

....I Will Teach You by the Hand of God ~

Job 26:7 – 28:28

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~ Are you seeking true wisdom and understanding? Do you desire to find the correct answers to the most crucial questions in life? Well, most people look for that information in all the wrong places. Job was sincerely looking for help with those answers, but his friends were totally wrong in their dealings with Job. In fact, their incorrect arguments only reinforced Job's ego — until all Job had left was a stubborn spirit. Actually, all they did was draw Job into an altogether pointless discussion. As a result, Job held fast to his own righteousness, dug in his heels, and became quite defensive.

Job should have had a broken and contrite heart before the Lord and confessed his unworthiness; but he didn't do that — yet. This report from our Spiritual Safari will contain a considerably lengthy final discourse from Job in response to the false accusations that have been made against him by Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar. In fact, it almost seems as if Job isn't going to stop talking in this section of Scripture.

We have considered three separate statements each by Eliphaz and Bildad; and Bildad's last answer was both weak and brief. Zophar was, apparently, defeated altogether after his second statement. Each of their so-called ministries were shamefully one-sided. Well, there's another man in the crowd listening to this verbal exchange of intellect. His name is Elihu; who will speak when Job concludes in chapter thirty-two — and Elihu has quite a bit to say. After Elihu speaks, a storm breaks over the garbage dump landfill in Uz, where this account has occurred, and we'll sit through a downpour of torrential rain.

We're re-examining primitively basic material, as far as this life is concerned, in this section of Scripture; and these lessons reach right down to the nitty-gritty of life. Even so, below and beneath the suffering Job is enduring, there is a tremendous lesson to be learned. That is why I made the observation from report number one that the main lesson in the Book

Job 26:7 – 28:28

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Page 1 of 11

of Job is not patience, it's not suffering, and it's not the fact that Job was restored – although Job will be restored – no, the main doctrinal principle and spiritual lesson in Job is *repentance*.

Repentance is only for a child of God, friends. I understand most people assume the sinner who turns to God is to repent; but Paul said to the Philippian jailer, "... *BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.*" Paul did not even mention repentance, because that jailer had no intention of repenting of anything! Of course, repentance is inextricably intertwined with believing; because when we turn to Christ in faith, we will necessarily have to turn away from something – and that '*something*' will be our sin. In the case of the Philippian jailer, we're talking mainly about idolatry; but turning to Christ will have to happen first because, until it does, none of us can turn away from our sins – because that would be impossible.

Many children of God operate in their own self-sufficiency today. They're no different than the lost man without hope. Anyone in a state of self-sufficiency is going to have to repent; and that's what the remainder of this book will reveal. I had to spend some time on this topic because the mechanics of what we are considering as we draw near the end of the Book of Job are critical to a proper, correct and complete understanding of the Word of God. Remember, Job had just as much understanding as any of those three so-called friends did. Maybe more. Job wasn't inferior in any way, shape or form. However, Job's defensive posture did not serve to accomplish anything; but it did reveal many things about Job!

Our last report began to discover an entirely new and marvelous view of creation. Out there in the garbage pile, as Job scraped his open sores with broken pottery, he was able to observe the stars in the nighttime sky; and he apparently spent quite a bit of time looking at them. We're beginning to get an entirely new Biblical view of God as our Creator now; and Job knew God as Creator – and as Redeemer. Unfortunately, Job did not know God as a Sustainer of life and as One Who loved Job. Job cannot yet realize God as One Who would never allow anything to happen in his life that did not minister to him for a very definite purpose....

XXVI

⁷ He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

⁸ He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds; and the cloud is not rent under them.

⁹ He holdeth back the face of his throne, and spreadeth his cloud upon it.

¹⁰ He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end.

¹¹ The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof.

¹² He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud.

¹³ By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent.

¹⁴ Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?

XXVII

¹ Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,

² As God liveth, who hath taken away my rights; and the Almighty, who hath embittered my soul;

~ Our safari has covered most of the contents of chapter twenty-six previously. In verse thirteen of chapter twelve, the “... crooked serpent” appears to refer to a constellation of stars. I understand there has been some question about that, and whether or not it means the snake as we

know a serpent today; but serpent can be defined as a man. Either way, Job is calling attention to the greatness of God as it is revealed way out in the Heavens. I find that mind-boggling, personally.

As we continue now without the insult and injury from the “*friends*,” we’re going to become well acquainted with the inner-man of Job. Job is undaunted by the defaming allegations, and he is determined to glorify God. The problem is: he doesn’t know how to repent. So, Job doesn’t understand how to glorify God, as he so desperately wants to do. I feel Job paused to give Zophar an opportunity to speak again, but Zophar couldn’t get his thoughts together. Well, either way, Job isn’t going to admit to false charges that these three have brought against him. Remember, they aren’t really interested in helping Job; what they really want to do is stone him to death for some secret sin — a sin that doesn’t exist...

³ All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;

⁴ My lips shall not speak unrighteousness, nor my tongue utter deceit.

⁵ God forbid that I should justify you: till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me.

⁶ My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.

⁷ Let mine enemy be as the wicked, and he that riseth up against me as the unrighteous.

⁸ For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?

⁹ Will God hear his cry when trouble cometh upon him?

¹⁰ Will he delight himself in the Almighty? will he always call upon God?

11 I will teach you by the hand of God: that which is with the Almighty will I not conceal.

12 Behold, all ye yourselves have seen it; why then are ye thus altogether vain?

13 This is the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage of oppressors, which they shall receive of the Almighty.

14 If his children be multiplied, it is for the sword: and his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread.

15 Those that remain of him shall be buried in death: and his widows shall not weep.

16 Though he heap up silver as the dust, and prepare raiment as the clay;

17 He may prepare it, but the just shall put it on, and the innocent shall divide the silver.

18 He buildeth his house as a moth, and as a booth that the keeper maketh.

19 The rich man shall lie down, but he shall not be gathered: he openeth his eyes, and he is not.

20 Terrors take hold on him as waters, a tempest stealeth him away in the night.

21 The east wind carrieth him away, and he departeth: and as a storm hurleth him out of his place.

22 For God shall cast upon him, and not spare: he would fain flee out of his hand.

23 Men shall clap their hands at him, and shall hiss him out of his place.

~ Job has become dogmatically stubborn now. His self-defense has reached extreme levels. By defending himself this way, he reveals absolutely no brokenness of spirit, no humility of mind; and Job is actually making it appear as if God is the One Who is unrighteous for allowing these calamities to happen. Job still believes he is a good person who is alright with everyone and full of integrity. Most Christians seem to think they are full of integrity today, too; but they are just as foolhardy as Job was at this time that we are studying. Before all of this is over, we'll see Job change his thinking and bow down in the dust and ashes.

Read verse six again. Bildad, Zophar and Eliphaz totally failed in leading Job to the self-judgment he so desperately needs. All they have ministered to is Job's spirit of self-vindication! None of these men have a proper perspective of God, according to their own words. I have already concurred that many things Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar said were true; and I will also concede they likely had the best intentions; but they didn't have absolute truth. They weren't even close; although they insisted on their ignorance. They well-understood legality, tradition, and they had ample life experience — but they were abjectly *clueless* regarding grace and, as a result, they unwittingly built-up Job's ego and prompted self-defensiveness. Unfortunately, Job assumed that, because these men were wrong, he must be right. *That's* the fatal pinpoint of Job's mistake.

Job's reactions are the typical response most Christians have when they are experiencing trouble, difficulty or hardship. Testing and chastisement from God has this effect on most people. Many church members are presently in the same position Job is in at the time in which we are studying. We're not talking about assurance of salvation; which is wonderful. See, it's easy to also become a hard-boiled, pious pickle. These are the ones who typically make the grave mistake of conflating our assurance of salvation with the right to display spiritual pride. They always seem to feel like they are superior people because they accepted Jesus. A truly broken spirit will melt in repentance in the presence of God; but Job is not repenting — yet; he remains hard as nails.

Job is accounting for anyone and everyone who disagrees with him on the liability side of the ledger; and labeling them wicked and unrighteous. Dissent necessarily posits that individual as an enemy of Job's; to the point where Job thinks he is the only righteous man on the credit side of the ledger. That's a dangerous place to arrive at, friends. In all of his distress, Job gives a lecture on the wicked coming to an end in verse eight; but the biggest problem is that Job is not addressing his own situation any longer. He isn't even cognizant of his own problems at this time; so, he cannot acknowledge them. Well, even so, Job is full of words and continues talking right into our next chapter....

XVIII

¹ Surely there is a vein for the silver, and a place for gold where they fine it.

² Iron is taken out of the earth, and brass is molten out of the stone.

³ He setteth an end to darkness, and searcheth out all perfection: the stones of darkness, and the shadow of death.

⁴ The flood breaketh out from the inhabitant; even the waters forgotten of the foot: they are dried up, they are gone away from men.

⁵ As for the earth, out of it cometh bread: and under it is turned up as it were fire.

⁶ The stones of it are the place of sapphires: and it hath dust of gold.

⁷ There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen:

⁸ The lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it.

⁹ He putteth forth his hand upon the rock; he overturneth the mountains by the roots.

10 He cutteth out rivers among the rocks; and his eye seeth every precious thing.

11 He bindeth the floods from overflowing; and the thing that is hid bringeth he forth to light.

12 But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?

13 Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.

14 The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me.

15 It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.

16 It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire.

17 The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold.

18 No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies.

19 The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold.

20 Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?

21 Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air.

22 Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears.

23 God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.

24 For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven;

25 To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure.

26 When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder:

27 Then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out.

28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

~ Chapter twenty-eight may be the most beautiful poem of creation we have in the libraries of mankind's literature. If we were on a poetry safari, we could spend a lot of time here but, we're not seeking poetry on this expedition. Job speaks of the way the Lord places metals and stones in the earth. Personally, I do not think man has discovered even *ONE* percent of the resources available in the earth. I am absolutely sure there are stones, minerals, and other undiscovered substances we know nothing about; and are *MUCH* more valuable than diamonds or gold. Man can only dig so deep before the earth's innards become too hot to withstand. How did Job know that?

Well, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition with Job telling his friends that wisdom is as elusive as those undiscovered treasures in the earth, as far as they are concerned! Quite frankly, the probing man does on the ocean floor, in outer space, and in every available crevice of the earth's crust, is not going to reveal *ANYTHING* relative to genuine wisdom and

understanding. Man cannot unravel the origin of earth in the earth. I know many people will disagree with my statements vehemently; and they have a right to be wrong. However, we have literally spent trillions of dollars to fly around in space, but man has realized less than one hundred dollars' worth of knowledge out there — and you can just write that down. Science and education hasn't told us anything that we need to know, friends.

The wisdom Job was hoping for from his *"friends"* is wisdom that is absolutely beyond the understanding of man. The Bureau of Standards cannot begin to evaluate the truths in the Word of God. We have all heard rumors and innuendo concerning wisdom; but even the fact that death is inevitable doesn't tell us anything. Death should reveal to us there are things we don't know. I'm not going into this in this report, but death is a one-way door which man steps through. When he does, there's no going back, and that person becomes totally unable to communicate with those in this world any further. The stories of people coming back from the dead are preposterous — because God says they are preposterous! Friends, we just don't get messages back from the other side; you can just write that down. There happen to be things we don't know and possibly never will — even when we are in the afterlife.

Verse twenty-six is interesting because, for centuries, man thought lightning came before the thunder. We have since discovered that sound waves don't travel as fast as light waves. So, when we see lightning, but hear the thunder afterward, we're experiencing sensory confusion. How did Job know that, too? Well, the fear of the Lord is true wisdom, and to depart from evil is genuine understanding — and that's sound doctrine, friends. Amen.

Alright, that's as far as we can go with Job today but, in our next report, we'll take Job into the clinic to diagnose his case of perpendicular iatus. That's a terrible disease in which the one who suffers from it can only talk about *"me," "myself"* and *"I."* I suggest you read chapter twenty-nine at this time; and, if you like to count personal pronouns, you'll discover Job uses them fifty-two times. I get the impression Job is wholly wrapped up in Job and only interested in himself. That's the biggest problem Job really has

now, and we're going to see exactly how it has affected his whole life — ever since chapter one.

This is also the most prevalent problem in the human race today. There is a great spiritual vacuum, and this podunk missionary ministry of a so-called safari is attempting to fill a monstrous void. Many people would love to have just a small portion of truth; and that's why I am trying to take the entire Word of God to the entire world in the sound doctrine of the apostles. Egoism has utterly invaded the church today, as well. Instead of focusing on God and His concerns for this world, they place all of the emphasis on self. We're *ALL* guilty of this, make no mistake. Self-esteem is grown in a life like a cancer that murders the esteem of others! Paul told us to let nothing be done through selfish ambitions or conceit; but in *holiness* of mind let each man esteem another higher than himself. Well, that sounds like Mandarin Chinese to a lost and dying world. We need to be delivered from that mind-set — which only the Word of God can do because, friends, when we're wrapped up in ourselves — it makes for a mighty small package ~

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