

“Having Hope in Trials Through the Example of Job” 1/09/11

Job 1:1-42:17

James- Pressing on Toward Spiritual Maturity

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. (Rom 15:4)

“Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the endurance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord-- that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful. (James 5:11)

I don’t need to have suffered as deep as others....Can any of us compete with Job as to the degree of LOSS and PAIN? God is teaching us through Job.

POINT 1- We can have hope in trials knowing that the Lord has the POWER

A. The power that the Lord has is shown by Satan needing PERMISSION (Job 1:6, 12; 2:1, 6; Luke 8:33; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Luke 22:31)

B. The power that the Lord has is shown in God controlling the EXCHANGE (Interestingly, God is the one who takes the initiative in bringing up Job)

Paradox- Job was challenged whether he had true faith in God, but God had faith in Job! God HONORED Job by this confidence...how about YOU?

POINT 2- We can have hope in trials knowing that the Lord has PATIENCE

Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar- “wicked suffer, righteous prosper. Job needs to repent of his sin.” (Suffering can occur to discipline, strengthen, comfort, teach, produce fruit, etc. We ask for wisdom, James 1:5)

A. The patience of the Lord is shown in God not immediately JUDGING (Matt 12:36; Job 7:17-21; 9-10; 13; 19; 24; 27; 28; 35:14; 36:15-23)

POINT 3- We can have hope in trials knowing that the Lord has a PURPOSE

Let’s notice how God DOES NOT address Job...

A. The purpose of the Lord is understood only when we know His excellence (Job 38-41; Can Job explain, oversee, and subdue God’s creation?)

The exact purpose of God is not revealed... just that GOD KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING....

B. The purpose of the Lord is understood only when we are HUMBLED (Job 40:3-5; 42:1-6; blessed only AFTER he prayed for his friends)

UNTIL OUR MOUTHS ARE SHUT WITH OUR KNOW IT ALL ATTITUDE
What God seeks to accomplish in us won’t be done.

Going *God wants us to submit in quietness and obedience to His sovereignty!*

Deeper (Notice a major point in Job 42:11 where God is deemed the cause. Blessed be His name!)

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to arouse a deaf world.” C.S. Lewis

For next week: James 1:13-18