

## **A Happy Ending      Job 38 – 42**

### **A Happy Ending    Introduction**

- In a sense, God writes the ending of every story.
- This is uniquely significant in the story of Job.

**James 5:11**      Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Some lessons we learn in Job:

- The just may truly suffer – and this is not the least bit inconsistent with the goodness or justice of God.
- Their sufferings test their fidelity.
- They shall be ultimately be rewarded.
- We cannot grasp the extent of God’s omniscience through which he governs the world.
- We will, however benefit from a deeper appreciation of God's power, presence and wisdom.

One thing we do not get in Job:

- An answer to all of our questions regarding the suffering of good people.
- In that sense, the early chapters of the book are more informative than the end.
- God is proving to Satan – and to the universe – that good people will serve him even when life is difficult.

### **God’s First Speech to Job    Job 38 – 39**

- God knows more than we do.
- We need to remember that.

### **Job’s First Response    Job 40:1-5**

- *There is nothing cringing in Job’s attitude, it is the bowing down of a man strangely stirred in humiliation by the realization that he is face to face with that which is superior to himself.*
  - Oswald Chambers (1874 – 1917)

**1 Peter 5:6-7**      Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

**James 4:10**      Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

### **God's Second Speech    Job 40:6 – 41:34**

- *Although God may not have answered Job's questions directly, what these chapters tell Job and us is that God is purposeful in his creation, pervasive in his control, and personal in his care.*
  - Prof. T. Habtu, Ethiopian Bible Teacher

### **Job's Second Response    Job 42:1-6**

- *Job's religious experience is no longer second-hand; he has met God personally, and this makes all his sufferings worthwhile.*
  - Warren Wiersbe

### **Job's Restoration    Job 42:7-17**

- *The friends are also admonished and restored after Job has prayed for them. God and his servant Job are vindicated and Satan is proved to be 'the father of lies' and the enemy of righteousness.*
  - Prof. T. Habtu, Ethiopian Bible Teacher
- Job is vindicated.
- His friends are humbled.
- Job receives double what he had to start out.
- His number of children is not doubled.
- This is a small hint that all his children are still alive – not on earth, but in heaven.
- *The main lesson in the Book of Job is not that you will be rich and powerful when suffering is over, but rather that Almighty God has a purpose in suffering and nothing can thwart that purpose.*
  - Warren Wiersbe

### **A Happy Ending    Conclusions**

- In a sense, God writes the ending of every story.
- This is uniquely significant in the story of Job.

**James 5:11**    Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

- Job has been extremely bold in his questioning of God in the midst of his enormously difficult trials.
- God does not penalize Job for the questions – but nor does he answer them.
- He only restores Job – even advances him – to a better place than he held when the story began.

Some lessons we learn in Job:

- The just may truly suffer – and this is not the least bit inconsistent with the goodness or justice of God.
- Their sufferings test their fidelity.
- They shall be ultimately be rewarded.
- We cannot grasp the extent of God’s omniscience through which he governs the world.
- We will, however benefit from a deeper appreciation of God's power, presence and wisdom.
  
- *Get near to God in heart-knowledge of Him, and that will teach our sinfulness, and the two knowledges will combine to explain much of the meaning of sorrow, and to make the unexplained residue not hard to endure.*
  - Alexander Maclaren (1826 – 1910)
  
- And we, sitting as we do on the other side of Christ’s resurrection, have an even clearer perspective.
- We have a Savior who suffered intensely – indeed more than we ever will.
- And a God who offers us a heavenly reward though we deserve his anger and judgment.

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18** So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.