

Everyone has heard about the sufferings and patience of Job. How could anyone endure so much with such patience? And yet, even though the story of Job includes both patience and suffering the real story of Job is so much more than that.

The very first verse of Job tells us that Job was perfect and upright, and one that feared God. He was also a man with a large family and rich in land and goods. In fact we're told that: "He was the greatest man among all the people of the East." That is the setting of the story. Job is a righteous man and things couldn't be better for him in any facet of his life. And then the motive for his obedience to God is questioned: "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

In one day Job lost all he valued. His crops were ruined, his cattle were stolen, his servants murdered, and finally his children were killed in a storm. What was Job's reaction to all this: "At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised'" (Job 1:20-21 NIV)

This, however, is not the end of Job's troubles. He is next afflicted with painful sores all over his body. His wife counsels him to "curse God and die". Finally, three "friends" come to visit. The purpose of their visit is to point out to Job that he must have

greatly sinned for God to punish him with these terrible calamities and that he must repent:

"Is it for your piety that he rebukes you and brings charges against you?

Is not your wickedness great? Are not your sins endless?

"If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored: If you remove wickedness far from your tent..." (Job 22:4-5, 23 NIV)

These "friends" are simply repeating a common misunderstanding of God's interaction with human beings: If you are good you will be blessed in this life. If you sin, you will be punished. Job, himself, is confused. He knows that he has not committed some terrible sin that would warrant such terrible "punishment" but he cannot convince his "friends" of this. He even questions God and wants a chance to defend himself:

"But I desire to speak to the Almighty and to argue my case with God.

"Only grant me these two things, O God, and then I will not hide from you:

Withdraw your hand far from me, and stop frightening me with your terrors.

Then summon me and I will answer, or let me speak, and you reply.

How many wrongs and sins have I committed? Show me my offense and my sin." (Job 13:4,20-23)

A young man by the name of Elihu then rebukes both Job for

justifying himself rather than God and the three friends because they were unable to refute Job but condemned him anyway. Elihu reminds Job of God's greatness, power, and justice. He, still, however, does not answer the question of the reason for Job's sufferings.

Finally, the LORD answers Job but not in the way that we would imagine. From the midst of a powerful storm God questions Job:

"Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?

Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.

Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand.

Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? (Job 38:2-5)

"Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up [God's] dominion over the earth? Can you raise your voice to the clouds and cover yourself with a flood of water? Do you send the lightning bolts on their way? Do they report to you, 'Here we are'? Who endowed the heart with wisdom or gave understanding to the mind?" (Job 38:33-36)

Through four chapters we read through the questions that God directed to Job. Through these questions Job learned of the

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Job, Perfect and Upright (cont.)

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power and sovereignty of God. He is humbled by what he comes to understand. He stops thinking about himself, his rights, his own righteousness. The man who had been considered “the greatest man among all the people of the East” despises himself and repents in dust and ashes. Job had lost all but gained something much more important. Consider these verses from the last chapter of Job:

Then Job replied to the LORD:

"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. [You asked,] 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.

["You said,] 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."
(Job 42:1-6 NIV)

Job had been given the most important thing in life and the most beautiful. He, now, not only had heard about God, but he could “see” God. He knew God. Jesus tells us just how important that gift is:

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (John 17:3 NIV)

Bible Principles

“Seeing” and Knowing the Almighty LORD God

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Tim 1:17 NIV)

Job obeyed the law of God and even placed his trust in God, but it wasn't until he went through great sufferings and humbled himself before God that he was able to say “My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.” What had changed for Job?

As children we learn many things about God. He is the creator of all. He is all-knowing and all-present. He is the one and only God. He is love. He is full of compassion and mercy. He hates wickedness. We also know a great deal about George Washington. He was a great general during the Revolutionary War. He was the first president of the United States. But we have never met George and we don't really “know” him. In the same way we can know a lot about God and with some of this information we

may even be able to begin to appreciate it's meaning. But that doesn't mean we know or love God.

God wants us to come to know him. He wants us to search for him. For Job, coming to know God was a long and difficult process. The process involved questioning, searching, and humility. God has spoken to us in many ways so that we will come to know him. He has spoken to us through his creation, the prophets, and finally through his Son:

“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.” (Hebrews 1:1-3 NIV)

“... since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of

the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” (Romans 1:19-20 NIV)

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. (Acts 17:24-27 NIV)

And without faith it is impossi-

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“Seeing” and Knowing the Almighty God (Cont.)

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*ble to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and **that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.** (Hebrews 11:6 NIV)*

When we think of all the attributes of God—creator of all, all-powerful, all-knowing, invisible, immortal, the only God—we realize just how far above our knowing and understanding God is. We try to explain or define God with doctrinal statements. These statements are man-made and, in reality, place limits on our understanding of the mighty God. They make us think that we have finished our search for God. But this is far from the truth. A definition by definition limits what is defined. Yet God is without limits. God reveals himself in many ways in order to communicate with us. To Job he came in a whirlwind, questioning Job and showing him his power and infinite knowledge. To Elijah he came in the still, small voice giving comfort and reassurance to a defeated, frightened servant. To Moses he showed his glory and mighty attributes to give inspiration to the leader of his people. To Abraham he gave promises that spoke of his eternal purposes. To us he has given his creation, his thoughts through the message of the Bible, and finally he has spoken to us through his Son.

It is in Jesus that we not only see the attributes of love and compassion, power and glory that tell us of Jesus’ Father, but he also shows us the way to search, and seek, and

finally come to know God. Jesus said: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well...” What is the way that Jesus shows us?

As with Job, *the way* is a spiritual process. *The way* that Jesus shows us to his Father is through humble, meek obedience to the Father’s will. It is recognizing the complete and total sovereignty of God in all things. It is day-by-day forgetting self to serve the Father. This is the example that Jesus has given us. This is what it means to be a disciple of Jesus:

*So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am [the one I claim to be] and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, **for I always do what pleases him.**” (John 8:28-30 NIV)*

*Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and **serve him only.**’” (Luke 4:8 NIV)*

*“Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. **To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.**” When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “**You are not far***

from the kingdom of God.” (Mark 12:32-34 NIV)

*“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him...**If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.** (John 14:21-24 NIV)*

At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.”

*“All things have been committed to me by my Father. **No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.** Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and **learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**” (Matthew 11:25-30 NIV)*

It is Jesus who has taught us that it is not through superior intellect or our own holiness that we come to know God. Rather it is through humble obedience, searching and worship of the one true God, that God through Jesus reveals himself to us.

To receive an interesting and enlightening free pamphlet on this subject entitled “**Getting to Know God, What the Bible Reveals**” e-mail your request along with your mailing address to info@dailybiblereader.com or send your request to DailyBibleReader, PO Box 16070, Newport News, VA 23608.

As both a medical doctor and a minister, Dr. Johnson has wrestled with some of the major questions of life both from a spiritual and a scientific point of view. This book is the story of his personal pilgrimage through faith and doubt, questioning and searching.

Dr. Johnson notes concerning this book that he hopes that the reader “might find in it some help and encouragement for your own process of spiritual exploration—whether or not you agree with the answers I affirm. Ultimately, you must find your own answers; other people’s answers are never enough.”

Some of the questions that Dr. Johnson considers are: “Does God exist?” “Why do the questions keep coming?” “Is the Universe an accident?” “Why bother with religion and the Bible?” “Is God in control?” “What difference does

it make?”

For anyone who has honestly considered the big questions of life, they know that it can be an unsettling process to leave behind what is “known” and consider the unknown. Dr. Johnson gives guidance and comfort to those who find themselves far from finding all the answers.

There are two quotes from this book that give us the essence and the conclusions that Dr. Johnson finds in his search. One is from the first chapter and the other from the last chapter:

“Finally, although this book is mostly about how to think through such questions, I believe it’s the choices we make in our daily lives that tell our true story and reflect what we really believe. And if the truth be told, I have much less confidence in the

human mind to figure out the mind of God than I did forty years ago and much more confidence in the mercy of God to tolerate our human explorations on these matters...”

“Ultimately you may discover that what truly matters in life has less to do with getting exactly the right answers than with asking the truly important questions.”

Dr. Johnson entitles his book “Finding God in the Questions.” It is interesting to note that it was through questions—his own questions and God’s questioning of him that Job finally “sees” God. We must not be afraid of questions. Nor should we be afraid of not finding all the answers. It is all part of the process of searching for the one true God.

Free Booklet Offer

We would like to send you a very helpful booklet entitled “A Faith that Makes Sense” by Todd Treadway of Denver, Colorado. This booklet is a brief survey of a number of Bible Teachings contrasted with Popular Theology. It is an excellent way to start your search for Bible Truth.

To receive a free copy of this book send your name and address to DailyBibleReader, P.O. Box 16070, Newport News, VA 23608 or e-mail info@dailybiblereader.com.

Bible readings for the months of April, May and June include:

Deuteronomy. This is the fifth book of Moses and concludes the history of the children of Israel as they wandered in the desert for 40 years. The book, as the name implies, is a repetition of the law and many of the events found in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. Before his death, Moses warns and encourages the people to serve only the LORD and obey him in everything.

Joshua: Joshua leads the Israelites into the Promised Land. With God's strength and help they conquer the cities in the land including Jericho and Ai. Finally the land is divided and allotted to the different tribes.

Judges: After the death of Joshua, a series of judges (rulers) led Israel under God's direction. The book of Hebrews in the New Testament lists several of these rulers as examples of faithful

people. Among them are Samson, Deborah, Gideon, Barak, and Samuel.

I and II Samuel: The books of Samuel continue the history of Israel from the time of Samuel, the last Judge, through the reigns of King Saul and King David. The history of David from the time he is anointed by Samuel as a young boy to the time he becomes an aged king is a fascinating story to follow.

Job: This book is unique in the Bible for many reasons. It is a treatise on the subject of suffering. While there is some narration at the beginning and end of the book, most of it is a series of conversations between Job, several of his friends, and finally with God. The author, location, and date of the book are unknown.

Mark: This is the shortest Gospel narrative of the life of Jesus and probably the earliest. This Gospel

may have been dictated by the Apostle Peter to Mark. It appears to be aimed at a non-Jewish audience since he describes Jewish customs in detail.

Luke: The third Gospel was written by Luke the Physician who also wrote the Acts of the Apostles. It is the most complete book of the life of Jesus. This is the only Gospel with the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Rich Man and Lazarus. Luke also writes in much more detail about the birth of John the Baptist and the events surrounding the birth of Jesus.

I and II Corinthians: These are two letters written by the Apostle Paul to the church in the Greek city of Corinth. The very famous chapter about love is found here. Also, Paul gives the most complete writings concerning the resurrection, spiritual gifts, and his own history that are found in the New Testament.

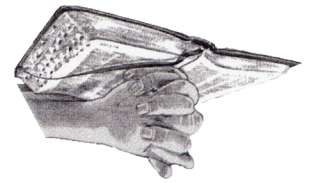
Tuesday evening Bible Study Group

We would like to invite you to a Bible study group which meets **every Tuesday at the Hampton Inn and Suites**, 12251 Jefferson Ave, across the street from the Patrick Henry Mall. The class **starts at 7:00 PM and ends at 8:30 PM.**

We are currently reading and studying from Paul's letters in the first half of the class and in the second half we are looking at a number of passages from both the Old and New Testament that have to do with the Gospel of Peace. (Rom 10:15). What is that "gospel of peace" and what are the "glad tidings of good things" that Paul talks about in Romans? Please join us.

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"A Faith That Makes Sense"**

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Daily Bible Readings for April, May and June
Read the Entire Bible in One Year

Day	APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
	Old Test	New Test/Psa	Old Test	New Test/Psa	Old Test	New Test/Psa
1	Deut 13,14	Mark 6	Judges 3,4	1 Corinth 11	Job 38,39	Psalm 59
2	Deut 15,16	Psalm 33,34	Judges 5,6	1 Corinth 12	Job 40-42	Luke 17
3	Deut 17,18	Mark 7	Judges 7,8	1 Corinth 13	I Sam 1. 2	Luke 18
4	Deut 19,20	Mark 8	Judges 9,10	Psalm 48	I Sam 3. 4	Psalm 60. 61
5	Deut 21,22	Mark 9	Judges 11,12	I Corinth 14	I Sam 5. 6	Luke 19
6	Deut 23,24	Psalm 35	Judges 13,14	I Carinth 15	I Sam 7. 8	Luke 20
7	Deut 25,26	Mark 10	Judges 15,16	Psalm 49	I Sam 9.10	Luke 21
8	Deut 27,28	Mark 11	Judges 17,18	I Corinth 16	I Sam 11. 12	Psalm 62. 63
9	Deut 29,30	Psalm 36,37	Judges 19,20	Psalm 50	I Sam 13. 14	Luke 22
10	Deut 31,32	Psalm 38,39	Judge 21 Ruth 1	Psalm 51. 52	I Sam 15. 16	Luke 23
11	Deut 33,34	Mark 12	Ruth 2-4	Luke 1	I Sam 17. 18	Luke 24
12	Provb 17,18	Mark 13	Provb 29,30	Luke 2	I Sam 19. 20	Psalm 64. 65
13	Provb 19,20	Mark 14	Provb 31	Luke 3	I Sam 21. 22	Psalm 66. 67
14	Provb 21,22	Mark 15	Job 1-3	Psalm 53	I Sam 23. 24	II Corinth 1
15	Joshua 1,2	Mark 16	Job 4,5	Luke 4	I Sam 25. 26	II Corinth 2
16	Joshua 3,4	Psalm 40,41	Job 6,7	Luke 5	I Sam 27. 28	II Corinth 3
17	Joshua 5,6	1 Corinth 1	Job 8,9	Luke 6	i Sam 29-31	Psalm 68
18	Joshua 7. 8	1 Corinth 2	Job 10,11	Psalm 54,55	Eccles 1. 2	Psalm 69
19	Joshua 9,10	1 Corinth 3	Job 12,13	Luke 7	Eccles 3. 4	II Corinth 4
20	Joshua 11,12	Psalm 42,43	Job 14,15	Luke 8	Eccles 5. 6	II Corinth 5
21	Joshua 13,14	1 Corinth 4	Job 16,17	Psalm 56	Eccles 7. 8	II Corinth 6
22	Joshua 15,16	1 Corinth 5	Job 18,19	Luke 9	Eccles 9.10	Psalm 70. 71
23	Joshua 17,18	Psalm 44	Job 20,21	Luke 10	Eccles 11. 12	II Corinth 7
24	Joshua 19,20	1 Corinth 6	Job 22,23	Luke 11	II Sam 1. 2	II Corinth 8
25	Joshua 21,22	1 Corinth 7	Job 24,25	Psalm 57	II Sam 3. 4	II Corinth 9
26	Joshua 23,24	1 Corinth 8	Job 26,27	Luke 12	II Sam 5. 6	II Corinth 10
27	Provb 23,24	Psalm 45	Job 28,29	Luke 13	II Sam 7. 8	Psalm 72
28	Provb 25,26	1 Corinth 9	Job 30,31	Psalm 58	II Sam 9. 10	Psalm 73
29	Provb 27,28	1 Corinth 10	Job 32,33	Luke 14	II Sam 11.12	II Corinth 11
30	Judges 1,2	Psalm 46. 47	Job 34,35	Luke 15	II Sam 13.14	II Corinth 12
31			Job 36,37	Luke 16		

See page 5 for some thoughts on the daily readings.

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