

....Righteous in His Own Eyes ~

Job Chapters Thirty-Two and Thirty-Three / A Review

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~ A dogmatic point of view concerning sound Scriptural matters is not popular in contemporary religious circles. If you want to be charismatic and politically correct, you must be tolerant and understanding of everybody's viewpoint; which, by de facto, necessitates compromise in Holy Writ. If you desire to be popular and well-liked by the religious world, be prepared to concede genuine Christian values. To become popular, you will be expected to accept myriad perverted perspectives of religious theory from diverse groups; but those groups will never accept or agree with sound doctrine from Holy Writ presented correctly. They hold a double-standard. That standard is: anything except the truth. Our Spiritual Safari is, if nothing else, dogmatic about proper presentation of the doctrine of the apostles from the Word of God. That's because any effort in the name of Christ that does not teach with authority for His glory is valueless, powerless and fruitless — and a lie — period.

So, let's recap our previous report and the message of Elihu the Arab, who is going to speak now for five full chapters. Remember, Job's three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar are finished speaking. No one "won" the discourse of debate Job had with his friends; it was really more of a Mexican stand-off. No one was edified. They all just ran out of pious and hurtful things to say — and that was the end.

Between Eliphaz the spiritualist, Bildad the traditionalist, and Zophar the religious legal dogmatist, we had the entire spectrum of mankind's philosophy represented. But none of them knew God. None of them knew themselves, and none of them knew Job. They barraged Job with allegations designed to make him confess some secret sin that didn't exist. See, they only wanted to stone Job — for whatever reason. It didn't matter. That's all they were concerned with doing. Interestingly, nowhere do we see or hear Job saying '... *I'm undone*' or anything of that nature.

Remember, Job told us all about his self-righteousness in chapter twenty-nine. As we saw, everything Job said about himself was true. God told us Job was perfect, upright, hated evil and didn't sin with his lips – way back in chapter one. Job was righteous, too; he had made all the burnt offerings. The problem was: Job didn't understand his need to repent of his pride. It is easy to appear as a rank fundamentalist while also mired in gross sin. That is, to be filled with: Pride.

There is no place for boasting by a genuine child of God in their testimony. God's decree is that every mountain shall be brought low. See, the valleys are to be exalted! The government of God declares, by de facto, that which is high and lifted up must be brought down. Every mouth shall be stopped, every knee will bow, and *ALL* will be brought low before Him. The only path of truth in this universe is that of lowly humility taught by our Father in Heaven Personally, my beloved. That comes through chastening. Whom the Lord loveth, He chastens.

We all know someone who has gone off the rails on some strange Bible teachings. How do you talk to those people who refuse to listen? – The answer is: *you don't*. We give them sound doctrine from the Word of God, and we pray for them to be saved – and that's it. With most people, you are absolutely wasting your time arguing with them. Only God Himself can deal with the proud and boastful heart of man. Well, that's not going to stop Elihu from speaking through five full chapters.

Elihu claims to be speaking by the Spirit of God. Peter said, "*.... if any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.*" If we cannot speak sound doctrine with authority, assuredly — then we need to shut up — period. Many people say, "*.... there is more than one way of looking at the Bible.*" No, there's only one way to approach the Word of God properly, correctly and completely. There was a time, in days gone by, that I thought there might be several ways of interpreting the Bible. Then, as I grew in the grace and knowledge of our Savior and Lord Christ Jesus, I discovered God only extends grace through the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ; His Son — virgin born, performed miracles, died a substitutionary death, rose bodily from the grave on the third day according to Scripture, ascended back into

Heaven to the Right Hand of God the Father where He is seated today as the True and Living God; and Who is returning someday to rapture the church. Subsequently, Christ shall establish His Kingdom — that's my dogmatism concerning the only proper interpretation of Scripture. Call me narrow-minded — most people do. Let me just say this: I have considered *ALL* of the worldly theories and philosophies of mankind, and they are, collectively, either wanting, conflicting, hollow, or just plain absurd. The Bible is true and correct — from front to back. However, if we do not meet around the Person of the crucified Lord Jesus Christ to be led in teaching by an educated, sincere, competent, Spirit-filled and Spirit-led man, or if you have a different viewpoint to present, then it is merely another religious philosophy. You'll absolutely be wasting your time talking to me — I can assure you. But feel free to pray for me anytime and all the time.

Elihu is sincere, but he is incapable of presenting the truth of God in a cohesive way. To his credit, Elihu concedes all glory to God in his speech. Elihu's most serious charge against Job is that Job didn't take the place of nothingness to exalt God as all-sufficient. Frankly, the only way we can have an effective ministry is for God to carry us away in the Spirit. Modern seminaries teach self-esteem and confidence methods — but not a word about esteeming others better than ourselves. Churches rely on tired gimmicks instead of Gospel power. Meekness and Gospel power are the two most critical elements lacking in the church. We need them today as desperately as Job needed them at the time in which we are studying.

I've never been one to compliment or promote other Bible teachers or programs. If they are teaching sound doctrine, they don't need me around much. We must be careful to remain in the realm of Bible truth with them; which will ferret out the opposition. We must never try to stretch theology to fit some personal agenda. Exalting other men on crusades and prayer bonanza's is a foul stench in the Nostrils of God Almighty, my beloved — you can just write that down. There should be no flattering promotion of other men whatsoever. Unfortunately, this is a prevalent and persistent problem. If we honestly bow to the Lord Jesus Christ, we won't be promoting other people, I promise you that.

The elements of Elihu's ministry that was lacking in Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar's discourses were grace and truth. Job had truth — but no grace. The law came by Moses — and John Baptist came about with law; but grace and truth come only by the Lord Jesus Christ! Elihu has an amazing insight of the Lord Jesus; especially considering how long it will be before Jesus earthly ministry begins, relevant to the time in which we are studying. Even so, however, Elihu's understanding is incomplete.

Thankfully, Elihu does realize that a man must be brought to his lowest possible state of self in order to honestly accept and confess his condition before God. Job needed that recognition desperately! Without that, Job did not know himself, he didn't understand his friends and, so, no one was able to help him. Only when we reach the place where we cry out to God in confession can the Lord be faithful and just to forgive. Well, Job still says God had no right to allow all of this to happen to him. When we talk like that, we haven't told the truth; and we have not laid hold of the grace of God. Every other way is purely legalistic.

God doesn't report to a committee or board regarding treatment of His subjects, friends. God is not obligated to tell us anything about anything at any time — ever. That truth, likewise, is not subject to a vote or public opinion. The soul that sinneth, it shall die; and that has never been changed. Job says he has no uncleanness, no transgressions, and no iniquity — and that's fine — but God is still holy and righteous. Job isn't. Such a simple and basic truth that has so much wrapped up in it is almost impossible to comment on succinctly.

Many Christians usurp God's glory today. They advise you why certain things have happened in your life, for example. Some Christians honestly believe they have a private connection with the Lord that others cannot attain to. They act as if they receive the latest kingdom news each day hand-delivered or in some mystical, weird and spooky dream each night. Well, we're not greater than God, friends; and I laugh in derision at those foolish people. God doesn't owe us an answer in the first place; and God trieth the righteous, my friends — chastising whom He loveth. There is a purpose behind it all — and that should be comforting to each of us. We're

told to trust Him Who leads us, holds us and provides a lamp to light our feet – that’s all. God is right in everything He does. As it turns out, we’re always wrong.

We have the Word of God today. If we are taught by the Holy Spirit, then we don’t need dreams to convey, complete or confirm revelation. God is speaking *in His Word* – He doesn’t need to repeat Himself. God wants to withdraw you from your purpose and place you in His program and plan. The only way that can happen is when God hides our pride from mankind by washing us in the Word He hath spoken. That’s a mind-full of thought, to be sure. Job’s pride is worse than cancer because it’s a spiritual disease of the spirit – which is highly contagious.

Now, I see the proud heart of a man today in my life. It’s nearly impossible to succeed with interpersonal relationships if we do not have some level of self-esteem. Do you see the pride in your life? Self-judgment and self-conviction will lead us to take our place in the dust and cry out to God for mercy. We’re not good people, friends; well, maybe *you* are. I’m not. Job did not understand this characteristic of the God-man relationship; so, naturally, it was impossible to understand His permission of Satan to do what the devil did to Job. God wanted to remove pride from Job’s life — and this is how He did it.

See, Job was a great man, an outstanding citizen, and all of those good things; but he had allowed his pride to encapsulate and smother his effectiveness as a witness for the True and Living God Almighty. It’s easy to find fault with someone who criticizes us; I see the safari readership is at an all-time low. I can’t blame anyone for not reading these reports. I don’t recommend anyone do so. The issues in your life are none of my business — but they are God’s business – whether you like it or not. God trieth the righteous and He withdraweth not His eyes from them.

Hebrews 12:³ *...for consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*⁴ *Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.*⁵ *And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not*

thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: ⁶ For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. ⁷ If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? ⁸ But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? ¹⁰ For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. ¹¹ Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby ~

If we desire to enjoy the love and tenderness of God, we must recognize and agree to become subject to His wise and moral government. God isn't raising a bunch of spoiled brats as children, friends. You can forget that nonsense doctrine. We can respond to God's chastening in three distinct ways. We can despise it as if His Hand and Voice were not in it; that is, to ignore God. Second, we may faint under it — which is a crushing defeat. Job had responded in both of those first two ways. Third, we can be exorcized by our suffering, and have it yield the fruit of righteousness in our lives. God calls all who are His Own; and He chastens every son He receives.

So, pride is our Spiritual Safari diagnosis for the cause of the spiritual cancer in the patient named Job from a place called Uz. Chastening for his pride has resulted in a serious side symptom — potentially deadly sores on the epidermis. I hope I have exposed a rare truth in the Word of God; one that is so extremely important today regarding pride. These are realities of truth that are wholly neglected today. As we move forward in our expedition, God Himself is going to break through and speak directly to us. I hope you can read along ~

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