away, Satan lost it himself.

## TRUST IS THE ISSUE

How sad deception is. People do things that cause them harm. We are our own worst enemy, let alone the evil going on out there to steal, kill, and destroy. We don't have to help it along. How important that we put our trust in the Lord, and in the Lord alone. He is our source and we will not fear what man shall do to us because the Lord is with us and for us.

*Holy Spirit, guide and lead us in your truth. We thank you that you will turn for good what is intended for evil. What man does, you can override, overcome, and turn it for good again. In Jesus name.*

Let us humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, like Jesus did. Let us submit ourselves to the Father who judges justly and not get caught up in the confusion of the world. If it is not one thing, it is another thing. It looks like a soap opera being played out every day. The names and faces change, but it is the same working. This is how the devil works: Keep them on edge, keep them fearful, kick up this, kick up that, throw dirt in the air, make confusion and chaos so the people cannot really know what the issues are.

The real issue is, as Jesus simply laid out, *"The thief has come to steal, kill, and destroy, But I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly."* Our focus needs to be on who the Lord is and what He is doing in our time. Let me tell you, He has held back so much evil. We should be rejoicing and dancing in the streets. It could be a whole lot worse than what is going on right now. As horrible as it may seem, the reality is that the Lord reigns, and He will deliver those who call upon the name of the Lord Jesus from everything. *"Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all."*

So let us rejoice in the Lord today, for the Lord does reign. Let us keep our thoughts fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Let us keep moving ahead as our good God would have it to be.

*Thank you, Jesus, for all that you are. Yours is the power and the dominion, and You are the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings. We bow before You. Amen.*

*"So listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do evil, from the Almighty to do wrong. He repays everyone for what they have*

*done; he brings on them what their conduct deserves. It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice. Who appointed him over the earth? Who put him in charge of the whole world? If it were His intention and He withdrew His Spirit and breath, all humanity would perish together and mankind would return to the dust.” (Job 34:10-15)*

# THE REAL LORD OF JOB

## The Lord Challenges Lies

### Chapter Three

#### DISCERN WHAT IS TRUE

The devil had said that the Lord had a hedge of protection around Job, that he could not touch Job, but Job took down that hedge by his fear for his children. Needless to say, friends, we want to stay in faith in God and keep the Lord's hedge of protection up.

Although we may go through things in life, the Lord will deliver us out of them all. We can know that with assurance. The book of Job is often used to explain suffering, but we know that the majority of the book was about the people that did not tell Job the truth. They spoke according to their own agendas, their own opinions and thoughts about who the Lord is, and they were not true.

Elihu, the fourth man, communicated the truth about who the Lord really is. The Lord followed up, revealing himself to Job so he knew who He really is.

Job had a revelation about what was happening, and why it was happening. Many ideas about the Lord are wrong, and many people are not even involving the Lord in their lives. Hence, they have nothing but devil information (false information) about the Lord, life, values, and everything else.

The Lord wants His truth to come forth. Whether people believe it or not, whether they obey it or not, it is their call. But someday everyone will be accountable and responsible for what they have done in this life and who they have served. Either the Lord or the devil.

*“Then Elihu said: “Hear my words, you wise men; listen to me, you men of learning. For the ear tests words as the tongue tastes food. Let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good.” (Job 34: 1-4)* We know in these last days that people of the world are gathering to themselves those who tell them what they want to hear. The lines are forming between who is of the Lord and who is of the devil. Between good

and evil, right and wrong. It is all starting to show itself clearly.

## MOTIVATION OF THE HEART

A man's ways appear right to a man, but the Lord searches the intention and motivation of the heart. We always want to get down to what is really happening.

We need to ask the Holy Spirit to show us clearly what is going on in us. What is the truth? Why have I done what I have done? Why have I said what I said? Let's fix the truth of the motivation. *"The Word of God will cut between the spirit, the soul, the joints, the marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intentions of the heart."* (Hebrews 4:12)

Why are things happening? Are people really for me or against me? The Lord, by his Spirit, will show the truth about it all.

## BEWARE FALSE INFORMATION

*"Is there anyone like Job, who drinks scorn like water? He keeps company with evildoers."* Elihu was saying that people who are not telling the truth are liars. Jesus says the devil is a liar, the father of all liars. He is a murderer. His intention is to steal, kill, and destroy.

It is clear that the other counselors had not given God's truth to Job. Just because somebody has a thought does not mean it is a true God thought. We live in a day and age of false news. In fact, something came up on my phone the other day that said a very prominent individual in the world's community had been shot and killed. I thought about it, *This is a tragic thing*. However, you always want to get the facts and check out what you hear. Make sure it is true because you do not want to believe that false is true, and you do not want to tell anybody something that is not true. If we found that something is not right, we need to correct it and get it right. So, we checked it out, and sure enough, it was a false report. It is evident how things go out there in the world.

*"For he says, 'There is no profit in trying to please God.'* (Job 34: 10) We see several of those statements as we go throughout the book. Job said that he was innocent, and God denied him justice, which is a misunderstanding about the Lord, and was totally wrong as far as being

innocent. Job himself had said it, *“That which I feared the most is that which came upon me.”* (Job 3:25) Fear is not God-faith. Fear will bring disastrous results into our lives and open doors to the devil to be able to steal, kill, and destroy. It is very important that we understand that. Job would have been very well off if he had just stopped there at Job 3:25, but his “friends” came, and he started to defend himself as they were accusing.

The devil is an accuser of the brethren, and if he does not have something on you, he is going to lie and try to invent something. That is how the world operates as well. Be aware of it, friends. We want to get the truth. Many things are not even our business, and we do not need to meddle in it because it is not profitable in life. *“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you.”* (1 Thessalonians 4:11)

He who takes up a cause or meddles in someone else’s strife takes a dog by the ears, Proverbs says, and he will have commotion in his life. Many times quarrelers work their differences out, but you are still upset. Who knows, sometimes they are against you. One time when the Lord was dealing with a marriage situation, the two people involved were totally opposed to each other. They came, and we shared different principles with them. The next thing you know, they both united against me because I spoke the truth, and they did not want to hear the truth. But it did bring them back together.

## BE TOGETHER ABOUT THE TRUTH

Therefore, praise God for every good thing that can come out of such situations. Ultimately, people have to be together about the truth. Many people join together over lies and over causes that are not true, not just, and not of God. Evil company will corrupt good morals. Be very careful who you have as friends and who you are listening to. Make sure they are speaking the truth. Look at the track record of their life. I would never go to a marriage counselor who has been married four or five times. Yes, we want to look at the situations, but faithfulness is very important in a marriage. We want to judge righteous judgement, not by the appearance of things. Get all of the facts, not the opinions, not the thoughts about things.

The Roe vs. Wade decision was bought and approved by the Supreme Court at the time. Now it has been taken out by the current Supreme Court. In any case, why did it ever go to the Supreme Court? The Lord says that to abort a baby is to murder. It is killing a child. People following false religions mentioned in the Bible offered children up as a sacrifice to their false gods. The Lord gives life and sustains life. He is God of the living, not of the dead. We need to get to thinking, "What does the Lord want and how does he want to do it?" If the people who approve of abortions had been aborted, they would not be here to oppose the whole thing about life.

### CHALLENGE FALSE COUNSEL

We want to pursue life and godliness in Christ Jesus, so we can have real life and living. Just think, if all the people throughout history had not been here, they could not have accomplished all of the wonderful things that God used them for. Think hard about it and seek the Lord for wisdom and understanding, in Jesus' name. Elihu was challenging the false counsel that was given. He challenged Job's attitudes and thoughts such as "*It profits a man nothing when he tries to please God.*" He was basically contradicting Job's statement, for Job was way off. God had blessed Job with all these things: a wonderful family, health, finances.

Job was the wealthiest, blessed man of his day, and it was all because of the Lord's grace and favor upon him. Then he had the audacity to say, "*It profits a man nothing when he tries to please God.*"

Fear is not pleasing to God. It is called sin. It is separation from the Lord. It has torment. "*God's perfect love casts out all fear, for fear has torment.*" (1 John 4) and "*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is life in Christ Jesus.*" The Lord told Cain, "*Why are you so angry and upset? If you do what is right, you will be blessed.*" That is, if you do what is right before God, not what a person *thinks* is right. It is what got Cain into trouble. He leaned to his own understanding and did what he thought was the right thing, rather than doing exactly what the Lord said. Man's ways appear right to a man, so he justifies himself, rationalizes his decisions, and ultimately starts blaming God, saying that the Lord is the problem.

You cannot please God on your own. It is only through Jesus Christ that God is pleased with us. *“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* (Romans 3:23) There was no one who was doing good. We only live by the grace and mercy of God. If everybody got what they really deserved, they would all be dead. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory in our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord loved us and showed us mercy while we were His enemies, Christ died for us, the godly for the ungodly.

If you are doing what is right with the Lord, there is nothing but blessing in your life; spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially and in relationships.

### FAR BE IT FROM GOD TO DO EVIL

Job had been enjoying a taste of blessing. Even though, as he said by his admission, “I did not know you, Lord, but I sought to be pleasing to you. I had heard about You by the hearing of the ear, but I did not know who You were.” (Job 42) Through this process, the Lord revealed who He really is to Job. You cannot work your way to God. There is not anything you can do that is pleasing to him, until you are born again in Christ Jesus and the Lord changes your nature from fallen to righteous (right standing with God). What God did for us is only because of the blood of Jesus.

*“So listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do evil,”* said Elihu. The Lord does not do evil (James 1) Don’t think that the Lord tempts anybody with evil. Somehow the only teaching out there is that “the Lord gives and the Lord takes away.” That statement by Job is false! What is true is that the Lord gave Job everything he had. It is *false* that the Lord took it away, and it is false that the Lord took down the hedge of protection.

The Lord is not going to work against Himself and take down a hedge of protection that He has put up, any more than the devil is going to do something that will bring glory to God. They are diametrically opposed. Jesus said, *“A house divided against itself will not stand,”* whether it be the devil’s house or God’s house. The Lord will not work against Himself. Job’s fear (sin) took down the protection of God. He stepped outside of the will of God, by daily offering sacrifices for his children. They were prayers of fear, not faith. Many people pray prayers out of fear and not faith and trust in God. *“Under the shadow of the Almighty. No evil or plague shall*

*come near you or your dwelling, for God has given his angels charge over you.” (Psalm 91)*

He has either done that or He has not done that. What do you believe? It does not matter that things come upon you; it is what you do with them when they do. Do you take authority over them in the name of Jesus? If you are in right standing with God, submitted to Him, then you resist the devil, and get under the blood of Jesus. If you have done something that has taken you out of the will of God, you need to ask God’s forgiveness and humble yourself to receive His mercy and grace in time of need, in the name of Jesus. Then the Lord will put you back under that protection and blessing. We are seeing this process in Job, as the Lord is now dealing with Job through the truth that Elihu shared.

*“Far be it from God to do evil, from the Almighty to do wrong. He repays everyone for what they have done; he brings on them what their conduct deserves.” (Job 34: 10)* Thank God that He does not strike us down the moment we sin. He gives us opportunity to humble ourselves, to seek His face, ask His forgiveness, receive that forgiveness, and turn from our wicked ways. We turn from our false understanding about who the Lord is and what He does.

People are accountable and responsible for what they do and what they say, for every word they say and every deed they do, for better or for worse. God is not mocked. Whatever people sow (Galatians 6) is what they will reap, for blessing or for cursing. The Lord says, “Choose life, and that life is in Me.”

*“It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice.” (Job 34:12)* Yet, people every day are blaming God for their problems and their issues. Even in the insurance industry they talk about “acts of God”. Many of those things are not acts of God, they are acts of the devil to steal, kill, and destroy.

## THINK ON THE LORD’S GOODNESS

Falsehood has so permeated people’s thinking because they do not really know who the Lord is, how He does things, or even what He wants to do. Think on how good the Lord is and all that He wants to do. *“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.”*

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(Ephesians 3:20) We cannot imagine all the goodness and blessings that the Lord wants to give to us who love Him and love His appearing, who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and believe God's Word. In this lifetime and this dispensation before Jesus returns, we cannot imagine all the Lord has coming ahead for those who love Him and have received Jesus into their hearts as Lord and Savior.

The new heaven and new earth will not have evil, pain, sorrow, suffering, sickness, poverty, confusion, chaos, wars, or death. But the Lord says, *"The kingdom of heaven is within you [right now],"* and you have access to all the blessing of the Lord. *"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."* Right now, thank you, Jesus. Who appointed man over the earth? Who put him in charge of the whole world? It was the Lord. The Lord gave dominion to Adam and Eve. People live as if they did it themselves. The Lord says, *"Beware when all these things come to you, lest you forget the Lord, your God, who has blessed you and given you all of this."* Believer or unbeliever, everything good that we have in our lives has come from the Lord. Bless His holy name. We need to realize this and give thanks to Him in all circumstances, in Jesus' name.

# THE REAL LORD OF JOB

## The Lord of Lords Is Judge Over All

### Chapter Four

#### PRIDE BLINDS THE TRUTH

What Job said and did when he was into self-righteousness is inconceivable, like “I’m not the problem, but God isn’t seeing fit to help me.” Arrogance and pride will hinder a person from humbling himself under the mighty hand of God. Arrogance, ignorance and pride are the token actions of a fool.

People refuse to humble themselves under God, to really examine themselves and see whether or not they are in the faith. Elihu showed that to Job, “Come to your senses, man! Look at what you’re thinking and saying. You are ensnared by the words of your mouth, and you have done witchcraft on yourself. Your stubbornness is as the sin of idolatry. You are denying the Lord who has done every good thing in your life. He has done nothing but good for you and you are denying him, thinking that you are right and He is wrong.” Never will a man be right and the Lord wrong. The Lord is always right, always just, always true. His love is perfect. No hidden agendas, no selfish motives.

The Lord has absolutely nothing to gain by loving us and doing good for us. What can we do for him? Absolutely nothing. He did not even have to send Jesus to save us if he had not wanted to. He could have let us all go and started fresh. But the Lord said, “No, I love all of the people, from Adam and Eve until now. I want them all to be saved. I created them and I want them with Me.”

The devil was created by the Lord and He was perfect in every way until the day he started thinking more highly of himself than he ought to. He thought that he had accomplished all that he was doing, making himself to be what he was. But he had received everything from the Lord, and it was good. He corrupted it and lied to himself.

Self-deception is a horrible thing. Arrogant pride is evil because it blinds you from the truth of ever wanting or desiring the truth. The Lord would forgive the devil if he would humble himself and come back to the Lord, but he will not do that. He believes God is the enemy, as He kicked him out of his position and threw him out of the heavens. It was not a battle; it was not a war. How can a created being, such as an angel or man, war against the Lord? No, as soon as the Lord says the word, it is over. In His presence is fullness of joy, and evil certainly does not have joy. It has torment. In the end evil has come to steal, kill, and destroy. That is what Elihu was pointing out to Job in chapter 34.

### THE LORD IS OVER ALL

*“Who appointed you over the earth? Who put you in charge of the whole world?”* (Job 34:13) It was the Lord that put man in his position. Man did not put himself in that position. People run around today thinking that their bodies are their own. 1 Corinthians chapter 6 says that your body is not your own. It belongs to God. You would not even be alive if the Lord had not made a man and a woman, and they conceived a child: you.

People talk about the abortion issues and their rights. Many who promote this will not ever have children because men with men do not bear children and women with women do not have children. They would not even be here if the Lord had not purposed them to be here on this earth.

You are not a mistake. If you are walking the earth, the Lord wanted you to be born so that you could have an opportunity to be born again in spirit. You were born physically, now be born again in spirit through faith in Jesus Christ. Really look at the facts. People can say and do anything they want. Believe me, they do anything they think.

But ignorance is ignorance. Foolishness is foolishness. Wisdom is wisdom. They never have anything to do with each other. When a wise man finds himself in the presence of a fool, he leaves. (Proverbs) They do not quarrel or fight, nor do they stand against each other, they just leave. Deception does not allow truth to come. Arrogant pride does not allow truth to come. Prideful people do not listen and they do not want to hear it because they already know. The scorners are the leaders of the fools

(Proverbs). What happens? Nothing but commotion and trouble.

## LORD OF LORDS, CREATOR AND SUSTAINER

*“If it were His intention, and He withdrew His Spirit and breath, all humanity would perish together and man would return to the dust.”* (Job 34:14-15) It was the Lord who created man. People try to deny that the Lord is the Creator. In absolute truth, Jesus Christ was the Creator. He was God who created the universe. He took the form of a man, being born of a woman. She was not to be worshipped, but the Lord used that woman, that precious Mary, who said to the Lord, *“Let it be done unto me according to your Word.”* She loved the Lord and the Lord was Jesus’ daddy. This is so important to understand. Joseph (what a man of God) stood up and raised Jesus.

Jesus is actually God come in the flesh to save us. He lived out His life by the power of the Spirit of God who enabled Him to will and do His pleasure. If the Lord would remove His Spirit from the earth right now, the only ones left would be the believers in Jesus Christ. Everything else would be removed. The Lord has given this time, and people need to take advantage of this time, before He returns. And He is coming back in all glory and honor as the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings, the Lord of the universe. Everyone will have to give an account to Him. Believer and unbeliever alike, in Jesus’ name. What did you do with Jesus? Believe or not.

This time has been afforded so people will not perish but will be able to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and have everlasting life when He returns. It is the only reason that time is being delayed. We, as God’s people, need to be patient and about the Father’s business in this time to make sure that people hear about Him and His goodness, as Elihu presented it. Get this on the record straight and true: The Lord is the Lord and there is none like unto Him. All who put their trust in Him will never be ashamed.

Man’s ways will never be anything more than futility apart from the Lord. Jesus says, *“Apart from me you can do nothing, but with me, all things [that God has] are possible.”* (John 15) Man cannot even save his life. He has done nothing but destroy the creation. The Lord created it perfectly and it

was in harmony, working together in unity. Man, by his selfish pride and greed, has destroyed it. People go on every day thinking that they hold their own destiny. They do not hold anything. If you honor the Lord, He will honor you. If you do not honor Him, He has nothing to do with you. Get God's perspective on this.

## THE LORD REIGNS IN JUSTICE

We need the Lord; He does not need us. Even though people band together, if they are not about the Lord's purpose, He resists the proud and gives grace to those who humble themselves under His mighty hand.

*"If you have understanding, hear this; listen to what I say. Can someone who hates justice govern? Will you condemn the just and mighty One?"* (Job 34:17) How appropriate. If people hate justice, how can they rule? That is why Isaiah said that the Lord saw that there was no justice in the earth. (Isaiah 55)

People govern based on what they want and what they do not want, for better or for worse. It has to do with greed, selfishness, and idolatry (serving other gods). The Lord will deal with all of this in short order. You roll the rock out on others; it comes back on you. A party spirit is a house divided. Nothing good can come out of that because such people are always trying to get their way, for better or for worse. Who determines what is better or worse? Not you, not me, not mankind or womankind, I do not even like to go there: People. The Lord determines what is right, what is wrong, what is just, what is true. You really have to get with this.

No person has a right to condemn the Lord or to condemn one another. Who are we? There is one judge and that is the Lord. One lawmaker, and that is the Lord. Church people changed the commandments of God in the 300s AD (but who has a right to do that?) and many have actually believed it and acted on it ever since. Why didn't someone check out what the Lord says, get back to what the Lord says, and do what the Lord says, rather than what man and his traditions, doctrines, and teachings say. Let us get back to the truth. The truth is what sets people free. Lies create bondage and nothing good.

*“Is he not the One who says to kings, ‘You are worthless,’ and to nobles, ‘You are wicked.’”* (Job 34:18) All authority comes from the Lord, and the Lord will deal with the authorities accordingly. He causes nations to rise or fall. Just look throughout history. As long as folks were seeking the Lord, nations were blessed. When the people turned away from the Lord, the nations were cursed. God did not curse them, they cursed themselves, for the Lord’s desire is for blessing. If people think that they are more than what they are, the Lord will remove them. That is how it works. King Herod heard the people praise him, and as he began to think he was a god, he died. *“The wages of sin is death.”* Everyone is accountable and responsible to God for their life, their words, and their actions.

## THE LORD’S LOVE PRINCIPLES

*“...who shows no partiality to princes and does not favor the rich over the poor.”* (Job 34:19) We might add, He does not favor the poor over the rich. This kind of partiality is shown by man, not by God. The Lord does not show partiality. He does not pick out certain colors or certain groups. He wants everyone to be saved, but the only way to be saved is to do it the way the Lord says. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. Repent, turn from your wicked ways and wicked thoughts, and believe the Lord. Let Him be the Lord of your life, telling you what to do and how to do it.

Everyone is created equal, but man has distorted this. What people do to each other is an abomination to the Lord. All of the snooty attitudes, both from the rich and the poor towards one another. How they treat one another. We do not want to get into that, friends. The Lord says to love one another. People say, “Well, I love God.” Then you will love everyone the same. Note, *“While we were enemies of God, Christ died for us, the godly for the ungodly.”* There is no excuse for not loving, for having hatred, bitterness, prejudice, or pre-judging people before you even know them.

Mob rule is created out of confusion. People do not really know what is the truth or the motive behind the crowd and the mob. God does not work in mob rule, crowd rule, or popular vote. He reigns in truth and justice and integrity based upon His love principles, showing no partiality to any person or group. Many things are not even of God, but people flock to it because it piques their interest.

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## KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S HEART

*"They die in an instant, in the middle of the night; the people are shaken and they pass away; the mighty are removed without human hand."* (Job 34:20) I read recently that over 5 million people were killed and/or died over this Covid thing. How horrible genocide is. *"My people,"* the Lord says, *"perish for lack of knowledge."* It is important that we get the knowledge of God and learn how to deal with situations in life, for there is an anti-Christ spirit that is working in the earth, working against everything of God. It does not want people to have the Lord to know about His ways or His heart towards people. In Jesus' name, we bind the spirit that would blind people's minds (2 Corinthians 4)

We pray the truth, Lord, in Jesus' name so that they would be able to receive their salvation, their life, their health. Vaccinations or shots are not going to save people, and that has been proven because the devil has unleashed more evil into the earth. It changes one thing to another. We need to get back to God's principles and promises if we are going to have life. Ultimately, if people are not believing the Lord, they will die. The thief does not care if you worship him or believe in him. He kills his own. This is his intent. Evil destroys their own. They promise you and never deliver, they change things to control and possess you, to own you. Not so the Lord. His love does not operate that way.

If you are opposed to God, He laughs from the heavens at those who oppose Him and His people. He knows their end is at hand, unless they repent, turn to Him, humble themselves, give up their wicked practices, and acknowledge, "I am wrong, and I need the Lord's forgiveness and life." He is only too willing to help that person.

*"His eyes are on the ways of men; the Lord's eyes, he sees their every step."* (Job 34:21) Do not think you would ever get away with anything. The Lord knows what is happening before it happens and He is on top of it.

*"There is no dark place, no deep shadow where evildoers can hide. God has no need to examine men further, that they should come before him for judgment."* (Job 34:22-23) In other words, evil doers condemn themselves by their actions. The Lord wants everybody to be saved. He did not come to condemn the world; He came to save the world. Whoever believes on

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the Lord Jesus Christ will not perish, but will have everlasting life. That is God's heart. If people are condemned, they condemn themselves by not receiving the Lord's love, promise, and Word (which is always true). Thank you, Jesus, for loving us and showing us what to do.

# THE REAL LORD OF JOB

## He Is Just and True in All He Does

### Chapter Five

#### THERE IS A REASON

Many times people do not understand suffering. They say things out of their suffering, pain, and sorrow. They are not speaking life and blessing, they are just speaking what they feel and what their perception is. The Lord says, *“My people perish for lack of knowledge.”* The Lord loves everyone and wants everyone to come to the saving knowledge of the truth in Jesus, for *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life.”* That is what we need to communicate to the people. There is a reason why suffering is happening. If any lack wisdom, the Lord says, *“Come to Me and ask Me and I will show you what is going on.”* (James 1)

He says, *“Call unto Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, things that you know not of.”* (Jeremiah 33:3) That is what we need in this time. We need to know who the Lord is, and what He is about, what He wants to do and how He wants to do it. With man, it is nothing but futility, pain, sorrow and suffering. It all comes from evil in the earth. The devil is having his final hurrah before he goes to destruction forever when the Lord Jesus returns. He is doing everything He can to steal, kill and destroy. But thank God He still reigns and always will reign, and He never will not reign. He is the Lord and who is like unto him? Nobody and nothing.

When people are going through suffering, their focus is on themselves and what they are going through. They try to figure it out and get rid of it because nobody likes torment. *“God’s perfect love casts out all fear.”* (1 John 4) Fear has torment. In the Lord Jesus, God wants us to put our faith and trust in Him for life in heaven abundantly.

#### THE LORD SEES MAN’S EVERY STEP

Let us look at the fourth counselor, Elihu. He was laying out who the Lord really is and how He operates. The Lord said the other three “friends” were wrong about Him, but Elihu was speaking truth. Let us want to know truth and gain understanding about the Lord. Let God be God and let man be man. Apart from the Lord, man can do nothing and is nothing, but with the Lord, through faith in Jesus, we come into all that the heavenly Father has. The Lord wants His people to know who He is that we might revere, honor, and praise Him no matter what situation we are going through. We will count it joy. Our God is greater than whatever is happening, and He will see us all the way through to the finish in what He has given each of us to do. Together we will see the goodness of God.

In Job 34:21 we learn more about the Lord when Elihu spoke; *“His eyes are on the ways of man; he sees their every step. There is no dark place, no deep shadow where evildoers can hide.”* Those who are not about the Lord’s purpose cannot hide from Him. You can run but you cannot hide. Eventually, everything that people are catches up with them because God is not mocked (Galatians 6)

People will reap what they sow. If they sow evil, evil will come back to them. If they sow good, good and blessing from God will come back to them. The Lord will make sure that is the case. If man does not give justice, the Lord will surely bring His Justice to pass.

## GOD IS JUST AND TRUE IN EVERYTHING HE DOES

*“God has no need to examine men further, that they should come before him for judgment.”* (Job 34:23) People’s actions speak for themselves. They judge and condemn themselves by their own actions. *“I haven’t come to condemn the world, I have come to save the world,”* Jesus said. (John 3) If people are condemned or judged it is because they have not received Jesus. They have not believed on the Lord’s one and only provision for life. As such, people curse themselves by their words and actions that are outside of the will of God (their disobedience).

*“Without inquiry he shatters the mighty and sets up others in their place.”* (Job 34:24) the Lord is always just and true in everything He does. Again, if the mighty fall it is because they are not walking with God. The Lord is never going to do anything but good to those who are doing His will. The

Lord asked Cain, *“Why are you so angry and upset, Cain?”* (He was angry at the Lord, and at Abel.) *“‘If you do what is right,’* the Lord goes on, *‘you would be blessed.’”* If you were obedient to do what the Lord says, you would be blessed. He is always going to bless obedience to what He says. On the contrary, when people do what is cursed, they curse themselves. They will reap the whirlwind for their own actions. That which they seek for others for evil will come back on them.

The Lord will replace those that are taken away, who are not doing the will of God and He will put people in who will do His will. That is just the way it is.

*“Because he takes note of their deeds, He overthrows them in the night and they are crushed.”* (Job 34:25) Nobody can say that they are not accountable for their life and their actions. Even a child is known by his ways. (Proverbs) *“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.”* You can tell really quickly what is going on in people by what they say and do. *“As a man thinketh in his heart,”* so he is, either for good or for evil.

Some disappear and nobody even cares or knows the difference. But when the scorners and the leaders of the fools are removed, the city rejoices because the torment is lifted. The arrogant pride and oppression that evil brings is lifted and is gone. Then the city rejoices, Proverbs says.

*“He punishes them for their wickedness, where everyone can see them”* (Job 34:26) It is not a private thing, it is exposed. There is nothing hidden that will not be revealed. That goes for good deeds as well as evil deeds. The good deeds, when they are exposed, bring praise and honor to the Lord and blessing to the people who do them and to those who receive from what was done. Evil is exposed and the cursing is broken, and the ones who were under the oppression are free. The captives are set free and again, the city rejoices, the nation rejoices.

*“..because they turned from following him and had no regard for any of his ways.”* (Job 34:27) A word to the wise: you would do very well not to turn from the Lord. If you have not been with Him, you want to turn to Him and get life abundantly as the Lord is holding out life and provision to you. It would be wise to have regard for God’s ways. What does the Lord want and how does he want to do it? We want to seek that out. We do not want

to have the Lord tell us about it, we want to seek it out. In any case, we want to know what the Lord's ways are.

## THE CRY OF OUR HEARTS TO KNOW HIM

“Lead me in your righteousness, make your ways known to me, O' Lord.” That little phrase once came to me in the night hours. It actually was a short Holy Spirit song. We would sing it in rounds, and the Lord's Spirit would come into the house. It needs to be the cry of our hearts. “Lord, I want to know you and I want to know your ways.” Not just to know them, but so I can do them. That is the intention. I want to know in order to have relationship, and to know the ways so I can do the ways of the Lord. Such a wise person.

## GOD'S GREAT PLAN IS LIFE

Evil people do not care to know about the Lord, they do not want to have anything to do with Him. They want to do what they want to do. How very strange that there is picketing about abortion, to have the right to abort a child. What would it be if the parents of those protestors had decided to abort them, they would not be here today to protest. Who wants to abort life? It is wrong doing and going against the Lord. People are refusing to receive the life that God has given them.

## LIFE WITH GOD

Let me tell you, the Lord has good plans for the little children that have been aborted in Jesus' name. And not so good plans for those who have done the aborting with intention to remove the life of the child. There are times when things happen, but not with evil intent. With evil intent to take a life is murder. Blood guilt cannot be removed from people except they humble themselves and are covered by the blood of Jesus, the sacrifice for life that Jesus did that we might have life. He gave His life that we might have His life. Thank you, Jesus, for loving us and caring for us every day. There is a sanctity to life, a holiness to life. Only the Lord can give life.

The wages of sin (acting apart from the will of God) is death. Ultimately the second death is coming for those who refuse to receive God's provision for life. They condemn themselves to that second death, eternally separated from the Lord, where there will be no goodness, no light, no love, no

anything. Forever tormented with the devil. It is just hideous to even think about, but it is a reality. If you do not receive the life and love of God, you will have hideous torment forever.

People talk about hell on earth. If you are not walking with the Lord and have God's grace and favor and blessing on your life, this life is a foreshadow of what is to come in the fire of hell. The last place to those who die apart from the Lord. On the contrary, if you are walking with the Lord, and have received Jesus as Lord as Savior, then you can have heaven on earth right now. *"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,"* Jesus prayed. All of the promises, provision, and life of God is ours now through faith in Him. When Jesus comes back, he will remove all of the evil, so we will not have to deal with it in the earth all around us: the hatred, the bitterness, the greed. In the meantime, the Lord is with us, He loves us, He is for us, He is not abandoning us. He knows how to deliver the godly from the ungodly, and He has great plans for us every day in the ongoing saga and adventure of life in the Holy Ghost.

## WHAT IS TO COME?

So let us be about our Father's business and know that we are living in the foreshadow of what is to come. What is to come? We will not have to take authority over the devil and deal with that evil because there will not be any. The Lord will remove it with his new heaven and new earth. That is coming, and it is ours right now. The kingdom of heaven is within you, in Jesus name.

*"They caused the cry of the poor to come before him, so that he heard the cry of the needy."* (Job 34:28) This means the oppressed, the people who are suffering injustice, who have been exploited, who have been persecuted, the genocide in the earth where man ruins people and man ruins environment as agents of the devil, who has come to steal, kill, or destroy.

You are either an agent of the devil or you are an agent of the Lord in this earth. You cannot be both. The cry goes up to the Lord. The blood of Abel, Cain's brother, who Cain had just killed in the field, cried out, to the Lord. It cried out for justice. The Lord will always deal with injustice. When you roll the rock out on somebody, the rock will roll back on you, and

it will be magnified. You can count on that. If I were you, I would be asking God for forgiveness and humbling myself under his mighty hand. Seek forgiveness from the other person and get restored. It is time for love to come back into people's hearts. The only way it will happen is through Jesus Christ.

#### THE LORD WILL DEAL WITH...

*“But if he remains silent, who can condemn him?”* (Job 34:29) Nobody can judge the Lord's actions. He will deal with things and make them beautiful in its time. In time He will bring vengeance on those who have harmed his people. It will be the right time.

*“If he hides his face, who can see him? Yet he is over individual and nation alike, to keep the godless from ruling, from laying snares for the people.”* (Job 34:29-30) All authority is accountable to God. The good and the evil. They are responsible to the Lord, and He will deal with each according to their actions. In the Bible the Lord used two nations to deal with the sin of Israel and Judah. After they had conquered Israel, then the Lord dealt with Assyria and Babylon for their own sins. The children of Judah were forgiven and the kingdom of Israel was completely removed for their godlessness and idolatry.

*“Suppose someone says to God, ‘I am guilty but will offend no more. Teach me what I cannot see; if I have done wrong, I will not do so again.’ Should God then reward you on your terms, when you refuse to repent? You must decide, not I; so tell me what you know. “Men of understanding declare, wise men who hear me say to me, ‘Job speaks without knowledge; his words lack insight.’ ”* (Job 34:31-35)

# THE REAL LORD OF JOB

## The Honorable and Trustworthy One

### Chapter Six

#### FAITH IN GOD'S TRUTH

People talk about the Lord. They think that God wants this, He wants that. In reality, they do not have a clue what they are talking about in regard to who the Lord is and how He operates. Let us get God's truth about what He wants and how He does things.

It is important for us to get God's truth when we are going through tests, trials, suffering, and temptations. How essential to have the true understanding of who the Lord is. Proper faith in God's truth will get His results.

#### OUT OF BOUNDS

The truth about what happened with Job as he tried to convey his innocence on all fronts is clear.

*“Oh, that Job might be tested to the utmost for answering like a wicked man! To his sin he adds rebellion, scornfully he claps his hands among us and multiplies his words against God.”* (Job 34:36-37) Job was speaking without knowledge, for his words lacked insight. He added rebellion to his sin because he went out of bounds from the Lord.

Job *“multiplied his words against God.”* We need to be very careful. Many people talk about the Lord out of ignorance. They challenge Him about why things are happening in the earth, but they are not realizing that the devil wants to steal, kill and destroy. Many times people make their own problems by their words and deeds. Back in Job 34:9 Job said, *“There is no profit in trying to please God.”*

You can see his arrogance. He said something else that was totally out of line because whatever the Lord says to do will profit a person's life.

*“Without Me,”* Jesus says, John 15:5 NKJV, *“you can do nothing,”* but with the Lord and obeying what He says, all blessings happen.

Elihu continued *“Do you think this is just? You say, “I will be cleared by God, yet you ask him, ‘What profit is it to me? What do I gain by not sinning?’ ”* This is a totally unacceptable attitude. It is rebellion against God. He is asking, *“What do I gain by not going against the Lord?”*

It begins with self-pity. Why am I going through this? Where are You, God? Why don't You help me? What is happening? Then it leads to flagrant arrogance: *“I'm right, and You're wrong, and You are not just. I am just,”* etc., etc.

## WHAT DO YOUR SINS DO TO GOD?

*“I would like to reply to you,”* says Elihu, *“and to your friends with you,”* (Job 35:4) who were all speaking incorrectly about Job's situation, and who the Lord is. Today there is ignorance in the churches as well as to who the Lord is. In fact, the majority still think that *“the Lord gave and the Lord took away.”* It is what Job said, but it was not what really happened in the account. The Lord gave everything that was good to Job and had a wall of protection around him. But Job's fear for his children took down that protection and opened himself up to all the calamities that the devil could bring. (Job 3:25)

*“If your sins are many, what does that do to Him? If you are righteous, what do you give to Him, or what does He receive from your hand? Your wickedness affects only a man like yourself, and your righteousness only other people.”* (Job 35:6-8)

If you seek the praise of men and not the praise of God, you will have the praise of men, but you will not have the praise of God. Do what the Lord says. *“Who is man that the Lord is mindful of us?”* (Hebrews 1) Who do we think we are?

We are not the Lord, we are created beings. The devil is a created being, and the angels are created beings. They cannot begin to be compared to who the Lord is. The Lord is the Lord and there is none like unto Him. You can see how ridiculous it is that people put the devil on an even par with

the Lord. When the Lord comes on the scene, the devil has to flee in terror. They are not working at the same level. You do not have to be afraid of the devil because the Lord has given you authority over all the power of the devil. Sin and disobedience to God that causes separation from Him only affects a person; it does not affect the Lord. He could cut us off and start with new people that did what He said, loved Him, did not rebel against Him, and did not follow the devil. He could have done that, but He chose not to in His love for the people. Jesus came to save us from being separated from God because He loves us with an everlasting love, and He wants us to be with Him.

However, He does not owe us anything. He does not have to do anything for us. Without the Lord, who are we? What are we? We are nothing. We can do nothing. We will have nothing. We could end up in the fire of Gehenna with the devil and all the fallen angels at the second death. If our sins are many, what does that do to the Lord? Absolutely nothing. The guilt of the children who rebel against their parents does not affect the parents. Although parents may try to cover for them, the Lord will not try to cover for us. He came to save us, and He did that once. Whoever looks to Jesus for forgiveness in life, will have it. But He is not coming down and doing it again. If we don't accept what He has done as His only provision for life in Jesus, then that is too bad.

Christians get outside of the will of God because they do the same thing Job did. They fear for their children lest they have sinned against God or they take up cares for other people and don't believe the Lord. Friends, you are not God. I am not God. *"Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God and in due season He will lift you up."* (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6) We cannot make it happen. That is why the Lord says, *"Cast all your cares upon me, for I affectionately care for you and watch over you."* (Amplified Bible, 1 Peter 5:7.)

## YOU CANNOT ADD TO NOR TAKE AWAY FROM GOD

We need to trust the Lord, lean not to our own understanding, acknowledge Him in all our ways, and He will direct the path.

Job thought he was righteous. If we are self-righteous, what does that give to the Lord? We cannot give anything to Him. He has everything. He is

everything. All that the Lord does, He does for you and me out of who He is: His grace, goodness, mercy, kindness, and compassion. But again, if we want to go against the Lord, He is not mocked. Whatever people sow is what they will reap for better or for worse. The Lord is not lying awake nights worrying or thinking over what we are doing or not doing, and neither should we. However, we do need to take a good look at our life and examine ourselves and see whether we are in the faith (in God). (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 13:5) It is not about why the Lord is not doing something. It is about what we are doing. Are we humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God and doing what He says to do?

Repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. *"Your wickedness only affects humans like yourself, and your righteousness only other people."* (Job 35:8) In other words, they will benefit from the good that we do in the earth, but it does not do anything as far as adding anything to the Lord. He is perfect in all that He does. He is just, He is love. You cannot add anything to Him. You cannot take anything away from Him. He is the best of the best.

## YOUR DISOBEDIENCE SEPARATES YOU FROM GOD

*"People cry out under a load of oppression; they plead for relief from the arm of the powerful. But no one says, 'Where is God, my Maker, who gives songs in the night, who teaches more to us than to the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the sky?'"* (Job 35:9-11)

People run around trying to figure things out, trying to go to powerful people, trying to rely upon their bank accounts, relying upon their own knowledge, wisdom, and understanding or the cumulative ignorance of the crowd. Why not call to the Lord if you are oppressed? He is the only one that can help you. If you call to Him, you will never be ashamed.

I think about Isaiah, chapter 59:1, *"Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear, but your iniquities have separated you from your God."* Your actions and words that are disobedient to the Lord, or ignorant of the Lord, separate you from the Lord. Your lack of faith and your unbelief leads to disobedience while faith and obedience leads to rest and peace. Disobedience leads to commotion, chaos and confusion.

*“Your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear. For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt.”* (Isaiah 59:2-3) You would not want to be in the abortionist’s place right now that want death rather than life for anybody.

Only the Lord Jesus can take away blood guilt. *“Your lips have spoken lies.”* (Isaiah 59:3b) That is what the devil does. He is a liar and a murderer from the beginning. The father of all liars, Jesus says. He comes to steal, kill and destroy. People that are for death are not for life. Life is what God is all about. The Lord Jesus came to bring life with God and abundant life, but the thief wants to kill. So whose side are you on? What is obvious when people want death is they are not on God's side, and they will have the fruit of what they are desiring. *“Your tongue mutters wicked things. No one calls for justice. No one pleads his case with integrity.”* (Isaiah 59:4a) That is what Job was doing. He was calling for justice and pleading his case. In his mind, his ways appeared right to him, but God searches the intention of the heart. (Proverbs 16:2)

What is the truth about him? It was not the Lord that took down the wall of protection. The Lord is the one who put up the protection. It was the mercy of God and the grace of God that did all that. It had nothing to do with Job's action. But Job's action had everything to do with allowing the devil to open the doors to steal, just like Adam and Eve did. They violated God's principles and believed the devil over the Lord. See, *“They rely on empty arguments, they utter lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.”* (Isaiah 59:4)

## THE RIGHTEOUS HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND OBEY GOD

Job was guilty, yet he thought he was innocent. *“What does it serve me to please God? What does it serve me not to go against God? What does it benefit me?”* The people were doing the same thing in Malachi, chapter three with, *“Why should we give tithes and offerings? What does it benefit us doing what God says?”* It becomes very evident who is who. The Lord makes a distinction between the righteous and the unrighteous. Those who obey God are righteous, those who do not are wicked, and the Lord's blessing is on the righteous, not on the wicked. The wicked will be cut off, the Word of God says. *“They hatch the eggs of vipers and spin spider’s webs.”* (Isaiah 59:5)

*“Their deeds are evil deeds, and acts of violence are in their hands. Their feet rush to sin.”* (Isaiah 59:6-7) These are the people that are not calling on the Lord for help. They are not humbling themselves, or repenting of their wicked ways and turning to the Lord in order to do the right things. So they have what they have, and it is not pretty; it has torment.” *“God’s perfect love casts out all fear for fear has torment.”* (1st John 4:18) Job was completely deceived, and so are many people sitting in churches in our day and age. They think they are in right standing with God based on their works. “Dead works,” the Lord calls them. He does not want what they are saying and doing.

They are going to the arm of the powerful, seeking relief. The government is not going to help you. In fact, they will enslave you if you allow that to happen.

In Matthew 6, Jesus says, *“Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on.” “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* And He says, *“Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”*

You need to take a good look at that. How do you value yourself and your life? There are many people actually doing things that work against themselves. They are believing in man rather than believing in God.

Job was clearly saying, “I have integrity, I have truth,” justifying himself, rationalizing his situation out of ignorance. He himself in chapter 42 (when we get there) acknowledges and admits it. *“I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.”* “I spoke about you, Lord, out of ignorance. I repent,” he says. “I change my ways because I was wrong. I will tell others that they are wrong and will seek to do the good, God, right thing and lead others to do the same.” See, a wise man knows when he is wrong and will admit it and change his ways.

The Lord does not answer people when they cry out because of the arrogance of their wicked ways. They think they know better than the Lord.

The Lord is not going to argue with man. People will just have whatever they are going to have.

When the Lord says something, we need to believe it and act on it because *“the Lord is not a man that He should lie or the son a man that He will change His mind. Has He not said it, will He not do it, has he not promised and will he not fulfill?”* (Numbers 23:19) There are thousands of promises in the Word of God that the Lord has for His children (every good and perfect gift). We need to seek those things out, learn who the Father is and how He works in Jesus Christ, and how the Holy Spirit works. When the Lord says, *“Honor me with the first fruits of your substance, then your barns will be filled,”* that is a promise. (Proverbs 3:9-10)

## HONOR THE LORD AND TRUST HIM

In the book of Malachi, the Lord says the same thing. “If you honor Me, I will honor you. Don't be God robbers.” (See Malachi 3:5-12) What is He talking about? When we honor the Lord by obeying Him, it brings glory to Him and blessing back to us.

It is all about honor and trust. Who can you trust? You can trust the Lord implicitly because He does not simply talk about love, He demonstrates it. Jesus Christ came out of the heavens Himself to save us.

Jesus is God come in the flesh to show us who the Father is and how He operates. When the Lord says to give the *full* tithe and offering to Him, it is 10% of the gross, off the top of all that comes in from whatever source. He means what Proverbs 3:10 says. In reality, all we have is the Lord's.

This is also referring to the spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, financial, and relational increase. The Lord means what He says. He does not say anything He does not mean to do. *“Have I not said it? Will I not do it? Have I not promised and will I not fulfill?”* He actually says in Malachi chapter 3, *“Test Me on this, prove me and see whether or not I will open up the windows of heaven and pour a blessing so great that you cannot hold it all.”* People say, “I've heard that before, Pastor.” Well, hear it again. You cannot hear it enough. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. The Lord wants to increase his kingdom in the earth, and He does it through tithes and offerings.

Bake sales and all the little things that people do are fine, but it needs to be converted into a way to advance the kingdom of God. Understand, the Lord will guide us in how to make money and how to advance the kingdom of God. That is the purpose of money.

The Lord says, *“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* (Matthew 6:33) In other words, the Lord will take care of you as you take care of His business. It is very important that you honor Him and His priorities. We need to get that straight. When we honor Him, then all that the Father has for us will come to us. You do not have to run around trying to make it happen. Man has his ways and God has His, and the two will never meet.

So man's ways need to come from God's ways. When He is directing us, then we will see things happen the way the Lord would have them. He will do it, that is His work.

*“Father, in the name of Jesus, as we honor You with the first fruits of our substance, before anything or anybody else, we receive the increase in Jesus’ name and advance Your kingdom to the ends of the earth. Bring Your gospel and Your truth to the people. And, Lord, let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We thank you, Father, that You give us the privilege to participate in what You are doing in Jesus’ name.”*

The Lord is doing His will in the earth. *“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”* in spite of whatever we do or don't do. Our righteousness does not add anything to the Lord, for He is the Lord. But the Lord gives us an opportunity as His children (who He made us to be) to participate with Him in what He is doing in the earth. We do that through tithes and offerings, honoring the Lord. As we honor Him, He honors us, and gives seed to the sower. (2 Corinthians 9)

You want to be a hilarious giver in all things. Not just money, but kindness and forgiveness. Do it with all your heart in the name of Jesus to the glory of God. Actually, once you have giving as a principle in your head and in your heart, you don't think about it because it becomes who you are. It is what you are about. We have the laws of God written on our hearts. *“I*

*come, O Lord, to do your will.*” We are actually looking for where we can give as the Lord directs.

## ONLY WHAT THE LORD DIRECTS

The Lord always directs everything we do. Do not just decide you are going to do this or that. No, Lord willing. “What do You want, Lord, and how do You want me to do it? That is where the blessing comes. Not just deciding, *I want to do this. I want to give there. I want to help that person.* What is the motivation of the heart? Otherwise you have a bunch of do-gooders running around out there.

They are the ones Jesus is talking about. “Didn't we do this in your name and that in your name?” And He says, *“Depart from me, you workers of iniquity. I don't know who you are.”* In other words, you were not obedient to do what He directed you to do. You did your own thing because it made you feel good for a myriad of reasons.

The mind is deceitful in that respect. As we look at Job at this point, we see he is totally deceived, talking against God. *I am more righteous than God is. I am more just than God is, and I am innocent. The Lord is not giving me justice.* Job was totally off. In the same way, people deceive themselves into thinking that they did this and they did that, but it was not anything good. What good comes out of us is coming from the Lord working in us and through us. He is the one that began the good work in us through faith in Jesus, through us hearing about the love of God. We only received that because the Lord enabled us to receive it.

You can reject it too, but that is not profitable. The problem is that pride comes before the fall. Many times when people see the truth, they do not turn away from the lie. They continue in their lie and deception because the arrogance of pride does not permit them to humble themselves under the mighty hand of God. Just ask the devil about that one. The Lord would forgive him if he were to humble himself under the mighty hand of God and acknowledge his sin and wrong action in thought and deed. He is not God, but he still thinks he is, and people do the same thing, like “I don't need to ask the Lord. I will do it my way.” There will be death, not just physical death, but death across the board – spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, financial, and relationship death comes with not acknowledging and

honoring the Lord. We must do what He says. That is only by the grace, ability, and favor of God working in us, enabling us to will and to do His good pleasure.

## RECEIVE THE PROVISION

We cannot say, "Oh, I did it. I believed God." The devils believe in God. They fear and tremble, but they do not do what He says to do. They do not humble themselves. There are many people who are not even afraid of God. The Lord has given provision for life, but if you do not receive the provision which was given out of love, then you put yourself under the wrath of God. He could destroy you in a heartbeat if that was His choice. But He gives mercy, opportunity, and time for people to turn from their ways and repent, ask forgiveness and humble themselves. Many people do, and others do not.

The Lord does not want anybody to perish, but the day is coming when that will happen. You have no control over your life. Eating right, doing all the right things are no guarantee. I know people that did all that, but they died early. You either can go to Paradise with Jesus in the next moment, or you can go to the holding place for those who will be separated from God forever with the devil. It can happen in a moment. But those who serve the Lord, honor Him, are thankful, and love Him as He loves them know that they do not have to go until they finish what they are given to do. We do not want to be stolen from. The Lord says, "*My people perish for lack of knowledge.*" Hosea 4:6) We will get that knowledge, and we will do what the Lord says because we love Him. We will seek out the truth and continue in it, and the truth will set us free.

If you are going through trials right now, such is life. Just understand, "*Count it all joy when various trials and tests and temptations come upon you.*" (James 1:2) Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. If you lack wisdom, which we basically do in all situations, we have to realize that every time something happens, it is different. We need to rely upon the Lord and seek Him as to what He wants and how He wants us to deal with it. He will give wisdom and understanding. Many times we go through things to help others who are going through similar things, and we can pass on to them what the Lord shows us. His principles are true, they are sure,

and they work when the person who works them believes them in Jesus' name.

# THE REAL LORD OF JOB

## He Communicates Truth

### Chapter Seven

#### BE OPEN TO THE TRUTH

The Lord's truth will always prevail. That is why we need it. If we have His truth, we will get His faith because we will be believing for proper things and understanding proper things. As a result, we will get the Lord's results. They will be wonderful results.

Elihu was laying out for Job what was really happening, and why. The question in life that people often have is "Why is this happening? What is going on?" We get some answers that are helpful for us as we approach the Lord (and there are ways to approach Him).

At this point, in our study, Job had become very self-righteous, saying, *Where is God? Why isn't the Lord doing something?* In most cases, people do not even involve the Lord. They just try to figure out what is happening and why it is happening. They can blame other people, but the truth of the matter is, as Jesus pointed out, there is a thief who has come to steal, kill and destroy. He was kicked out of heaven, but he wants to run people's lives. He works under the cloak of darkness called pride. Job had become self-righteous and was speaking about things too wonderful for him, things he did not understand.

It is very important that we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that we believe in the truth about what is happening. We can gain understanding on that as we go.

#### ASPECTS OF OPPRESSION

*"People cry out under a load of oppression; they plead for relief from the arm of the powerful."* (Job 35:9) Depending on what you believe, the arm of the powerful could be the government, it could be yourself, or it could be Uncle Henry. You are looking for somebody to bail you out, to help you. It could be a false god or whatever you put your hope and trust in. It could be

bank accounts or securities. When people are under a load of oppression, they are going to cry out. We see this every day in the world. They are being oppressed by many different things. Ultimately it goes back to the thief who came to steal, kill and destroy.

Job had no understanding of there being a thief. He thought God was oppressing him. But the Lord, as we have learned, does not do anything evil to people. Any good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights. The Lord had blessed Job, but it was the devil who took away. Job, in his lack of understanding, said *"The Lord gives and the Lord takes away."* Job was not believing correctly, and as a result, he blamed God for everything that happened. Yet in Job 3:25, he said, *"What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me."* As a person believes, that is what he will have. Jesus says, *"Be it done to you according to your faith."*

There is no resolving that. Job was believing that the Lord who could help him was the same Lord who had done this to him. So, it was really mixed up, and it is how many people are in the world. They are looking for relief from their oppression. They are looking for help, but they are going to wrong sources that cannot help them. Only the Lord can help people, and He wants to help us. He came to save us in Jesus that whoever believes upon Him will not perish but will have everlasting life. They will have all the help they need. *"Call upon me in the day of trouble, and I will help you"* the Lord says. "I will deliver you. I will protect you. I will defend you. I will provide for you. I will be your life and your Source." Thank you, Jesus, for that.

*"But no one says, 'Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night, who teaches us more than he teaches the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds in the sky?' "* (35:10-11)

## LOOKING FOR RELIEF

Just because bad things are happening does not mean the Lord is going to intervene. People want relief from oppression. They do not like what is happening to them. They only cry out because they want help, but they are not willing to change their ways or do what the Lord has to say. *"Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the other nine?"* The ten lepers

were all healed by the Lord when they saw Him, but only one went back to give thanks to God. The rest went their way. Their oppression was lifted. The trouble was over, and then they went back to their ways.

With the 9/11 attack years ago, the enemy came in, the oppression happened, and horrible things went down. Before that time, people were taking the Commandments of God out of court rooms and other places, and we could not pray in schools. This was to remove God, the Lord Jesus, from society.

But immediately after the 9/11 incident, everybody was crying out, "Pray to God, pray to God." After the oppression lifted, they went back to their old ways. That is how it works. *"He does not answer when people cry out because of the arrogance of the wicked."* (Job 35:12)

Just because something is going wrong does not mean the Lord has to do anything. The arrogance of the wicked and the entitled say, "I deserve help, I deserve..." No, people are not entitled to anything. *"If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."* (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:10) That was the principle of the early church.

Indeed, God does not listen to empty pleas. The Almighty pays no attention to it. People are only looking for relief for self, and not believing in the Lord. They do not love Him. He loves them, but they are looking for relief from their trouble and from their hardships. Then they go back to their own ways, which actually creates the hardships in many cases.

*"How much less, then, will He listen when you say that you do not see Him, that your case is before Him and you must wait for Him."* (Job 35:14) Everybody wants instant relief and their burden taken away. "Lord, if you are out there, help me."

## CALL UPON HIM IN FAITH

*"Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* (Hebrews 11:16) That is why we, as God's people, who believe in the Lord Jesus, need to tell others how much the Lord loves them and

cares about them. But the people have to give up their old ways, believe on the Lord, and receive His new way of life and living.

Job realized, *My fear is what caused all this to happen.* (Job 3:25) It opened the door to a thief to steal, kill, and destroy.

*“His anger never punishes and He does not take the least notice of wickedness.”* (Job 35:15) Put another way, Job thinks, *God has forgotten me. He does not see what is going on.* Now, that is not at all who the Lord is.

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6, *“Humble yourself, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.”* He will take away the oppression and trouble. He will not allow you to have more than you can bear, and He will provide an avenue of escape. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:13)

1st Peter 5:7, *“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”* The Lord is watching. He knows what is going on, but He cannot help us until we call upon Him in the day of trouble, not just for relief from the oppression or the trouble. In faith call upon Him in love knowing that He is our Father in heaven. He is only the Father in heaven to those who have received Jesus as their Lord and Savior and have become children of God.

A false teaching out there is that the Lord is the Father of everybody. Jesus made it very clear that only those who believe in “He who was sent” by the Father God have the right to be His children. All the promises of the Lord go in effect for a child of God, not to “whoever.” The Lord does not hear those cries because they are not putting their faith in Him to help them. He will help them if they would call upon Him and turn to Him, receive His love and receive His life. Otherwise when they are oppressed, they are being oppressed by the devil. All the evil out there is by the devil.

Those people are children of the devil, and as such, that god (as he calls himself) has come to steal, kill, and destroy. The Lord came in His love to save us from that evil devil, and He made us children of the most high God, with all the good things of life: spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, in relationships. The Lord loves us and cares about us, and He will help us for His name's sake. If you are still a child of the devil and not a child of the Lord, you will cry out, but the devil is not going to help you. He

will make it worse. That is why we need to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ to receive the life of God if we are to get rid of the oppression. Further, to think, *God does not take the least notice of wickedness, has forgotten us, has not seen what is going on* is wrong. No, He sees it, but He is waiting for us to call upon Him. The devil wants to steal, kill, and destroy. The Lord has not forgotten anybody. People have forgotten the Lord.

## GOD DESPISES NO ONE

He is there, and He will help you, but if you are of the devil, then you have nothing coming except torment and hateful things. They will persist until you are ultimately destroyed with him when the Lord comes back. Those who have not received the love of God in Jesus will go with the devil to the place of torment forever. It is a very horrible thing. But whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will not be ashamed and will be saved. This is all through the love of God in Jesus Christ. The Lord wants everybody with Him. He wants the oppression gone. He wants the evil gone in the earth.

People who are children of the devil create the oppression on the people of earth. Such greedy and powerful ones call for help. They are the same ones who are creating the oppression and lack in the earth so that they can gain power and control over people. It is based on supply and demand. Understand this, in Christ Jesus, you have God's supply and it never runs out. Job needed to learn this. God is mighty.

Job 36:5, *“God is mighty, but despises no one.”* The devil despises people. Evil people despise everybody. Selfish people do not care for anybody but themselves. They want only what is best for them.

*“He is mighty, and firm in His purpose. He does not keep the wicked alive but gives the afflicted their rights.”* (Job 36:6) The Lord will turn things around if people would humble themselves and turn from their selfish ways and receive the Lord Jesus for life and for godliness. The Lord is there to help us. We need to understand that. But He is not here to help us so we go back to our selfish lives and wicked ways. We have to die to self and come alive to the Lord. The Lord gives us a new self in Christ Jesus. *“He does not take His eyes off the righteous.”* (Job 36:7) (This is who the Lord is.)

## CAUSE AND EFFECT

*“He enthrones them with kings and exalts them forever. But if men are bound in chains, held fast by cords of affliction, He tells them what they have done—that they have sinned arrogantly.”* (Job 36:7-9) He shows the truth and exposes what has happened. Everything has a cause and effect in life.

God is not mocked, whatever people do for a godly good will be rewarded. Whatever people do for selfish gain, they will be dealt with by the Lord accordingly. If you roll the rock out on somebody to hurt them, hurt will come to you. We need to humble ourselves under the Lord, ask His forgiveness, and seek His face.

*“He makes them listen to correction and commands them to repent of their evil.”* (Job 36:10) We do need to ask the Lord to show us the truth. We ask, “Why is this happening?”

Maybe we have done something out of line, maybe we brought this upon ourselves, or somebody else did. Maybe it is an attack from the thief trying to steal, kill, and destroy. We need to know the truth and then humble ourselves under the Lord, seek forgiveness, and turn away from the ways that have allowed evil to happen. Wrong believing and wrong thinking creates wrong results.

*“If they obey and serve him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment. But if they do not listen, they will perish by the sword and die without knowledge. The godless in heart harbor resentment; even when he fetters them, they do not cry for help.”* (Job 36:11-13) Many people come to the Lord in time of oppression because they see the error of their ways. It does not matter how rich you are, if you do not have health, you have nothing. It does not matter how much money you have, you cannot buy happiness. You cannot buy love.

*“They die in their youth, among male prostitutes of the shrines. But those who suffer, He delivers in their suffering; He speaks to them in their affliction.”* (Job 36:14-15)

## THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS TRUTH

If we are going through trials, it is time that we draw near to the Lord and seek Him, and He will be there to help us in our time of need. We do not need to fear or worry about that because it is His promise. You will learn that the Lord's promise is true.

Job, at this point, did not understand who the Lord is. His friends were not telling him the truth because they did not know the truth. Job actually knew more about the Lord than they did. But everybody has an opinion, everybody has a thought. Sometimes friends are toxic. However, the Holy Spirit will reveal the truth about who the Lord is and how He does things. In defending himself, Job became self-righteous and went off the track. As such, he needed to humble himself before the mighty hand of God and cast the care on the Lord, for He affectionately cared for and watched over Job (and over us today).

The Lord takes no delight and no pleasure in His children going through awful things. He says, *"My people perish for lack of knowledge."* (Hosea 4.6) That is what the Lord is teaching us through this lesson. There is suffering in the earth, horrible things like sickness, disease, poverty, and maladies, and it is because of people's sin. It is because of their separation from God.

The Lord is here for our good. As we believe in Him, put our trust in Him, acknowledge Him, do what He says by His Spirit and grace, we will get His results. He turns the captivity of people and sets the captives free in Jesus. This is what we are learning. When Adam and Eve went against the Lord and followed the devil, they put themselves under the devil's lordship for their life.

It would have been a hell of a life for us except that Jesus came to save us. God Himself came to save us for His name's sake because He loved us and did not want us to be forever under the devil's tyranny, separated from Him. That is what salvation is all about. The Lord forgave us all our sins in Jesus, and took them away from us. He took away the bondage and captivity and set us free in Jesus to love Him and to receive His love.

There would have been no pain, sorrow, suffering, sickness, death, poverty, infirmities, hatred, bitterness, violence, or wars if Adam and Eve

had stayed with the Lord. But in Jesus, we can come right back into that place where the kingdom of heaven is now, within us, meaning *“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”* will happen for us now in Christ Jesus, even in this world of evil. We are in this world, but not of it. The Lord has given us authority over all the power of the devil. As we grow in understanding of what the Lord has and who we are in Christ Jesus, we understand that the devil does not have to touch us at all if we will watch and pray lest we enter into temptation, keep ourselves in the love of God, and do what the Lord says.

## HUMILITY AND AUTHORITY

What about things that happen to believers and Christians? We have authority over those things in Jesus' name as they come. They come, but they cannot stay. The effect of it cannot stay. There are many people sitting in church today that still think *“The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”* That is not true. Job said it in his understanding of who the Lord was, but he was wrong. Then the Lord came right up behind Elihu to show it to Job. Most people never make it to chapter 42 to see how the Lord restored everything, over the top, to Job when he repented and asked God's forgiveness for speaking out of ignorance.

Job humbled himself. Having been wickedly, arrogantly self-righteous, he thought that the Lord was not looking out for him, was causing things to happen to him. But it was not true. It was his understanding, and is the understanding of many people sitting in churches.

I praise God as He opened Job's heart to truth. He saw how it was. The Lord could not do anything for Job at the point of self-righteousness because he was not looking to the Lord for help. He was arrogantly blaming God, and saying things about the Lord that were not true to make himself look good and to deal with his oppression.

Friends, you cannot deal with oppression on your own. No government (and no one) will be able to help you until you humble yourself under the mighty hand of God and submit yourself into His hands. Many times I say, "Lord, it's too big for me. I submit myself to You. I humble myself under Your mighty hand, and in due season You will exalt. You will see us

through this. In the meantime, we are going to be patient. We will just believe You, praise You, and honor You. We will do what you say to do. What do you want, Lord? How do you want to do it?" He will direct you as to what He wants you to say or do, or it may be nothing. Just let Him work it out.

In any case, cast all the care upon Him, for He affectionately cares for you and watches over you. He is watching you and me right now, and He is loving on us. I thank You, Lord, for that love.

If you are going through something, the Lord is going through it with you, and He will deliver and exalt you in due season.

We wait patiently upon the Lord, knowing that we have hope in the future and that He is going to deliver us from evil and bring us into all that He has in His wonderful kingdom in Jesus' name.

# THE REAL LORD OF JOB

## He Is Mighty and Firm

### Chapter Eight

#### JESUS IS FIRM IN HIS PURPOSE

Many people throughout the world are suffering right now in different ways: spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially or in relationships. It is happening because there is a thief out there who has come to steal, kill, and destroy. But the Lord Jesus has come that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

Job lost everything he had because of his fear for his children which opened the door to the thief. Fear opens the door for a thief to steal from you. It is a big occurrence in the world right now. The thief is trying to create fear in people's lives, but the Lord would have us turn to Him, and believe Him in faith. He will turn what is intended for evil around to good to the glory of God, and into our good.

*“God is mighty, but despises no one; he is mighty, and firm in his purpose.”* (Job 36:5) Although the Lord is Lord of lords and King of kings, He does not despise people. In fact, He created us originally in His image and gave us dominion over all the earth. He blessed us with every kind of blessing, but man chose to go against the Lord (hence followed the devil), giving up the rule and dominion that the Lord had given to him. Man gave it over to the devil and the devil has trashed everything and everybody ever since. He uses and abuses people, and then throws them away.

The devil still wants to ruin people's lives, but whoever calls upon the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved from all of that, and they will receive the Lord's provision for life. Everything the Lord has becomes ours in Christ Jesus. We just need to learn about what the Lord has and enter into it.

*“He does not keep the wicked alive but gives the afflicted their rights.”* (Job 36:6) It is not that the Lord is doing anything to the wicked, the wicked do it to themselves because they follow the devil's instruction and ways and refuse to believe the Lord. Thus the fear for one's life comes into play.

The thief wants to steal it, kill it, and destroy it. He wants to wreck everything. But we have to understand that the Lord is mighty and firm in His purpose, and His purpose is to save us. It is what Jesus came to do to make us right with Him and not be separated from Him. When man went with the devil, he went away from the Lord.

The Lord in His love sent Himself to save us from all the evil and wickedness. Whoever believes on Him and follows His ways will be saved by His grace and His goodness. It is God's free gift to us.

## HIS EYES ARE ON THE RIGHTEOUS

People talk about “rights” nowadays, but they have none as long as they serve the devil. How do people serve the devil? When they follow selfish ways, leaving the Lord and His ways out of their lives. It is how problems come. It is how affliction comes. There was no suffering, sickness, disease, or poverty until man followed the ways of the devil rather than the ways of the Lord. The devil does not want people following the Lord, so he makes it out like the Lord is the bad guy.

The devil hates you and wants you basically to have a horrible life. Hell on earth. The Lord keeps his eyes on the righteous because He affectionately cares for us and watches over us. *“He does not take his eyes off the righteous...”* (Job 36:7)

*“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”* (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6-7)

Job said that the Lord was not watching the suffering and hardships he was going through. Many people say that today, but the Lord knows it, and He is watching over it. He did not cause it, but He will not do anything until somebody calls to Him and believes Him for help. If they would just call to the Lord Jesus for help He would help them. But they cannot continue in their old ways. The Lord has a whole new life if they would ask him. *“You do not have because you do not ask.”* (James 4:2)

*“He enthrones them with kings and exalts them forever.”* (Job 36:7) Such is the Lord's plan for those who receive Jesus, believe on Him, and do His

ways. We need to learn His ways and do them. He intends for us to be with Him forever in the new heaven and new earth that He will create. This life is not all there is. Jesus said, *“Though we die yet shall we live. He or she who lives and believes in me will never die because I am the resurrection and the life.”*

## HE MAKES US LISTEN TO CORRECTION

*“But if people are bound in chains, held fast by cords of affliction, he tells them what they have done.”* (Job 36:8-9) Problems in people's lives are often because of the choices they make. They do not do what the Lord says. They do what they think, what somebody else thinks, or what the devil wants them to do. It is selfishness. Therefore, they have what they have. The Lord will correct us and tell us what we have done wrong so that we can ask forgiveness, turn to Him and do what is right

*“That they have sinned arrogantly.”* (Job 36:9) Many people are arrogantly doing things against the Lord and against people, and ultimately against themselves. They arrogantly, boastfully flaunt the wrongs they have done. That is why they have problems. We all have problems and issues but whoever calls upon the Lord will not be as affected as those who do not have the Lord in their life or heart.

*“He makes them listen to correction and commands them to repent of their evil.”* (Job 36:10) This is where the humbling of self comes in. We need to ask God's forgiveness, turn from the ways that are not of Him, and turn to what is. For that to happen we need to seek out what is of the Lord and what is not, what is blessed and what is cursed. *“If they obey and serve Him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment.”* (Job 36:11)

The peace of God surpasses all understanding. In other words, there may be no rhyme or reason for the peace, but you will have it in the middle of the chaos because the Lord is with you. Know that *“I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread”* (Psalm 37:25) because that is who the Lord is. Contentment is the ability no matter what state you are in. Whether you are abounding in much or have little, you are still content because you have the Lord in your life. His peace fills you and keeps you in His care.

We are not as the world does, always dealing with shortages, looking for surplus to our own advantage. The Lord takes care of His own as we seek first the kingdom of God. He will help us with what we will eat, what we will drink, what we will wear. *“But if they do not listen, they will perish by the sword and die without knowledge.”* (Job 36:12)

## HUMBLE YOURSELF AND TURN TO HIM FOR HELP

*“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.”* (James 4:1-2)

It is happening in our country right now as the thief is pitting people against one another. Friends, there is only one race, the human race. Everyone has been a slave at some time or another. In fact, Jesus said that we are a slave to the devil and his ways unless we have received Jesus and the Love of God into our heart, in which case we are not a slave anymore.

Jesus paid the price to set us free, but “to die without knowledge” happens, and people perish. *“My people are perishing.”* The Lord says He loves everyone. Color or race doesn’t matter. He loves people. He does not care about what you have done in your life. He loves you and wants to forgive you. He wants to clean you up and make you His child through the blood of Jesus that was given. But this will not happen if people reject the Lord and His ways: *“The godless in heart harbor resentment; even when he fetters them, they do not cry for help.”* (Job 36:13) No matter how the devil torments the godless, they refuse to call upon the name of the Lord Jesus to help them. They have no peace. They are tormented, and they harbor resentment. As a result they suffer and die.

Many people blame the Lord like Job did for his problems. Understand, the Lord only gives good and perfect gifts from heaven. He is not the one giving the suffering and sorrow and causing the wars. Rather, it is selfish, arrogant pride and refusal to do what the Lord says. The thief has come to bring sickness, disease, poverty, and commotion in people's lives. He wants to make trouble by stirring up hatred and bitterness and creating division between people.

Unless we pull together and receive the Lord's unity we will be resentful, bitter, hateful, angry, and hurting. The Lord has a better plan if people would just humble themselves and turn to Him for help. *“They die in their youth, among male prostitutes of the shrines.”* (Job 36:14) They worship false gods and are sexual immoral or into perversions. The Lord created male and female, but the devil runs rampant trying to make people not know who they are or what they are. How awful. See Romans, chapter 1 and 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, chapter 6.

## THE LORD IS WOOING YOU

*“But those who suffer He delivers in their suffering; He speaks to them in their affliction.”* (Job 36:15) In other words, the Lord wants to deliver us from the suffering. He wants to talk to us during those times.

When people are hurting, they often open themselves to the Lord because they do not want to hurt anymore. They will call upon the name of the Lord. But how will they do that unless they hear about Him? Christians need to be telling people about how good the Lord is and how He loves them. That is what Elihu was doing with Job. He explained, “You are “off” concerning what you say against the Lord. You believe in the Lord, but you do not know who He is.” Self-righteousness had come in because of his ignorance of that. We want to know who the Lord is because then we will know what He wants to do.

Elihu who cared about Job tried to explain to him so he could believe for right things rather than wrong things (you have what you believe). *“He is wooing you from the jaws of distress to a spacious place free from restriction, to the comfort of your table laden with choice food.”* (Job 36:16) This is the Lord's desire when the pressures of life come in on us. Things happen, but the Lord will woo us. It is an affectionate term, a courting term, that He wants us with Him, and He has a spacious place free from restriction. Worry and fear restricts. God's perfect love casts out all tormenting fear. The Lord's peace which surpasses all understanding will guard and keep your heart and mind in faith in Christ Jesus..

There are no limits with the Lord if we have faith in Christ Jesus, but our unbelief restricts them. *“Nothing will be impossible for you,”* the Lord says.

(Matthew 17:20) Whatever the Lord wants, you will be able to have if you believe Him and do what He says.

## BEWARE OF TURNING TO EVIL

The judgment due the wicked was upon Job, *“and justice have taken hold of you”* (Job 36:17) because he was guilty of sinning against God by not believing Him. Job spoke ignorantly of Him. He had what he was saying, and only the Lord could help him, the one he was talking against.

Elihu said, *“Be careful that no one entices you by riches; do not let a large bribe turn you aside. Would your wealth or even all your mighty efforts sustain you so you would not be in distress?”* (Job 36:18-19) Even people's wealth cannot help them in time of distress. When the devil is stealing, killing, and destroying, he is not going to allow people to enjoy their wealth. When you are always worrying and fearing about things, the restrictions come and close you in, and there is no freedom.

The devil promises freedom, but he actually creates slavery and bondage in people when they will not enter into the freedom the Lord has for them. The thief works in darkness. He tries to break up families, he tries to pit people against each other, *“Beware of turning to evil, which you seem to prefer to affliction.”* (Job 36:21) In affliction people turn and say and do other things. Even through injustice or affliction may have been done to you does not mean you now rob stores, start riots, and do other evil actions. That is the way of the devil, not the way of the Lord. *“God is exalted in his power. Who is a teacher like Him? Who has prescribed his ways for him, or said to him, ‘You have done wrong?’”* (Job 36:22-23)

## EXALTED IN POWER

Only the Lord does what is right, and He will show us those right ways to love Him and to love our neighbor as ourselves, to do good to others. The world's selfishness says, “I will take care of me and forget you.” But God's way says, “I care about you and I will do good to you.” When one does that, God's principle is in effect. The Lord then does good back to the person who does good to others.

The Lord is exalted in his power. He has the power to turn what is intended for evil around to something good. He has the power to change the circumstance or to enable a person to be content in the situation and ultimately to come out of it.

He will exercise that power on behalf of whoever calls on Him, working it in us and through us to others. As Jesus said, *“Behold I give to you authority over serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the devil. Nothing shall in any ways harm you.”* It is all in the name of Jesus. It is one thing to have the knowledge, but another to exercise and apply it. It does no good if one is using it in the wrong way or is not using it to help somebody.

# THE REAL LORD OF JOB

## No One Can Compare to Him

### Chapter Nine

#### POWER OVER EVIL

*“God is exalted in his power.”* (Job 36:22) The Lord has the power to do everything that is good. He is the Creator of all things, and there is nothing good that was not created by Him.

Jesus said, *“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”* (Luke 10:28) He was kicked out of the heavens because he tried to fight against the Lord. There is no fighting against the Lord because the Lord has all the power.

It was just for a moment. Satan was out, and that was it. He was cast down to the earth. Then he deceived Adam and Eve who had been given all dominion and power over God's creation. God gave it to man to rule for Him by His Spirit, but Adam and Eve ruined it by following the devil and giving everything up to him. However, the Lord has given us believers all authority and power in the name of Jesus over the wickedness of the devil, and the evil in the earth. Nothing shall in any way harm us. (Luke 10:18-20)

The Lord is exalted in His power because He has the power and authority to overcome all evil. He reigns. Jesus has taken His position now as the Lord of lords and King of kings. He gave dominion, authority, and power to those who have received Him as Lord and Savior, enabling them to do everything that needs to be done in the earth as He would have it.

We are God's agents working His works in this earth for the good of the people. The Lord is exalted in His power because when that power is exercised over evil, the Lord receives the glory and the praise. He gets the honor, for He is the Lord, and there is none like Him. It is important that we work the works of God in Jesus' name as the Lord directs us, today. This power is only to be used as the Lord directs, but many people do not know they have the power in Jesus name.

Information and knowledge came to Job that the Lord could turn around his captivity and his affliction if he would just humble himself under God's mighty hand, and cast the care upon the Lord who affectionately cared for him and watched over him. (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6-7) As He does for us today.

When people are going through trials, temptations and trouble, they often think they are powerless. But the Lord is exalted in His power and He will help whoever calls upon Him in the day of trouble. He will turn their captivity. What is intended for evil He will turn around to good to lift the affliction. He will forgive them their sin and separation from Him at that point. If they have committed actions against the will of God, they will be forgiven and they will give them up. When they give them up, the Lord in His power is able to do anything.

The Lord Jesus says, *"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."* (Matthew 17:20) God-faith is all it takes, for the power of God flows as we speak in Jesus' name. Whatever we speak on earth the Lord will honor in heaven according to His plan.

Therefore He is exalted in His power. He has the power, and He wants the power to be used for our good to set the captives free, to work the works of God, to deliver people from evil, and to allow His goodness to work. His power makes it happen. He is the only One with that power. Man does not have it apart from Jesus. With the Lord all things are possible to them who believe in Him and exercise the power, but people have to exercise it. That has been a problem with many in the church. They have not learned that the Lord has given authority and power to them to overcome whatever evil is happening in their lives. *Thank you, Jesus, for that authority and power to work the works of God.*

## THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE

Job was trying to tell the Lord who He is, what He has done, and how He was "off." Then the Lord basically communicated to Job, "Who are you? Who are you to tell Me, the Creator of the universe, how things are and how things are to be done?"

Job had become self-righteous, arrogant, and spiritually proud. He had said, *“Though you kill me, Lord, I will still praise you”* because he had the misconception that the Lord gives and the Lord takes away. That was a lie he was believing in his own head.

People make up their own thoughts not based on facts about the Lord, but about what they think (their opinions) of the Lord. What they basically have (when it comes to the Lord) is cumulative ignorance.

Who is like unto Him? Where were we when He made the heavens and the earth? Since when have we become His counselor?

## OUR TEACHER AND AUTHOR OF LIFE

*“Who is a teacher like Him? Who has prescribed his ways for Him, or said to Him, ‘You have done wrong.’ Remember to extol His work which people have praised in song.”* (Job 36:23-24)

The Lord is the Teacher about life and how it works. He is the one who alone knows how we are made and how we will operate. He gives information to us to help and heal us, such as amazing technology. The Lord is the author of all the good inventions and health solutions because who better than the Lord really knows how we work? He made us. He certainly knows how to heal us, preserve us, and keep us in His care.

If we would look to the Lord for understanding of life and how to live it in God's way, we would have a better life than many people. The knowledge people have is ignorance as far as the Lord is concerned. He alone knows how life can give life and how to have an abundant life. Remember Jesus says, *“I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly.”* (John 10:10) We can grow in the understanding of the Lord.

Amazing things can happen in a person's life in spite of all the evil and wickedness in the world. The Lord knows how to keep His own and how to sustain His people though all kinds of plagues and calamities. The Lord knows how to deliver His people from evil. *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers us out of them all.”* If we would just listen to what He says, by His power and wisdom we would have the solutions. God is a solution Lord. He is not interested in our complaining and

grumbling. He simply wants good to happen in the earth. Whoever calls to Him for goodness, He will make a way for them and delivers them out of the evil and the trouble. He will teach them His ways if they want to know His ways.

What right did Job have to tell the Lord that He had done wrong? He did not even know what was right or wrong. He was messed up. That is how many people are in their thinking, in their minds. They do not know who the Lord is, how He operates, and why He does what He does. So, you have man's perspective rather than God's perspective, and the two are vastly different.

## REMEMBER TO EXTOL HIS WORKS

Honor the Lord as the Creator of everything. People have said that life just happened or evolved, but the Lord of the universe made everything out of nothing. We need to remember to praise Him for that.

Many people worship the creation. They worship the sun. They worship the moon. They worship everything that was created by the Lord, but they do not worship or acknowledge Him. That is why they have problems. They lean to their own understanding and have no clue. Hence when trouble comes, which it will, it is because Adam and Eve went against God. They were removed from the Lord's perfect place and lost His image. They were no longer walking with Him, and death came. Thank God Jesus Himself then came to save us. In Him everything has been restored for those who believe in Him. *"The kingdom of heaven is within you."* Jesus prays it will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In heaven there is no more pain, sorrow, suffering, sickness, or death.

The power of death has been removed, for Jesus is the resurrection and the life. And so, *"Remember to extol his work, which men have praised in song. All humanity has seen it; mortals gaze on it from afar."* (Job 36:24-25) In many cases they do not acknowledge where it came from. More amazing than all the beautiful flowers and intricate parts of creation, the Lord made man as spirit, mind, and body. Unfortunately, without Jesus the spirit part does not have an opportunity to be in the Lord's perfect place.

We have a great God who is in the world and in our lives. He actually wants to be our healer, Jehovah Rapha, *“the Lord that healeth thee,”* and He knows how we work. He is the beginning and the end. He has no limits. Man cannot fathom that, especially fallen man, because everything has limits. There is a time to be born and a time to die.

## THE REAL LIFE GOES ON FOREVER

The real life of God begins the day you receive Jesus into your heart to be your Lord and Savior, and you are born again spiritually. Your first birth was a physical one and the second birth is spiritual. Your spirit goes on forever in God's plan. We simply go through to the other side. We die, yet shall we live. *“He or she who lives and believes in Me, Jesus says, will never die”* because we go from life to life in the Lord forever.

John, chapter 11, says that the number of our days are limited here on this earth, but the life that goes on forever is the real life. This present life is not all there is, but people try to hold on to it when they do not know about the life of God in Christ Jesus. We have true abundant life in God, forever in Christ Jesus. Do not forget that we have a mission in this life to honor the Lord, to worship Him, and to tell people who He is. We need to find out who He is and what He is about through the life of Jesus, and then share it. That is what He was doing with Job.

## NO ONE CAN COMPARE

*“He draws up the drops of water, which distill as rain to the streams; the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on mankind.”* (Job 36:27-28), and the Lord controls that.

The rain goes down into the ground nourishing everything. Without water there is no life, everything is desolate, but the Lord knows every drop of water that falls. He knows every good thing that is happening, He knows how many kernels will be in the corn. He has a system for everything, like how the crops grow and multiply. He is the Lord, and nobody can compare to Him. No devil has that understanding or knowledge, or can do what the Lord can do.

*“Who can understand how He spreads out the clouds, how He thunders from His pavilion, how He scatters His lightning about Him. This is the way He governs the nations and provides food and abundance. He fills His hands with lightning and commands it to strike its mark. His thunder announces the coming storm, even the cattle make known its approach.”*  
(Job 36:29-33)

The animals know when weather events are about to happen, for the Lord has put this within creation. Granted, the creation we have now and many of the events that seem to be going on are amiss because of a fallen world where the devil has come to steal, kill and destroy. He is causing many things in the earth that bring hardship, pain, and suffering to people, but we have authority as Jesus did over the storm. The disciples said, “Don’t you care, Master, lest we perish?” as the storm came up. Jesus stood up and said, *“Peace, be still”* to the storm and it ceased.

## HOW TO HEAL OUR LAND

Many things are caused by the devil to create harm and disaster. We have authority over them in Jesus’ name, and when we exercise it, things will cease. On the other hand, if people are not honoring the Lord and worshipping Jesus, and are not about God’s business, He shuts up the heavens. We need to repent and ask for His forgiveness that He may heal our land and turn it from wickedness. *“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and turn from their wicked ways, I will forgive their sin and I will heal their land.”* The Lord wants us to be blessed. He wants every good thing for our lives, but we need to humble ourselves before Him in Jesus’ name.

He takes care of and provides for us. We should not ever take for granted the goodness that the Lord is doing in the earth in spite of the fallen situation. The whole creation groans, waiting for the Lord to come back to remove all the evil that has caused problems in God’s creation as well. (Romans 8) But the Lord, in spite of what the devil is doing, loves His creation. He loves us as His people, believer and unbeliever alike. The Lord Jesus died to save all of us, giving Himself for us that whoever believes on Him will not perish but will have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

That is God's heart and desire. Jesus says, *"I have come to save the world. I have not come to condemn the world."* People condemn themselves by not receiving and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

## ABUNDANCE PROVIDED

*"Observe the birds. They don't toil or spin, and the Lord supplies and provides and takes care of his birds."* (Matthew 6) He takes care of the flowers. Take the time to smell those roses. They are beautiful and, in many cases, are fragrant, and enjoyable to the eye. The birds live off the flowers and the plants. *"Don't worry about what you will eat, what you will drink, what you will wear,"* even in a fallen world. *"Seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you."* Why is that? Because we have a loving Heavenly Father who cares for us. He says, *"Do not even take a thought about your life."* Do not worry or be afraid about anything because Jesus Christ is our Lord and we are about the Father's business, doing what He directs us to do.

We will have what He says He will give. Namely, divine life, health, provision, protection, and blessing in the world. We are learning God's ways, and His ways are eternal ways. They are always good and blessed. Whoever puts their trust in Him will never be ashamed. Everything you need for life, health, and godliness has already been given to you in Christ Jesus, for all the promises of God are yes in Jesus. They have been given that we might inherit the divine nature. (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1)

We now give our life back to the Lord, and we have His life. We honor Him, and we further the kingdom of God, getting the Word of God out to the nations. Then others might have the life of God like we have in Jesus, and they will not perish because they are learning about the promises of God. The Lord will cause His abundance to come in every way from the north, south, east, and west in every nation where people do what He directs them to do. Even supernatural provision will come. Whatever is needed will be there when it is needed under the Lord's supply.

Be alert for divine appointments because the Lord wants to touch and change others' lives through you as He has touched and changed your life in Jesus. Receive the blessing of the Lord today:

*“The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.”* May He equip you unto every good work as you grow in the understanding and knowledge of who He is and how He does things.

*Father, show us what You want and how You want to do it to Your glory. We thank You that we cheerfully, joyfully obey You, honor You, and do what You say because we know that is when we will get Your results to be healed.* Receive the shalom peace (nothing broken, nothing lacking) of God in Jesus’ name.

You became a vessel, God's good workmanship by the Spirit of God, as you believed and received Jesus to work His works in His name while it is still today.

# THE REAL LORD OF JOB

## The Lord in Psalm 145

### Chapter 10

#### COUNT IT ALL JOY

This study deals with suffering and how the church has viewed suffering with a lack of understanding. From Job's perspective, he was ignorant of who the Lord is and how He works.

Job should have been speaking about the Lord and believing Him. In contrast David wrote in Psalm 145 about the Lord and who He is. You see an entirely different perspective.

We know that when people are suffering, it is difficult because they normally have not gone through it. Those who have not had many trials fall apart and wonder when something does happen.

In James, chapter one, it says, *"Count it all joy when various trials, tests, and temptations come upon you."* For the Lord will develop patience and endurance as you go through situations. *"Through faith and patience we will inherit all the promises of God."* We will experience the goodness of God as the Lord sustains us. We are not counting it joy because of what is happening, because what is happening is not good.

We are counting it joy because the Lord that we know, love, and serve is greater than anything that we go through in this life. He has already gone ahead preparing the way because He knew what was going to happen, and He says, *"Do not be afraid or discouraged."*

*"For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9) He has already given a provision for your situation. The Lord knew what would happen to Job before it did, and He had a provision. Job came to a great realization in Job 3.25 about what occurred.

#### THE LORD WILL SHOW HIMSELF MIGHTY

Elihu shared the truth in order to help others know how to go through trials that are happening in life and to know that they have an amazing Lord who will deliver them out of all these things. *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all.”* Even the trials that we have caused by our own mistakes, our own thinking, and wrong actions, He will be faithful and just to forgive, cleanse, heal, deliver, and ultimately, exalt. We humble ourselves before the Lord, ask His forgiveness, seek His face, honor Him and do what He says. We cast all the care upon Him.

Psalm 145 describes who the Lord really is, as David expressed it. In time of trouble, in time of hardship, we should exalt and honor the Lord, worshiping and praising Him who loves and cares about us. He will sustain us even in the time of trouble. That is why James says, *“Count it all joy”* because we are actually having the opportunity to test and prove the faith, hope, and love that the Lord has put within us. The Lord will show Himself mighty in us and through us during those times. We will have a testimony (a praise report) to the glory of God.

The Book of Revelation says we overcome *“By the blood of the Lamb...”* (what the Lord has done for us in His great love) *“and the word of our testimony.”* We believe in the Lord's blood, life, and action, and all the goodness that comes as a result of who He is. God is love and He has made us to be loved. We now have become love, and we love others like the Lord loves us.

## PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER

In the time of trouble, *“I will exalt You, my God the King.”* (Honor Him as the Lord of Lords and King of Kings.) *“I will praise Your name forever and ever. Every day I will praise You and extol Your name forever and ever.”* (Psalm 145:1-2)

*I am going to praise and thank You no matter what is going on. In good times, hard times, hell or high water, I will honor You, Lord.*

When Job said, *“Though You kill me, I will still praise You,”* that was an “attitude.” Job said, “The Lord is unjust, but I am going to praise Him anyway in spite of what He is doing to me.” Job was deceived and caught

up in himself. It is like, "Well, whatever You have done to me, I will forgive You." Basically, "To hell with You, but I will forgive You anyway."

*"Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise. His greatness no one can fathom."* (Psalm 145:2-3) It is beyond anything we can imagine or think. How magnanimous is the Lord! Ephesians 3:20, *"Now to him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."* It is the resurrection power of Jesus that has come within us.

It is how we live our life by the Spirit of the living God. Resurrected, high and lifted up, is how the Lord lives within His people. He wants us to realize: *"Since you then have been risen with Christ, set your mind (your affection, your heart) on things above, not on the things beneath,"* (Colossians 3) not on what you are going through, the circumstances, or what others are doing. No, set your heart and your mind on the things above. Risen.

## THE PROPER ATTITUDE

With Christ, we go through things victoriously, not, "Poor me, why is this happening to me? Where's God?" Blaming God happens out of ignorance and spiritual pride. Is the Lord so far beyond? *"What is mankind that you are mindful of them?"* (Hebrews 5:6)

This should be our heart: *You are the Lord. Who am I? I am so thankful that You took notice of me, that You even considered me and loved me.* That should be our attitude towards the Lord. It is a privilege to be a child of God, not a right. We are not entitled to it. Why should the Lord do anything for me? He does it for His name's sake because of who He is. How He does things is up to Him. It is not for me to judge or to determine how He does and why he does what He does. *"One generation commends Your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."* (Psalm 145:4)

Look at the mighty acts the Lord has done. *"Do not forget all His benefits. Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases."* (Psalm 103:3) You don't ever have to fear again. You are under the Lord's care, under the shadow of the Almighty.

Tell people about His mighty acts. Rehearse all the good things the Lord has done in your life. Throughout the Book of Job you don't hear Job talking about anything that the Lord had blessed him with and done for him prior to what happened. Granted, in one day, everything he had and knew was true was gone, except he had his life.

His wife told him, *"Why don't you forget your God and die?"* He was devastated, yes, but he had that moment of revelation where the Holy Spirit was talking to him, Job 3:25, *"that which I feared the most is what came upon me."* However, he didn't take to heart that he was part of the cause of what was going on. It was not the Lord who took down the protection, it was Job.

Come to grips with the truth, humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, and in due season He will exalt you. *"Cast all your cares on Him, for He affectionately cares for and watches over you."* The Lord is good. He is perfect love, perfect mercy, perfect justice and truth.

No one can question the Lord (as Job was doing) about the Lord's integrity and the way that He has relationship with people. Nobody can do that justly and righteously, but it is what spiritual pride does. It deceives a person.

## PROCLAIMING HIS GREATNESS

*"They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty."* (Psalm 145:5)

Elihu sought to share that truth in order to get Job off of himself and off his circumstances. But Job refused to look at the fact that the Lord could deliver him out of it all. He should have stopped complaining and murmuring and disbelieving the Lord and going against Him, speaking out of his ignorance and spiritual pride, thinking he was more righteous than the Lord was and is.

*"And I will meditate on your wonderful works."* (Psalm 145:5) Usually when people are going through difficulties, they are not meditating on the Lord's wonderful works, nor recounting all the times in their lives that the Lord has seen them through and helped them. They are dwelling on the problem at hand, on the issue at hand, and their eyes are off the Lord and

onto themselves and their situation. It is sad, but it does not have to be that way.

*"They tell of the power of your awesome works — and I will proclaim your great deeds." (Psalm 145:6)*

At one time David was being hunted down by Saul who was after David to kill him because he was jealous of him. David had the opportunity to take Saul's life, to get rid of his problem, but no, he said, *"Touch not God's anointed."* (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 26:11) He still honored the Lord and still honored the King. Even though the King had lost the anointing and blessing of God, David still honored him. A lesson for today for people that have authority issues.

The Lord is the author of all authority, and He is the one who will deal with His authorities, not you or me. It is very important to understand that.

*"And I will proclaim your great deeds. They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness." (Psalm 145:6-7)*

Sing of your righteousness? Job was sitting on the dung pile, so to speak, scratching his sores and proclaiming his righteousness, and certainly not singing or proclaiming the Lord's righteousness. Seriously, he was questioning the Lord's righteousness, but *"The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and great in mercy."* (Psalm 146:8) This is who the Lord is — Gracious, and compassionate.

## THE LORD KNOWS THE TRUTH

With God's favor and blessing, He can do anything. Love never fails. We see how slow to anger He is when the Lord comes and sits Job down and tells him, "Now sit and listen to Me." What was really going on? Sometimes in our ignorance and spiritual pride, we think we know what is going on, but only the Lord knows the truth. *"If any seek wisdom,"* James, chapter 1, says, *"Let them ask God, who will not hold back anything or find fault with us, but will show us where we are erring."* That is exactly what the Lord does with Job because He loves him and He was not going to let him get away with his nonsense. As long as he was speaking his unbelief

and blaming God, he could not be healed. He could not be delivered because he was not believing the Lord or looking to the Lord.

To the contrary, the thief was having his way with Job, which is pathetic because it did not have to be that way. As David said, *"The Lord is good to all. He has compassion on all he has made."*

Job was saying, "The Lord doesn't even see my trouble. He doesn't understand my problems." It was far from the case. God knows our beginning from our end, and He has a plan to deliver us, to see us enter into His Promised Land and to receive all the blessings of heaven, which is ours in Christ Jesus (if we would look to Him and believe Him).

*"All your works shall praise you, O Lord, and Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power."* (Psalm 145:10-11)

Job was speaking only about himself and nothing about a delivering Lord who loved him and cared about him. He was certainly not waiting patiently on the Lord or counting it joy in what he was going through. He was defending himself to his friends and to himself and speaking foolishness, *"So that all people may know of your mighty acts the glorious splendor of your kingdom,"* (Psalm 145:12) advancing the gospel.

## GOD WILL MAKE A WAY

Whatever is intended for evil towards us, the Lord will turn it for good to His glory, and we will have a testimony about how wonderful the Lord's love and goodness is. This applies to those who believe the Lord in the time of trouble (whatever we are going through) that "The Lord is my Deliverer. He is my Healer. He is my Savior. He is my Lover. He is my Provider. He is my Life." Somehow He will make a way to see us through this to His glory and our good.

Everything the Lord does is eternal. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. His dominion endures through all generations. There is none like unto the Lord — all the power, all the glory, all the honor, and all the dominion is the Lord's.

The devil told the Lord, “If you take away all that you blessed Job with, then let's see if he still praises you and gives you the honor and the dominion.” Job did not give the Lord the praise. In a self-righteous way, he was not honoring who the Lord is, nor trusting and believing the Lord to deliver him. He was basically saying that he had to get through this himself, and refused to give honor to the Lord to allow the Lord to turn his captivity.

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon us. He has anointed us to set the captives free.”* The Lord does not want anybody in bondage or going through horrible things. The horrible things that are happening out there in the world are not happening because of God's hand.

They are happening because of a fallen world, and the devil is the lord of this world. Jesus made it clear in John 10:10, *“the thief has come to steal, kill, and destroy.”* He was the one working on Job. But *“I, the Lord, have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.”* That is what the Lord gives out. The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving towards all He has made.

## BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS

This is who the Lord is, and all the promises of God are yes in Jesus. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:1 tells us that all the promises of God have been given to us, that we might participate with Him in the divine nature. He has raised us up from being nobody to become somebody in Christ Jesus, who is our life. *“The Lord upholds all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down.”* (Psalm 146:14) This was Job's case, but he was not looking to the Lord to do anything for him. *“The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food at the proper time.”* (Psalm 145:15)

We never lack for any good thing as a child of the Lord. *“Give us this day our daily bread,”* Jesus taught the disciples. Today, the Lord's sufficiency is also here for us. No more, no less than what we need. He multiplies things so that we at all times have all sufficiency in order to bless others as well, because the Lord is not limited.

There are shortages in the world, but the Lord has no shortages. As we put our trust in Him, we will realize that, and we will see His provision. *“You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.”* (Psalm

145:16) That is who the Lord is. He wants to bless even those who are unbelievers. They are receiving blessing because of the believers.

The good that is happening is very obvious to me. In the Sermon on the Mount the Lord says to *“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. (Matthew 5:44-45)* From Job's perspective, he could understand the just being blessed, but the Lord blesses even the unjust because of the believers, because of who He is.

He wants unbelievers to become believers and put their trust in Him. Therefore, He will show Himself mighty in our behalf because He loves everybody the same. It is just that those who believe Him seem to receive more from Him. It is because He is able to do more for them when they receive the blessing from His hand, believing Him and telling everybody about Him. *“The Lord is righteous in all His ways and faithful in all He does.” (Psalm 145:17)*

Job seems to have forgotten all about that. *“Only good and perfect gifts come down from the Father of lights.”* In chapter 42, Job said the Lord had caused him harm, but it was His permissive will that allowed what happened to Job. It was not the Lord causing it to happen. Job caused it to happen. *“That which I feared the most is that which came upon me,” (Job 32:5).*

## OUR MERCIFUL LORD

The Lord stayed the hand of the devil so he could not kill Job. He actually could have died if the Lord had not in his mercy stayed the devil's hand. The Lord knew that Job would come out of this because it was God's good plan for him. *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all.” I will deliver Job out of this,* the Lord was thinking and saying. Still, Job needed to be corrected. It was time that the truth came out. Praise God, the Lord in His love sent Elihu to prepare the way to speak truth into him. Then the Lord Himself came. In the end, the Lord blessed Job beyond anything he could imagine or think. His trial was actually short compared to the whole span of Job's life. It is amazing how the Lord delivered him in spite of himself. That is who the Lord is.

*“The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on him in truth.”* (Psalm 145:18) Again, that was anything but what Job was doing. However, the Lord was there. If Job would have called to Him at any point, humbling himself under the mighty hand of God, the Lord would have forgiven him and helped him. *“He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.”* (Psalm 145:19) Isn't that spectacular? The Lord watches over all who love Him. But all the wicked He will destroy, and, ultimately, they destroy themselves. They destroy themselves by not receiving the Lord's love and provision.

John, chapter 3, says, *“I have come that [people] have life. I did not come to condemn people or to destroy them. I came to save them.”* If people are condemned, they condemn themselves by their unbelief and refusal to receive the love of God. Still, the Lord wants everybody saved. He wants none to perish. He wants everybody to have provision. He wants everybody to have life and blessing. That is what Jesus came to bring, and it is all in Jesus, God's provision.

*“My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever.”* (Psalm 145:21)

It is what the Lord deserves. He is the Lord and there is none like Him.

## WHAT DOES GOD KNOW ABOUT US?

Just think, the Lord loves you and me, and He cares about everything about us. In Matthew, chapter six, Jesus said that He knows how many hairs are on your head. He knows everything about us. He knows our beginning from our end. He knows that man had fallen away from Him. Throughout the Bible, from the fall of man to Jesus' return, it is all about the love of God and His plan to save us from the devil and from ourselves (the old, selfish, fallen self-righteous self). That is where Job was at that point. He was all about himself in his ignorance and self-righteousness. He would have a rude awakening and a wonderful discovery as the Lord was loving him and showing him who He is.

*“The Lord is righteous in all His ways. Gracious in all His works. The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth (in integrity,*

sincerely). (Psalm 145:17-18) *The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.*” (Psalm 145:15-16) That is who the Lord is. I cannot talk enough about Him.

I asked the Lord one time why so many things have happened to me. Not like Job was asking or getting into self-righteousness. It is easy to do, believe me. But no, I simply asked the question, and He said, “It is because, Son, I have given you a big mouth, and you are going to show forth My praises to the uttermost parts of the earth. You will tell the people about who I am and the wonders of My love, power, and dominion.” That is what we are about.

# THE REAL LORD OF JOB

## He Confronts with Truth

### Chapter 11

#### BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING

In this study we have been showing you who the Lord really is as He first revealed Himself to Job through Elihu the fourth man. Elihu spoke the truth about the Lord.

Let us look at the Lord Himself talking to Job, continuing where Elihu left off.

Be excited today, the Lord is revealing Himself to people all over the earth through His Word and through His Spirit.

Elihu said some wonderful things about who the Lord is in Job 37:21-22, *“Now no one can look at the sun, bright as it is in the skies after the wind has swept them clean. Out of the north He comes in golden splendor; God comes in awesome majesty.”* Awesome majesty tells it all. The Almighty is beyond our reach, and exalted in power.

We cannot begin to imagine the awesome power of the Lord. Paul said, *“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.”* (Ephesians 3:20) The Lord is so magnanimous, so awesome and great, beyond all our understanding. He has unlimited power, and it is all for the good and for love. That is what He is about. Except the Lord reveal Himself, there is no way that man could ever reach Him.

The world and mankind, apart from the Lord, basically say everything that was created happened by chance. No, it happened by divine revelation, divine action – directed, guided and purposed. The Lord does everything in order. There is never any confusion or chaos.

#### HE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OPPRESSION

In His justice and great righteousness, He does not oppress anybody. It is important to know that about the Lord. He is not behind the oppression that

is happening to people of the world. The Lord is not the one who is stealing, killing, destroying, and creating problems, strife, division, or wars. No, the Lord is not behind all the greed, selfishness, and pride of man. Only good and perfect gifts come from the Father of Lights. People oppress themselves or one another in their greed for power and fortune. Ultimately behind all the oppression in the earth is the devil who is influencing destitute people, futile in their minds, and are bent on harming others to exalt and honor themselves.

That is what is going on, but the Lord in His justice and great righteousness has nothing to do with such oppression. Therefore, men revere Him. He has regard for all the wise in heart. Those who are seeking truth, who want to be free of the oppression will receive blessing at the good hand of the Lord.

## THE LORD CONFRONTS IGNORANCE AND ARROGANCE

The Lord answered Job out of the storm, and He said, *“Who is this that darkens my counsel by words without knowledge?”* (Job 38:1) Job spoke ignorantly yet arrogantly, thinking he was speaking truth. It is better to keep your mouth shut than to speak false words that are going to influence people to false action.

*“Brace yourself like a man;”* (Job 38:3) the Lord said, as He confronted Job. The Lord is not going to let the fool, the scoundrel, and the scorner get away with their evil. No, the Lord will resist the proud and give grace, ability, and favor to those who humble themselves under His mighty hand. In other words, “Who are you, Job, to question Me about anything? Who are you?” Remember, the devil stood up against the Lord, and Man basically came into the same kind of working, challenging the Lord. The devil challenged Eve about who the Lord was. The devil was lying about who the Lord is, knowing full well that he had been kicked out of heaven because he challenged the Lord. The devil was setting man and woman up to fall, and consequently be removed from the grace and blessing of God.

*“Take heed what you hear,”* Jesus says. Because not everything that is spoken is truth. It may be truly spoken, but it may not be the truth of God.

You will have what you believe, and if you are not believing God's truth, you will not get the Lord's results for your life.

## ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUR WORDS

The Lord said to Job, *"I will question you, and you shall answer Me."* (Job 38:3) In other words, you will give an account for your idle words. Jesus said that everyone will have to give an account. Idle words are words that are not producing what the Lord wants produced.

At the creation the Lord spoke and said, *"Let there be,"* and whatever He spoke came about. He called things that be not as though they are, and they happened, and that is how God-faith works. In the same way, what we speak on earth the Lord honors in heaven if it is according to His will and His Word.

The Lord was challenging Job. You cannot just say anything you want. You are accountable and responsible for your words and for your thoughts. *"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."* See, we live in a day and an age where people think arrogantly that it is easy to say anything they want about anybody or anything.

There will be consequences to your words, and, ultimately, the Lord will judge every idle word that is spoken for better or for worse. Freedom of speech is not freedom to say false things, lies, gossip, or anything that will harm someone maliciously with evil intent. Our words are to be used to speak life, health, provision, protection, and blessing over one another. The Lord hates the false witness. That action causes harm to somebody. Jesus said that if you say anything to hurt another's reputation, you are a murderer. You can murder with your words, and you cannot sit there and maliciously talk about the Lord or about anything as Job was doing. You will be accountable and responsible to the Lord for what you say.

## THE CHALLENGE CONTINUES

The Lord was challenging him, *"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?"* (Job 38:4) In other words, "Where were you when I created everything?" Man tries to do away with the fact that there is a Living God who created everything there is. Man is a created being. Adam and Eve did not simple evolve. The Lord formed them. He created all the

vegetation, the animals, the sky, the mountains, everything was created by the Lord.

*“Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know.”* (Job 38:5) The Lord was mocking (in love) Job’s ignorance, for who does he think he is? Who did the devil think he was to try to take over the heavens? (*“Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.”*) Who is man that he thinks he can judge another, or find fault with another. *“If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word I do hope.”* (Psalm 130:3-5)

People think they are more important than they are. There is only One judge and law giver, and that is the Lord. (James 4:12) He was stretching Job, making him think about it. You cannot simply say things that are not true or speak out of your ignorance. If you do not know the answer, don’t make up something because that is a lie. Let there be no excuses. *“Let your yes be yes, your no be no. Anything else is sin,”* Jesus says.

*“Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone — while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? (Job 38:6-7)* as they were watching the Lord create everything.

“Where were you, Job, when I made the heavens and the earth? Since when have you become my counselor,” the Lord asked. “Job, everything you are, everything you have came from Me. Without Me, you would not exist, you would not even be.” The devil lost everything that the Lord created him to be and everything He gave him to do. *“Without Me, as Jesus says, “you can do nothing.”* It is the Lord’s presence that brings life and love and goodness into the earth. Without the Lord it would be truly hell on earth, but the Lord brings back that life and gives it abundantly to those who call upon Him. (John 10:10)

## JOB WAS ALL ABOUT HIMSELF

Job had gotten way out of bounds. He was blaming the Lord for what he had. “You are not listening to me. You are not doing anything in my behalf. You have forgotten me.”

However, Jesus says, *“The Lord knows how many hairs are on your head. He takes care of the birds and takes care of the flowers. Are you not of more value than all of them? Oh ye of little faith.”* The Lord is saying, “I order the heavens. I order the earth.” Here in Job, chapter 38, the Lord is basically asking, “Can you take them to their place? *What is the way of the of light? Where does darkness reside?*”

The Lord has created everything and orders everything, and He separates the light from the darkness, not just by the moon and the sun, but by His mighty hand all these things come to pass. *“Have you entered the treasury of the snow, or have you seen the treasury of hail, which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for days of battle and war? By what way is the light diffused, or the east wind scattered over the earth?”* (Job 38:22-24)

Job had no clue what the Lord was saying, or what he was doing. Job was all about himself, and that is what self-righteousness does. When calamity comes, you are only concerned about yourself. This is not God’s way. We have here the Lord of the universe who created the universe, who created everything that exists. What is man that you are mindful of him? (Hebrews 1) Who do we think we are? Come to your senses. God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.

Pride comes before the fall. That was the devil’s sin. He looked at himself and how the Lord had created him, and he forgot about being the Lord’s creation. He forgot about everything the Lord had done for Him, and he was deceived into thinking that he had done it himself. He would not have life or breath if it were not for the Lord granting life. This is why the Lord is opposed to what takes away life. Not just life, but good life, health, and provision. The Lord brings every good and perfect gift to people’s lives. He hates evil because evil seeks to take away from what He has intended for good, and it tries to keep it away from people. Not just take it away, but keep it away, and then steal, kill, and destroy. That is the thief, Jesus says. (John 10:10)

## MORE REVELATION OF OUR CREATOR

The Lord revealed Himself to Job. Let us get perspective on this. Where does the rain come from, or every good thing? *“Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades?”* (a star formation). *“Can you loosen Orion’s belt?”* (Job

38:31) The Lord set the stars in the sky. He knows each of them by name. He gave them their names. *“Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs?”* (Job 38:32) He moves the constellations during the different times of the seasons, and the Lord has done this and ordered the heavens. Everything moves by His laws of gravity, etc. *“Do you know the laws of the heavens?”* (Job 38:33) No, you do not know those things. Can you do anything about them? Absolutely not.

*“Can you set-up God’s dominion over the earth?”* (Job 38:33) Can you order that dominion? You see, man lost all the dominion the Lord had given him, and turned it over to the devil when he followed the devil rather than the Lord. The whole creation is groaning because man has damaged the earth. Man is cutting down the provisions (supply and demand). Man’s greed orders the world, and creates oppression upon people.

As we look at the Lord, we see He is not behind the oppression. Instead He will set the captives free from the oppression. Those who are oppressing people in the earth are going to be dealt with by the Lord. He will oppress.

If you roll the rock out on somebody, that rock will roll back on you. That is a spiritual principle. You do good to people, good will come back to you.

*“Can you raise your voice to the clouds and cover yourself with a flood of water?”* (Job 38:34) This goes on and on, the Lord is describing His creation to Job, saying, “You are a created being. I am the Creator.” The world and the people make idols and graven images, and worship the creation rather than the Creator. They do not want to acknowledge the Lord’s rule over them. (Romans, chapter 1) The devil as well, who is the lord of this world, has blinded people’s minds lest they receive the truth, the glorious light of the gospel, the love of God, be set free, and come back to the Lord.

## HUMBLE SELF AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE LORD

Until people can humble themselves under the mighty hand of God, they will not see the goodness of God and the blessing of God. We need to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Lord, God come in the flesh to save us, and humble ourselves. Job was not doing that. He was exalting

himself as being right, and the Lord being wrong. Until you humble yourself, there is no deliverance from your captivity.

And note, Job could not do one thing to change his captivity. People are like chickens with their heads cut off, running around trying to figure things out. Without the Lord and His wisdom and understanding, they can do nothing and accomplish nothing except make things worse. This is a very sad commentary on how pride works. It will fail, it will fall, and until a person humbles himself, his deliverance is not going to happen. But to those who have received God's plan of salvation, life, and deliverance, heaven is within them right now. *"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*

The Lord continued to talk to Job about creation, and how Job did not create any of it, and did not do anything. He had no control over his own life. Note, in a day he lost everything that he had, but the Lord did not take it away, the thief came to steal, kill, and destroy. In this case the Lord said to the devil, "you cannot take his life."

Job was dearly loved of the Lord, but as the Lord was speaking to him, He was correcting Job, making him sit and listen. Have you ever watched people in their arrogance and their pride? The fool and the scorner do not want to hear truth. They do not want to listen to it because they know better. They know how it works. They are their own worst enemy, while a wise person receives correction and instruction. The Lord disciplines those He loves because He wants them to have all His goodness and blessing. People need to come to their senses, humble themselves, and acknowledge the Lord is the Lord, not them, not us. The Lord is the Lord and He has a good plan for everyone, plans to give hope and a future, plans for good, not for evil, plans to prosper His people.

## WAKE UP TO THE TRUTH

The Lord sat Job down and said, "You need to listen to this, and I will tell you whether you want to hear it or not. This is the truth, and if you do not want the truth, then you will, as Jesus said, *'die in your sins.'* You will have calamity without solution, without reprieve, and you will die separated from the Lord forever, the second death." The first death is physical, and the second, spiritual death, will be sealed.

That is not God's plan for your life or my life. He wants nobody to perish. He wants everybody to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Job had to wake up. The Lord spent chapters 38, 39, and 40 talking to him, seeking to wake him up, come to his senses and come to a right perspective.

As long as you are thinking more highly of yourself than you ought, you are a fool. Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are written about the fool and the scorner, and their end is not good. They perish in their ignorance and in their wickedness.

*"The Lord said to Job: 'Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him!'"* (Job 40:1) In other words, "Who are you to correct Me? You are opposing Me at this point." Note: The Lord uses the term "Almighty," meaning "I am the one who rules, I am the one who reigns."

*"Let him who accuses God answer Him!"* (Job 40:2) "You accuse Me, answer Me." Everybody has a right to face their accuser. The Lord is saying, "Okay, you think you have accusations against Me, speak them forth. Let's hear them."

## LEARN YOUR PLACE

*"Then Job answered the Lord: 'I am unworthy — how can I reply to You? I put my hand over my mouth. I spoke once, but I have no answer — twice, but I will say no more.'"* (Job 40:3-5)

The Lord caused Job, in love, to humble himself before the Lord. "You have got to say that you have no rights. You are nothing without the Lord, and you have spoken against the One who has blessed you, the One who has given you everything that you have and are." This goes on all the time out there. As you look at your own life and your own heart, I am sure you have done it a time or two. We have all spoken out of ignorance.

*"Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm: 'Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.'"* (Job 40:6-7) In other words, "I am not finished yet." This is important for Job. The Lord in His love needed to make sure that all disrespect, confusion, nonsense, self-righteous, and arrogant ignorance was out of Job, and that he knew his place, submitted to the Lord, under the shadow of the Almighty. It is a

marvelous place to be. I thank God every day that we learn our place, and His place. He is the Lord, He is the One we worship, He is the One we honor, and as such, if we honor the Lord, He will honor us, and exalt us in due season.

## YOU CANNOT DO ANYTHING WITHOUT THE LORD

*“Would you discredit My justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself?”* (Job 40:8) Self-righteousness justifies itself. *“Do you have an arm like God’s, and can your voice thunder like His?”* (Job 40:9) Basically, you cannot create anything, you cannot do anything apart from God. In John 15, Jesus said, *“Every good thing comes from the Lord.”*

*“Then adorn yourself with glory and splendor, and clothe yourself in honor and majesty. Unleash the fury of your wrath, look at all who are proud and bring them low, look at all who are proud and humble them, crush the wicked where they stand. Bury them all in the dust together; shroud their faces in the grave.”* (Job 40:10-13)

In other words, you talk big, but you cannot do anything. Look at where you are. Look at what is going on. *“Then I myself will admit to you that your own right hand can save you.”* (Job 40:14) In other words, “You cannot save yourself, but I will admit it if you can do all those things, and you can save yourself.” The fact of God is nobody can save themselves, and without the Lord we can do nothing. Thank you, Jesus, for coming to save us.

The Lord then talked about the dinosaurs, the brontosaurus, the behemoth, about leviathan. They were all created by Him. *“Who has claim against Me? Everything under heaven belongs to Me.”* (Job 41:11) “Job, you do not have anything without My good provision.”

## GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Man takes credit for everything like the devil did, whose influence in man tries to take credit for everything. But credit will go to where credit is due. Honor will go to where honor is due. Man honors himself, but who is man, what is man’s honor? It will pass away. All the credentials, all the accolades, all the accomplishments will be forgotten as time goes on. But what is of the Lord is eternal and will go on forever. When the Lord honors

you and exalts you, you will be honored forever and exalted forever with Him because your life is hid with Christ in God.

The Lord loved Job enough to spend all these chapters on him. The Lord is not into boasting about Himself. He knows who He is. He was showing Job His perspective. Let's get the real perspective: "Where were you when I created the heavens and the earth? Since when have you become My counselor? You are talking to Me about justice, you are talking to Me about how you can do this and that, and it is all talk." There was not anything that Job could do, and if it had not been for the Lord sparing his life, know this, the devil would have killed Job after he had used him and abused him. But the Lord stayed his hand, and that is what the Lord is doing right now. Why He has not come already is because He is giving people opportunity to turn to Him, humble themselves under His mighty hand and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved. The only reason is the Lord loves the people, believer or unbeliever alike, and He does not show partiality. He is not in favor of one group over another group.

## JESUS AS LORD AND SAVIOR

Every person will stand before the Lord someday and give an account for his or her life, for blessing or cursing. What have we done with the Lord's one and only provision for salvation and life? Have we received Jesus into our heart as Lord and Savior? Have we humbled ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and let the Lord rule over us, or are we still in our sin, our deadness, rejecting the Love of God, condemning ourselves by not receiving His life. Where do we stand? This is the issue, the question.

The Lord is coming back. I do not know that He might not come back in the next moment, but He has given time. It is coming to an end for us to receive His life, or we will have the wrath of God. This is very important. Do not wait another moment. Humble yourself under God. In due season he will exalt you. *"Cast all your cares upon Him for He affectionately cares for you, and watches over you."* (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6-7)

It is all about submitting one's life to the Lord and confessing, "Jesus Christ, You are my Lord. I am not my lord, nobody else on this earth is my lord, no devil is my lord, but Jesus Christ, God come in the flesh to save me, to forgive me, to love me, You are my Lord, Lord Jesus."

The Lord says nothing on earth is the equal to what He has created without fear. What belongs to the Lord? He is talking about His dinosaurs, but understand, you in Christ Jesus are the Lord's new creation—better, stronger, higher than anything else in the earth. The best of the best through faith in Christ Jesus. The Lord gives you all this. You do not have to strive for it, compete for it, or compare yourself for it. It is not about how much you have or do not have, or how good you look, which is all external. It is about the internal. The Lord has given you His heart in Christ Jesus. You are born of heaven now, not of this earth. Higher than anything that is in this earth, worthy to praise the Lord and give Him honor and glory that is due His holy name. He makes us holy, He makes us worthy. You are the Lord's new creation, born of heaven.

How exciting! Realize it. The best of the best. So, continue to submit yourself to God. Humble yourself under His mighty hand and in due season He will exalt. Forever with Him we will be in the new heaven and new earth. This is God's truth.

## THE REAL LORD OF JOB

### Let God Be True and Every Man a Liar

#### Chapter 12

#### HOW GOOD GOD IS!

The Lord is a good God who loves us with an everlasting love that never changes. He will never leave us, forsake us, or abandon us. Therefore, we can boldly say, *“The Lord is my Helper. I will not fear what man shall do to me,”* and the Lord says, *“For I know the plans that I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.”* (Jeremiah 29:11)

We are to be to the praise of God’s glory, working hand in hand, side by side with Him. He is not out there doing His own thing, and we are not here doing ours. He wants us to be one, where He fills us with His holy presence and every good blessing from heaven because we are His children.

Job was as far off in his thinking as are many people today, which is why they do not get the Lord’s results. To speak against the Lord undermines success. James, chapter one, says, *“A double minded person is unstable in all his ways and cannot expect to receive anything from the Lord.”* The Lord says to count it all joy when various trials, tests, temptations come upon you. Job was doing anything but what the Lord told him to do because of his ignorance. The Lord had given him all the good things, but clearly the devil had taken away everything from him.

The Lord is a good God, a loving God, and has revealed Himself to us in Jesus Christ: God come in the flesh to save us and live for us, die for us, and pay the price that separated us from Himself. He removed that price, and paid the devil off. That is, Jesus’ blood has set us free. He changed our fallen nature to a God nature. *“Since you then be risen with Christ set your mind, your heart on things above, not on things beneath.”* (Colossians 3:1-2) Our citizenship is now in heaven, and as a child of God we have all the rights, privileges, and promises the Lord has given us to overcome in

this life. Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is now within you. Everything that is in heaven is ours in Christ Jesus.

## TRUTH REVEALED

Job had no understanding. The Lord says, *“My people perish for lack of knowledge, and you do not want to get it.”* (Hosea 4:6) We want God’s truth, and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. He will reveal the truth to whoever asks Him and is seeking Him for it.

The church has been taught many things since Jesus ascended into heaven and took His place as Lord of lords and King of kings. Over the years it has succumbed to some human traditions and doctrines. Jesus talked about this in His time. *“In vain you do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men, the doctrines of devils (mistruths). You worship Me with your lips, but your heart is far from Me.”* The Lord is looking for people who want His truth and will continue in His Word to know the truth, and the truth will set them free and make them free.

Praise God, the Lord loved Job and brought him to a place where he humbled himself under His mighty hand. That is all that man can do because Jesus says, *“Apart from Me, you can do nothing.”* (John 15:5) *“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23) There is none that doeth good, no not one.”* (Romans 3:12) Only through faith in Jesus can one be restored to the life that He really has for us.

Understand, Job lived before Jesus came, but was probably there when Jesus appeared to the people who had died before His coming. It says in the book of Peter that Jesus went down and preached the gospel to those people so they could have opportunity to receive their Savior. (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:6)

That will not happen again. Jesus died and has risen from the dead, ascending to His place as Lord of lords and King of kings. There is no more sacrifice for sin, but whoever believes upon the Lord Jesus and what He has done to save them, taking away their sins and separation from God, will not perish but will have everlasting life.

## THE GREATER ONE DELIVERS

Today, you can make Jesus your Lord and Savior that you might have the life of heaven and not be under the devil's torment. Remember, in one day Job lost everything. Before that time, the Lord had a hedge of protection around him. The devil saw that he could not touch Job. How awesome is that? Wouldn't you like that the devil touches you not? In Christ Jesus it can be the case, but in the meantime, *"Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all."* (Psalm 34:19) Jesus taught us, *"In the world you will have tribulation, but fear not, I have overcome the world."* In Christ Jesus, no matter what comes against God's people or God's church, the gates of hell cannot prevail against the things of the Lord and who the Lord is. *"Greater is He who is in us than he that is in the world."* You have to remain attached to Jesus, and then the Lord does everything that He says He will do.

We need to know what the Lord will do, and what He will not do. We need the wisdom of God to go along with the Word of God. The Lord says, *"If any lack wisdom, ask Me."* He will show you what is going on, why it is going on, and how to deal with it. He always delivers His people and sets them in a good safe place.

The Lord did not take the hedge down, testing Job. No, the Lord simply said to the devil, "He is already in your hand" (meaning, the hedge is down). Who took it down? Job took it down by his fear. Fear is not faith in God, and we have to understand that. Many times people are praying their fears. The Word says, *"Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."* (Matthew 11:24)

Job should have dealt with his children about what they were doing and how they were living. Note, not only did his children die for their sins against God, but Job took himself outside of the protection of the Lord.

## ACKNOWLEDGE WHO THE LORD IS

The greatest point of wisdom and understanding is to acknowledge who the Lord really is. In chapter 42, Job replied to the Lord, *"I know that you can do all things."* That needs to be right on the top of the list. The Lord, our Creator, is the one who can do all things. No man can, not a bunch of people together can do it, no devil can do it. The Lord is the Lord, and there is none like unto Him. Everything in heaven, earth, and under the

earth has to bow to the name of Jesus, the name above all names. There is no one like the Lord, and people need to acknowledge Him. The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord.

Job humbled himself and came to a place where he said, “You are the Lord, I am not the Lord, and I humble myself in Your presence.”

No plan of the Lord can be thwarted. No devil, no evil people, not anything can hinder the Lord’s plan from being accomplished. The Lord reigns and rules. Come to a place where you understand that. That place is where blessing will start to happen in your life. You do not rule your life, nor does anybody else. The Lord is a good God who loves you and cares about you forever, and wants you with Him in His new heaven and new earth. All will be removed, and even the power of death will be taken away. There will be no more death, only life forever in the Lord’s presence.

*“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,”* Jesus said when He was here on earth. For those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, all of what belongs to heaven is theirs right now in Christ Jesus. We cannot be ignorant of these things.

## LET GOD BE TRUE

Job came to a place where he no longer talked about how self-righteous he was, or how everybody else was wrong, and how the Lord had given him a bad deal. He came to understand that he was totally ignorant and did not know what was really true.

Job said, *“You asked, ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’* (Job 42:3) (The Lord was calling him out in regard to his ignorance. “What are you that you can talk about the Lord of the universe this way and think you have something to say, or you have something against the Lord? He is totally just, totally true, totally loving in everything he says and everything he does.”)

*“What is man, Job, that I should be mindful of you?”* (Psalm 8:4) Because the Lord is love, He is mindful of us and cares about us. He has good plans for us, and He wants us to fellowship with Him, being blessed in all that we have and are. That is who the Lord is.

*“Surely, I spoke of things I did not understand,”* Job admitted, *“things too wonderful for me to know.”* (Job 42:3) Instead of seeking the Lord and listening to what He had to say, Job had been caught up in defending himself to his friends, and wanting to be right. That is what pride does. It always has to be right. *What I say is the truth. My opinion matters, it counts.* However, to the Lord our opinions are nothing, they mean nothing. He is concerned about His truth. What He says is truth, and everything else is a lie. *“Let God be true but every man be a liar.”* (Romans 3:4) That is the case because only what the Lord says is the truth, and man certainly does not understand God’s truth or who He is unless the Lord reveals Himself to us. Thankfully He has done that in Jesus Christ, who came to reveal who the Father is so that we might know the truth.

The Lord revealed Himself to Job because He loved Job. He did not want him out in the darkness, suffering. Understand, there is a belief that all the things Job went through happened within a six month period of his life. It was God’s mercy, and in His mercy He gives opportunity to everyone to repent and turn from their wicked ways and their ignorant thinking, humbling themselves.

## TURN AWAY FROM YOURSELF TO THE LORD

He gives everybody opportunity to say, “Lord, forgive me, I have spoken about things too wonderful for me. In most cases I have not even thought about You.” Life was all about me trying to figure it out, running here, running there, going to powerful people who are ignorant and do not know anything, and who really do not have power to do anything. That is the devil’s deception. The devil thought he could war against the Lord and win. What a joke as the Lord just kicked him out of heaven in an instant. It was not even a battle. It was over as soon as the devil went against the Lord, and he was removed from heaven. He had no place, no power, no nothing except what the Lord had given him. Any good that he had had came from the Lord, but when he thought it was himself and all about himself (who he was and what he could do), that is when he lost it all.

When you quit acknowledging the Lord for the fact that you live and breathe and have your being, you will have nothing and you will come to an empty end. Nobody will remember you ever existed until you humble

yourself under the mighty hand of God. In Christ Jesus the Lord has given us life forevermore with Him.

Job spoke to the Lord,

*“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’”* (Job 42:4)

*“I have heard of you by the hearing ear, but now my eyes see You.”* (Job 42:5) (In other words, “I know who You are, You revealed Yourself to me.”)

*“Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”* To repent is to turn away from yourself, your thinking, your opinions, and all you considered important to say. It is nothing compared to knowing the Lord Jesus Christ.

## THE REALITY OF A LOVING GOD

Paul said that he considered everything he had in this life, everything of gain, was nothing for the sake of knowing Christ Jesus his Lord and Savior, and being found in Him. (Philippians 3:8) That is all that matters. From there the Lord exalts us as we humble ourselves before Him.

It is God’s lovingkindness that leads us to change. The Lord did not beat Job up, but He showed who He is. When Job saw the reality of the presence of the loving, living God that cared about him, he said, “Who am I?” He humbled himself, inviting the Lord to take His place in his life as Lord and Savior.

When Job humbled himself and acknowledged the Lord, the Lord turned his captivity away from him. He restored Job’s life, and all that he had was better than ever. He discovered that the Lord is the one who is important, that great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. He knows how to deliver His people from evil, and establishes them in His ways forever and ever.

The Lord of the universe has set His love upon us, and He wants us to have all that He has. It is beyond anything we can imagine or think. I like the verse, Ephesians 3:20, *“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us. To Him be the glory in the church.”*

## MORE BLESSED TO GIVE

The Lord has purpose and plan and reason for everything He does. Even as He calls us to honor Him and give Him the first fruit of our substance, He has a plan, and intends to provide for His people who give. *“Give, and it will be given unto you, pressed down, shaken together, running over shall the Lord cause people to give to you.”* (Luke 6:38)

Provision comes from the Lord in many, many ways. Everything in life that He does is centered around “give and receive, sow and reap.” He always intends to cause increase, but if you do not sow a crop, you do not reap a crop. If you do not give love, you are not going to get love. If you do not forgive, you will not be forgiven. Give and you shall receive. These are God’s principles and promises. Then His prosperity happens because it is all about His presence. In His presence is fullness of joy, and in giving there is fullness of joy, and receiving comes.

As Jesus said, *“It is more blessed to give than it is to receive”* (Acts 20:35) because it is in the giving that the receiving will happen. Expect as you are hilariously giving to the Lord. (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9) He loves a cheerful, hilarious giver. What you are doing is honoring and obeying the Lord joyfully and thankfully. You are not even thinking about how much you are giving or doing because of the sheer pleasure of knowing that the Lord is the One who is giving you everything to give. He has made you everything that you are, and is doing awesome things in your life which you now have the privilege to share. As you give, you give to the Lord, and He causes your barns to be filled. (Proverbs 3:9-10 & Malachi 3) He opens the windows of heaven and pours blessings that you cannot hold. You are not intended to hold it all! You are intended to give it out, and as you keep giving, it keeps coming spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and in relationship because that is who the Lord is. He does it in you and through you.

He told me years ago that greedy people cannot honor God, nor can they give to the work of the Lord because they are all about self. Only when they have benefit do they give. In fact, in Malachi, chapter three, the people were saying. “What benefit is it to us to give to the Lord?” The Lord called them God-robbers. Their heart was not with Him. They were

not hilariously, joyfully participating in what the Lord was doing. He is a hilarious giver, a cheerful giver, but they were only about themselves.

Such people will not receive anything from the Lord. To the contrary, as Malachi, chapter three, continues, those who honored the Lord and were thankful to Him gave to Him, and the Lord honored them. He says that those are the people who will make up His treasured possession some day when He returns.

## NONE LIKE UNTO ME

Look to who the Lord of Job really is. He is the same Lord from cover to cover, Genesis to Revelation, and forevermore. The Alpha, the Omega, the beginning, and has no end. He is the Lord, and there is none like unto Him.

He told me one time, “Son, just call me magnanimous. I am so great, I am beyond any understanding. I am the Lord, and there is none like unto Me.”

At one time I was sitting before a meeting, and was going out to minister to God’s people as the Lord would have it. I was just sitting there with my hands on my face, and I began crying before the Lord. Out of my mouth came, “I thank you, Lord, I’m not You.” We are not here to carry the cares of the world. We are not here to save the world. We are not here to do anything but worship the Lord. The Lord has already saved the world in Christ Jesus. We are simply here to do what the Lord directs us to do — no more, no less.

He is the Lord. He gets all the praise, all the honor, all the glory. Our life is hid with Christ in God, and apart from Him we are nothing. But, friends, with Him all that He has is ours in Christ Jesus. We should be having the most exciting amazingly wonderful life that anybody could ever have. We are in this world, but we are not of it. The life of heaven is ours in Christ Jesus.

My prayer today is that people all over the earth would come to realize how good the Lord is, and how much He loves them. Jesus, God Himself, came to save them and to make them into His image. They are heirs of promise, co-workers with the Lord about His purpose to bring others the knowledge of the love of God that is theirs in Christ Jesus.

So, let us keep up the good work of God. It is a privilege to serve Him. We are going to finish strong, and go out in glory. The Lord in us, with us, for us, around us, to us, and through us.

Be exalted, Lord, today in Jesus' name.

# THE REAL LORD OF JOB

## The Eternal One

### Chapter 13

#### ALL WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT

Here is the conclusion of the story of Job, how the Lord revealed Himself to Job, and how Job humbled himself under the mighty hand of God. God's lovingkindness leads people to repent and to change their opinion, their thinking, to give up their ways, and to renounce them, to renounce the devil's ways, to turn to the Living God for life, to do things the way the Lord would have it.

It was Job's heart to serve the Living God. He came out of the deception he had been in, and the Lord turned his captivity.

What many do not realize is that whether you believe in the Lord or not, whether you believe creation happened or not, the Lord will someday have a reckoning with you. All people will have to give an account for their life and their actions to the Lord. It will not be, "I don't want to do that, or I don't feel like doing that." No, this is mandatory. The Lord will demand it of every person to give an account for their life for better or for worse.

Job had an encounter with the Lord as his captivity was being turned around. He could have continued in his ignorance and died without anybody or anything. Nobody would have cared or thought differently if he had not turned around and repented. He acknowledged the Lord for his life and sought God's face and forgiveness after the Lord revealed Himself to him. He was a wise man in that he humbled himself and turned back to the Lord. Job realized that it was the Lord who had done every good thing for him in his life and for his family. Everything that he had was because of the goodness of the Lord. And so, He forgave Job and showed him mercy. The Lord didn't even have to come and talk to him about the situation, nor did He have to send Elihu to speak truth and sense to him. The Lord could have let him perish in his ignorance and evil ways because self-righteousness is evil. It is pride, religious pride, which basically says, "I am God, and I determine what I will have, what I will not have, and the Lord is

the bad guy, and I am the good guy.” That is basically the deception that the devil got into. It is an anti-authority working.

Note, the Lord revealed Himself to Job. That is His loving kindness. In Jesus Christ, the Lord has revealed Himself to all people, that whoever believes on the Lord Jesus will not perish, but will have everlasting life. But we have to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and in due season He will exalt us.

After the Lord had spoken to Job, He turned to Eliphaz, the Temanite (one of Job’s three “friends”). In time of trouble you find out who your friends are.

### HOW HAVE YOU SPOKEN OF HIM?

When people cannot use you any more, they have a tendency to disappear. As long as Job had great wealth people were clingers, and hanger-oners, and the family came around, but when he went through this time, they all disappeared. It is when a person is down that other people’s attitudes and agendas show themselves for what they are. These three friends were really trashing Job, saying that his belief was wrong. The Lord said to Eliphaz, *“I am angry with you and your two friends because you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has.”*

Even though Job was not always speaking what was right, the Lord covered him and showed his friends that they were not as important as they thought they were, that they were wrong in what they were saying. If you look closely at what these three friends said about Job and about the Lord (and how the Lord operates), you get a pretty good understanding of how ignorant people in the church think about the Lord.

Note: the Lord said they were all wrong about what they said of Him. Many people who go to church are not getting God’s results because they do not know who the Lord is, what He does, how He does it, and why He does it. It is very important that we have the truth that will set us free.

*“Now, take seven bulls, seven rams, go to my servant Job, and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves.”* (For themselves, not for Job.) All they had done was criticize Job, finding fault. Then he found no peace, no joy, no

encouragement, no relief from them. They had it in for him as so many people do when things are going hard for folks.

But not the Lord! The Lord disciplines those He loves, and He encourages, helps and restores us, as you can see the Lord was doing with Job in his ignorance. The Lord did not want him to perish. He wanted him to come back to the place where he would be able to receive the blessing of the Lord, and that happened when he humbled himself, acknowledged the error of his ways, and acknowledged the justice and truth of the Lord.

*“My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken the truth about Me as my servant Job has.”* (Job 42:8) So the three friends did what the Lord told them, and the Lord accepted Job’s prayer.

There is always a blessing when you pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven, who causes the rain to fall on the just and the unjust. It is very important that we believe God’s best for one another.

Sometimes it is better not to say anything than to speak out one’s own opinion and thoughts about situations. You know, I have seen people say, “The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord” at funerals. That is what Job said, but he was ignorant. It was not true. The Lord had given the life and blessing, but the devil was the one that took it away. Hence, what was said about the Lord was wrong and injurious to people’s understanding of who the Lord is because it was a lie.

## POOR NO MORE

After Job had prayed for his friends (I want you to see this because people have been taught about poor Job, how he suffered at the hand of the Lord, and how this had happened, and that had happened, and they say, “Poor Job.”) Look at him from God’s understanding: This is not poor Job. This is prosperous Job. What happened when he prayed for his friends? The Lord made him prosperous again, which means the Lord was the One responsible for making him prosperous to begin with.

Get rid of poverty thinking. The Lord will supply everything that one needs for life and for godliness. He has already given it. *“Everything the Lord has given for life and godliness has been given in Christ Jesus.”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2)

Job was prosperous again, and the Lord gave him twice as much as he had before. This ought to crucify the poverty thinking in the Body of Christ. The Lord wants His people to prosper and be in good health. The Lord wants His people to be able to have so they can give. (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9) The Lord wants us to have all sufficiency at all times so that we are able to do all that the Lord would have us to do for others. We are being taken care of, and the sufficiency is to advance the kingdom of God, to be about God’s purpose in the earth.

In Malachi, chapter three, it says that all the nations around will call you blessed because you honor the Lord, and it will show who the Lord really is. See, the whole world seeks after money, fame, fortune, health, wealth. Solomon received all that from the Lord because he did not ask for what the world sought after. He asked for wisdom and understanding to know the Lord and to lead God’s people in the way that was pleasing to the Lord.

How amazing that Job received twice as much as he had before. Why? Because the Lord loved Job, and the Lord loved the witness of Himself in Job’s life. The Lord is looking to and fro across the earth for somebody to whom and through whom He can show Himself mighty, and it is a witness to the glory of God.

Ever since I was a little fellow I wanted to be a channel of God’s abundance in the earth. It took a little different path than what I thought, although I never leaned to my own thinking or understanding. I acknowledged the Lord in all my ways, and He directed the path. He taught me that the way to cure poverty in the earth is through the Word of God. We need God’s truth to get to His people, and His principles and promises will get rid of poverty in the earth. Spiritual poverty, physical poverty. The Lord honors His truth, His principles, and His promises, and this works in every country in the world.

His principle: *“Give and you shall receive pressed down, shaken together, running over will the Lord cause to come back to you as you honor Him.”*

God's principles and promises bring glory to the Lord and for the good of the people.

## BLESSING RETURNED

As the Lord blessed Job, made Him prosperous again, and gave Him twice as much as He had before, all that the devil had stolen was returned and doubled. All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him at his house. Oh, that might not seem to be any different than what they had always done because they loved to come to Job's table to have all kinds of good things. But in time past, friends, they were coming to get something from Job. See how God's prosperity and blessing works.

What changed? They comforted him and consoled him over all the trouble the Lord had brought upon him. You have to look at that closely, as you look at the story. Who put the hedge of protection around Job? The Lord did. The devil said, "If you take down that hedge of protection so I can touch him and steal from him, then let's see if he still praises you." And Job did praise the Lord for a while, but eventually he got into self-righteousness. He went outside of the blessing.

Who gave to him? The Lord gave to him. Who took away from him? It was not the Lord sending him all these problems. When Job realized that he had gotten outside of the protection of God by His fear of what would happen for evil, the Lord told the devil, "He is in your hand." That does not mean the Lord took down the hedge of protection. Job took down the hedge of protection by his fear which put him in the devil's hand so he could steal, kill, and destroy. The Lord stayed the devil's hand saying, "You cannot take his life." The Lord in His mercy protected Job. The devil could have taken his life if the Lord had not stayed the hand, which later allowed Job to come back. It does not matter if you lose everything because if you have the Lord, you have everything. The Lord can bring back whatever the thief took and more, and double it.

The trouble did not come from the Lord, but it has been taught in churches for years and years that the Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Well, I would not want anything to do with a God who gives and then takes it away.

Once Job humbled himself under the mighty hand of God, asked the Lord's forgiveness, that hedge of protection went back up. The blessing went back up. The protection went back up. The prosperity filled back up, "double," it says. and more. Then his family, each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring. What a miracle! Those were the same people who always came to share in the abundance of Job. Where were they during the time when he was going through trouble? It does not really matter, does it? Love keeps no record of wrongs. They were all there now.

Note the change of heart. They brought pieces of silver and a gold ring to the one who had a double portion of God's provision and prosperity. The Lord blessed the later part of Job's life more than the first. Better than ever was the rest of his days. The book of Job does not talk any more about trouble, or anything happening. Instead, the blessing of God: He had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, 1,000 donkeys. Remember, these were all removed from him in a day, but now the Lord blessed it back and multiplied his provision when Job got right with Him and understood who the Lord is, what He was about, and how He does what He does. He is a good God who loves His people.

Job also had seven sons and three daughters more. He named the daughters. Nowhere in the land were there found women as beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.

In their culture this was not done. It was only the men who received the inheritance, but Job blessed his daughters as well, and the Lord gave him back a whole new family in the restoration of the Lord. After this Job lived 140 years. I want to add that he still had the wife who told him, "Why not forget your God and die." She was part of this blessing and this blessing happened.

The Lord made her a believer as well. After this Job saw his children to the fourth generation, and so he died old and full of years. I say, blessed.

## ON TO ETERNITY

Blessed is not even the word for it. This was not just about physical blessings but health blessings and wealth blessings. Job is known all over the world as an example of how the good Lord turned his captivity. By the

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way, captivity being turned from cursing into blessing became a praise report: The Lord saved him, healed him, delivered him, gave him back double what he had before, gave him more years of life with no trouble, and on and on and on. How good does it get? This blessing goes on to eternity because eventually he died and went to the holding place for those who sought the Lord (and to look forward to Jesus). Jesus showed up and preached the gospel to him, and Job will be joining us with his whole family someday in the new heaven and the new earth when Jesus comes back.

How good does it get? This is the Lord of “Poor Job.” I would think you might be changing your thoughts about who the Lord is and how He works. When you really get the truth about the story of Job, and how it plays out forever blessed of the Lord, Job and all the rest of us who love His appearing will behold the Lamb of God face-to-face in all His glory, in all His honor. He sees us overcoming through these days, more than conquerors, nothing separating us from the love of God that is ours in Christ Jesus, and someday we will be with the Lord forever and ever.

You think these are troubled times? I believe the Lord gave us this account of Job so we can see what it is really all about. The bottom line is the Lord said to the devil, *“Have you seen my servant Job? Nobody like him in the earth.”* The Lord had blessed him and protected him. Then the devil said, “You take away that hedge of protection from him, see if he still praises you.”

Note again, churches teach that God took the hedge down. No, Job’s fear took it down. Do you think that is relevant for our day and age? Fear takes down the protection of God. If you want the blessing of God in your life, have no fear. God’s perfect love casts out all fear. Dwell in the love of God, and He will keep you in all your ways. Someday you will be with him face-to-face forever and ever in all glory.

## DELIVERED OUT OF OUR AFFLICTIONS

Paul talks about *“these light and momentary afflictions”* that we go through in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, chapter 2, and they are light and momentary. The Lord will deliver us out of them all to His eternal glory that He has prepared for us in Christ Jesus.

People do not like suffering, they do not like going through tribulation. *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers us out of them all.”* Jesus said, *“Fear not. In the world you will have tribulation, but I have overcome the world”* for you. In Christ Jesus we overcome no matter what we face. Continue in the faith and the hope and the love of God. These three remain: God’s-faith, God’s-hope, and God’s love, and they are not going to change.

We can have the victory of God every moment of every day as we realize the Lord that we have. He is the same Lord of Job. Same hedge of protection. Same desire in His heart to prosper and bless His people.

You know that *“We have all sufficiency at all times.”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9) Take a good look at it. Be able to do whatever the Lord has given you to do, and you will see the increase. And we do it all hilariously and joyfully.

I was amused that Job’s family members were bringing gold and silver to him. What a switch. I can imagine how delighted in his heart, not about the gold and silver, but about the change in the attitudes and the hearts of the people around him. They were not coming to him for what he could do for them. They were coming because they loved him and cared about him. To me the greatest miracle of prosperity in the whole situation was that the people’s hearts changed. They witnessed how the Lord turned to good to the glory of God all that had been intended for evil.

See, that is the Lord that we love and serve.

*It needs to be said just how good You are, and how greatly You take care of and provide for us that we can honor You and give generously. Everything we are and have comes from You, and, Lord, there is no fear of lack for You supply whatever is needed when it is needed to be done in Jesus’ name.*

At the end of Psalm 23 it says, *“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”*

It starts out with, *“The Lord is my shepherd.”* That is why goodness and mercy will happen because the Lord is our Shepherd, and He is leading us and guiding us. He is loving, caring for, comforting, and giving us whatever we need to deal with in this life. Then we will not lack because the Lord is

our Shepherd through it all, and surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Worship the Lord from here on out until eternity.

***And Job lived happily ever after...*** 😊