

## ....Where the Light is as Darkness ~

### **Job Chapters Nine and Ten**

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~ Job is languishing in the city garbage dump scraping his wounds with a piece of broken pottery, surrounded by onlookers, and being hypocritically insulted by his so-called friends as we begin this leg of our Spiritual Safari. Job simply could not have been in a worse condition than we find him in here. He is suffering physically while false accusations are being leveled at him; accusations that are just mean! Well, Job isn't one to let those accusations stand, and he mounts a defense to each of these friend's attacks. The real question at this point in the Book of Job is: is Job correct in his assessment of his own condition?

These two chapters, which we will consider completely in this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God, are Job's answer to Bildad the Shunamite. As we saw in our last report, Bildad's pious, hypocritical and condescending remarks are tone-deaf to the situation; not recognizing Job's needs or addressing his problems in any way. Job has openly admitted he is not perfect, and he knows he cannot defend himself before God. Job is beginning to recognize he needs someone or something to present his case to Almighty God. Job now has a real heart-cry for a mediator and an intercessor. In other words, this is where Job cries out for the Lord Jesus Christ....

### **IX**

<sup>1</sup> *Then Job answered and said,*

<sup>2</sup> *I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with God?*

<sup>3</sup> *If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand.*

<sup>4</sup> *He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?*

- <sup>5</sup> Which removeth the mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in his anger.***
- <sup>6</sup> Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble.***
- <sup>7</sup> Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and sealet up the stars.***
- <sup>8</sup> Which alone spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth upon the waves of the sea.***
- <sup>9</sup> Which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.***
- <sup>10</sup> Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.***
- <sup>11</sup> Lo, he goeth by me, and I see him not: he passeth on also, but I perceive him not.***
- <sup>12</sup> Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou?***
- <sup>13</sup> If God will not withdraw his anger, the proud helpers do stoop under him.***
- <sup>14</sup> How much less shall I answer him, and choose out my words to reason with him?***
- <sup>15</sup> Whom, though I were righteous, yet would I not answer, but I would make supplication to my judge.***
- <sup>16</sup> If I had called, and he had answered me; yet would I not believe that he had hearkened unto my voice.***
- <sup>17</sup> For he breaketh me with a tempest, and multiplieth my wounds without cause.***

***18 He will not suffer me to take my breath, but filleth me with bitterness.***

***19 If I speak of strength, lo, he is strong: and if of judgment, who shall set me a time to plead?***

***20 If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.***

***21 Though I were perfect, yet would I not know my soul: I would despise my life.***

***22 This is one thing, therefore I said it, He destroyeth the perfect and the wicked.***

***23 If the scourge slay suddenly, he will laugh at the trial of the innocent.***

***24 The earth is given into the hand of the wicked: he covereth the faces of the judges thereof; if not, where, and who is he?***

***25 Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good.***

***26 They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle that hasteth to the prey.***

***27 If I say, I will forget my complaint, I will leave off my heaviness, and comfort myself:***

***28 I am afraid of all my sorrows, I know that thou wilt not hold me innocent.***

***29 If I be wicked, why then labour I in vain?***

***30 If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean;***

***31 Yet shalt thou plunge me in the ditch, and mine own clothes shall abhor me.***

***32 For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment.***

***33 Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both.***

***34 Let him take his rod away from me, and let not his fear terrify me:***

***35 Then would I speak, and not fear him; but it is not so with me.***

**X**

***1 My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.***

***2 I will say unto God, Do not condemn me; shew me wherefore thou contendest with me.***

***3 Is it good unto thee that thou shouldest oppress, that thou shouldest despise the work of thine hands, and shine upon the counsel of the wicked?***

***4 Hast thou eyes of flesh? or seest thou as man seeth?***

***5 Are thy days as the days of man? are thy years as man's days,***

***6 That thou enquirest after mine iniquity, and searchest after my sin?***

***7 Thou knowest that I am not wicked; and there is none that can deliver out of thine hand.***

***8 Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about; yet thou dost destroy me.***

***9 Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay; and wilt thou bring me into dust again?***

- 10 Hast thou not poured me out as milk, and curdled me like cheese?***
- 11 Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews.***
- 12 Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit.***
- 13 And these things hast thou hid in thine heart: I know that this is with thee.***
- 14 If I sin, then thou markest me, and thou wilt not acquit me from mine iniquity.***
- 15 If I be wicked, woe unto me; and if I be righteous, yet will I not lift up my head. I am full of confusion; therefore see thou mine affliction;***
- 16 For it increaseth. Thou huntest me as a fierce lion: and again thou shewest thyself marvellous upon me.***
- 17 Thou renewest thy witnesses against me, and increasest thine indignation upon me; changes and war are against me.***
- 18 Wherefore then hast thou brought me forth out of the womb? Oh that I had given up the ghost, and no eye had seen me!***
- 19 I should have been as though I had not been; I should have been carried from the womb to the grave.***
- 20 Are not my days few? cease then, and let me alone, that I may take comfort a little,***
- 21 Before I go whence I shall not return, even to the land of darkness and the shadow of death;***

<sup>22</sup> ***A land of darkness, as darkness itself; and of the shadow of death, without any order, and where the light is as darkness.***

~ Many of the things Bildad said in his previous discourse that Job is now answering in chapters nine and ten, were true; however, they weren't applicable to Job and Job's current situation. Job certainly could have benefited from the Gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ at this time. Job has some real questions, and he is searching for the answer of how a man could be just with God Almighty. That, in a nutshell, is Job's entire problem. Well, Bildad didn't have those answers.

Job isn't putting up a front before God, either; and openly admits that he cannot contend with God. Job knows he cannot answer the question of God, but Job has some questions of his own – and he expects God to answer him. Job's language in chapter nine presents a tremendous picture of God as the Creator. Well, Job knew all about the stars and creation; but Job didn't know anything about the tender mercies God extends to His children.

Today, men like to search out the stars in a search for their own beginning. Unfortunately for them, even Shakespeare could give that simple answer. Remember, Brutus was talking things over with Mark Anthony and made the statement, "*.... it is not in our stars that we are underlings; but, it is within ourselves that we are underlings.*" The stars just don't happen to figure into our being, friends – even carnal man knows that! Frankly, only the most ridiculously and abjectly ignorant man or woman looks anywhere except Scripture for answers about anything. Job recognized God created all things.

See, we worship God today in Spirit and in Truth. No man has seen God at any time; and Paul says, "*.... we know Christ no longer after the flesh.*" So, Job knew God as the Creator – but that's about all Job knew; except that Job knew he wouldn't stand a chance in the presence of God, and he would never know what to say in defense of himself to God if God did speak to him. Turn that over in your minds, friends — and think it through to its final conclusion - see what you come up with.

Job wasn't pretending he was perfect because he knew his own words would condemn him. Even so, we're going to find out Job incorrectly had a very high estimation of himself; and he believes he is pretty good and righteous overall — compared to everyone else, of course. Only when Job realizes how bad he really is he will he finally say, "*.... I know that within myself dwelleth no good thing.*" This is the same condition that *MANY* men are in today who do not know anything about the Word of God. They feel as though they'll be able to stand before Him and present a defense that will meet His standard. Further, they think they are well-pleasing to God in and of themselves.

There was a godless millionaire church member many years ago who said to a very respectable preacher, "*.... I heard your message about how men are sinners and that they need to come to Christ. I don't believe in that – I believe in helping people and that's my religion.*" The millionaire went on and said, "*.... I give men jobs and provide them money to put beans on their plate; and I think that's better than what you have to offer.*" That's a very difficult statement to answer, friends. Well, about a year later that millionaire was indicted on fraud, tax evasion and embezzlement charges. So, as it turns out, he wasn't really putting beans on men's plates – he was taking beans *OFF* of men's plates. That is *EXACTLY* the hypocrisy men have in themselves — and they won't hesitate to take that sinful pride before God seeking acceptance. It's truly mind-boggling.

When we get into God's presence, my beloved, God is going to ask us things that we have never even thought about. I promise you that you won't be able to answer God. You just don't happen to meet God's standard. Only One Man has ever met that standard – the Lord Jesus Christ. None of us can even begin to attain to Christ's standard. That just happens to be the curse of the myriad books, movies, plays, and devotional teachings that float around today like feces in a water closet. The liberal *always* makes an attempt to bring Jesus down to their level and say that He was just a mere man. They go as far as to insinuate that Jesus was a sinner, too; but the only place they find that "*sin of Jesus*" isn't in the Word of God – it's in their own filthy minds and rotten hearts. Job says God is not a man as we are men.

Since Job didn't understand Christ and His death, burial and resurrection, Job is speaking from the bitterness of his soul. Job is absolutely weary of this life at the time in which we are studying. Job isn't playing for attention, and he is no hypocrite as he speaks about his sad plight. Well, God is going to show Job something about Job before this is all over; and the Holy Spirit is going to show us something in this book of the Bible that we all need to discover about ourselves, too. Job doesn't understand his suffering, nor does he understand why the wicked are *NOT* suffering – and that's a huge problem for Job right now. It is the same problem that confronted King David, also. It happens to be the same problem that confronts Andrew C. Hunt, too. Does that problem bother you, friends? Well, God is going to answer that problem quite specifically before we conclude the Book of Job. Let me just say here that men only get by with sin for a very short time. If we trust God and obey God, we'll see Him deal with the godless man in no uncertain terms. However, in the meantime, it will cause us to ask questions.

We are at the point in Scripture where we are forced to face up to the realities of the problems of our life. Actually, this is going to get right down to the nitty-gritty of life. Our Spiritual Safari is going to have to conclude this leg of our expedition with Job becoming very defensive; and still bewailing his problems and, quite frankly, it appears as if Job has been totally neglected by God. Job doesn't believe God can see him in his real condition. Have you ever felt that way? Well, Christ became a Man down here on earth so you and I can know that Jesus knows us, knows how we feel, and knows our problems. There is not a single pulsation that has ever entered the human breast that the Lord Jesus Christ didn't feel and experience when He was here on earth. God knows how you feel – and He knows how I feel – and we can all just write that down. And thank Him for it! What Job needed was a little humility; what you and I need is a little humility – and God is going to give Job – and you and me – precisely that in this study.

Humbleness and patience are not handed out on a spiritual buffet table served with a silver spoon. You'll never become humble by trying. Both are fruits of the Holy Spirit; but only through experience in this life will those fruits ever grow, ripen, and mature into good fruit. Most people associate



the Book of Job with patience; and James said, “... you have heard of the patience of Job...” However, James also said, “... you have seen the end of the Lord, that God is very pitiful and full of tender mercies.” Now, if patience was a simple equation, that would have merely spoken to Job’s self-confidence and conceit. The point is: Job wasn’t patient at all. Job’s patience has, obviously, run out at this point in our study! Only when we begin to see the end of the Lord can we understand that God was *MAKING* Job to be patient and humble; and there just happens to be a world of difference.

Well, Job concludes chapter ten right back where he started – by wishing he were dead. Job isn’t getting far with God. Job sees death as an end to be desired and a sweet sleep of unconsciousness that would end the misery. Job just wants to get away from this particular scene of his life. I want to conclude this report by saying that if you think you can draw some conclusion and sustain a theory of “*soul sleep*,” then you just happen to be entirely wrong. Before we finish this book, we’re going to find out that our Redeemer liveth. In fact, Job is going to be the one who says it. Job will also say, “... I know that in my flesh I shall see God.” Soul sleep is an idiot’s dream – even though Job is wishing it would happen to him. Job wished he were dead. Elijah wished he were dead, too. Jonah wished that he had died. Interestingly, Jonah did die! The book of Jonah teaches resurrection. Wishing we had never been born won’t undo one fiber of our existence. Wishing we were dead is a complete waste of time. No one ever dies by wishing; and most people don’t really wish they were dead – what they really mean is: they don’t want to live like they are living. That’s Jobs problem ~

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