

The Latter End of Job

Text: Job 42

Key verse: Job 42a:” So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning....”

Even the secular world knows about Job. The name has almost become a synonym for suffering. The character, Job is the most ancient patriarch mentioned in the Bible. Listen to God’s estimation of this man in Job 1:8: “And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?” God has just defined him as the most righteous living man in the earth. In Ezekiel 14:14, God said, “Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it (Israel), they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD.” The Lord was making the point that the most righteous men who ever lived could not turn back the judgment of God which was about to fall upon Israel. One might say from this statement in Holy Writ that Job made the list for the top three most righteous men of the Old Testament. Perhaps the most touching thing about Job’s righteous life is that he retained his integrity (Job 2:9) through the greatest trials mortal man can endure. After 1,580 years, Job is recorded in the Old Testament, and he is mentioned in the New Testament in James 5:10,11: “Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.” James points out that we “...have seen the end....” Many a great fiction begins with “once upon a time” and ends with “and they lived happily ever after.” We all like a good ending. And in this book of the Bible that chronicles the sufferings of Job, we rejoice that God gives us a very happy ending. In the ending of Job, we see much about Job, but we see much more about God, which after all, is the intent of the Bible, i.e., to reveal God to us. Let’s take a grand and glorious look at God in the latter end of Job.

1. Omnipotence

Job 42:1, 2a: “Then Job answered the LORD, and said, I know that thou canst do every thing....” Job takes comfort through everything he experienced that nothing is beyond God’s omnipotence.

Wayne Grudem defines omnipotence thusly, “God’s omnipotence means that God is able to do all his holy will. The word omnipotence is derived from two Latin words, omni, “all,” and potens, “powerful,” and means “all-powerful.” Whereas God’s freedom referred to the fact that there are no external constraints on God’s

decisions, God's omnipotence has reference to his own power to do what he decides to do."

While in college I took Systematic Theology. My textbook was Thiessen's Lectures and he said, "God is all-powerful and able to do whatever he wills. Since His will is limited by his nature, God can do everything that is in harmony with his perfections." Theologians are quick to point out there are certain things God cannot do, which would violate His character. God cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). God cannot deny Himself (II Timothy 1:2). God cannot tempt with evil (James 1:13).

A life-changing book for me was "The Knowledge of the Holy" by A. W. Tozer. I love what he said about God's omnipotence: "Since He has at His command all the power in the universe, the Lord God omnipotent can do anything as easily as anything else. All His acts are done without effort. He expends no energy that must be replenished. His self-sufficiency makes it unnecessary for Him to look outside of Himself for a renewal of strength. All the power required to do all that He wills to do lies in undiminished fullness in His own infinite being."

Why is this truth so precious to Job at his latter end? I would submit to you it is a comfort to know that during all of Job's trials there was never a time that these trials were out of God's hands. Never!

In Genesis 18:14; Jeremiah 32:27; Jeremiah 32:17; Ephesians 3:20. In Genesis 17:1 and Revelation 19:15 God is described as "Almighty God."

2. Omniscience

Job 42:2b: "...and that no thought can be withholden from thee."

A.W. Pink said, "God is omniscient. He knows everything: everything possible, everything actual; all events and all creatures, of the past, the present, and the future. He is perfectly acquainted with every detail in the life of every being in heaven, in earth, and in hell...His knowledge is perfect. He never errs, never changes, never overlooks anything."

James P. Boyce said, "All that we can say is that [God's] knowledge is His essence or nature knowing. It is not something acquired, but something belonging to that nature itself and identical with it...It is something so inherent in his nature that it exists exclusively of any means of attaining or perceiving it, which we call action...The knowledge of God, therefore, not being acquired, cannot be increased. Time does not add to it. All objects of his knowledge are to eternally present and known. ... He knows all the past, present, and future of all things, knowing the future with the same certainty and accuracy with which he knows the present and past; for that future is already as present to him as though actually existing with the creatures and time belonging to it, and is distinctly perceived as it shall be then." This truth goes hand-in-hand with the all powerfulness of God. Since He has all knowledge and all power we are blessed to know that only does God know, He is also able to act and respond to what He knows.

Job 37:14-16; Psalm 139:1-5; Matthew 10:30; I John 3:20

3. Transcendence

In Job 42:3c, Job admits, "...therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not."

This is one of the most beautiful attributes of God. It is the doctrinal understanding that God stands alone above and beyond His creation. He is higher than all He has made.

Isaiah 55:8,9; Psalm 97:9; Psalm 108:5; Romans 11:33.

4. Holiness

Job 42:5,6 reveals that Job, like Isaiah is overwhelmed by the holiness of God. We cannot see how holy God is without, at the same time, realizing how unholy (without Him) all of us are.

Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8; I Peter 1:16

5. Mercy

Job 42:7-9

God gives great mercy to the critical friends of Job. Tozer said of God's mercy, "Mercy is an attribute of God, an infinite and inexhaustible energy within the divine nature which disposes God to be actively compassionate."

Psalm 86:15; Titus 3:5; Micah 7:18; Ephesians 2:4

6. Forgiveness

Job 42:10

Forgiveness is relinquishing the right to punish someone for the wrong they have done to us. The forgiveness of God is complete (Colossians 2:13). The forgiveness of God is by grace (Ephesians 1:7). The forgiveness of God is certain (I John 2:12). The forgiveness of God is infinite (Psalm 103:10, 12).

7. Goodness

Job 42:10c-17

Psalm 119:68: "Thou art good, and doest good...." God cannot do otherwise. Not only is goodness one of God's attributes, it is the essence of His nature. The Puritan Stephen Charnock said, "Goodness is the brightness and loveliness of our majestic Creator." He went on to say, "...It is God's "inclination to deal well and bountifully with His creatures."

Psalm 34:8; Psalm 84:11; Romans 8:28; James 1:17; Genesis 1:21

Conclusion:

As we have examined a few of the attributes of God we see an overarching teaching that undergirds all the attributes of God. It is the attribute "love" which is an expression of His very nature. God's love is unconditional and flows from Himself to us. It is not earned or merited. God's love is eternal. And as we come to the end

of Job's life we cannot resist the urge to say God loved Job. The good news is that He loves you too!

John 3:16; Romans 5:8; I John 4:16; Ephesians 3:19

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.