

## **SPIRITUAL RESTORATION FROM SUFFERING**

We have been studying the Book of Job as a seven-act play. We have studied selective passages from each of the following seven acts.

- Act 1 – Spiritual Testing of Undeserved Suffering (Job 1-2)
- Act 2 – Suffering for Christ (Job 3)
- Act 3 – First Debate of Suffering (Job 4-14)
- Act 4 – Second Debate of Suffering (Job 15-21)
- Act 5 – Third Debate of Suffering (Job 22-31)
- Act 6 – Special Speeches on Suffering (Job 32-41)
- Act 7 – **Spiritual Restoration from Suffering (Job 42)**

**We will study Act 7 by the following eight homiletical points.**

- False Assumption (42:7)
- Follower of Christ (42:7-8)
- Friends (42:8-9)
- Finished (42:10)
- Family (42:11)
- Fortunes (42:12-16)
- Fame (James 5:11)
- Funeral (42:17)

**1. One of the doctrinal principles that we have learned from the study of the Book of Job is “false assumptions lead to false interpretations that lead to false expectations that lead to false applications.”**

“They presumed to know why Job was suffering.” (NIV, 42:7-9) The false assumption of Job’s three friends Job’s suffering was divine discipline – “Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.” (5:17 / Eliphaz)

The false assumption was that God wouldn’t do this to His child except for divine discipline (Heb.12:5-11). Certainly God wouldn’t do this to a blameless, upright, God fearing, and evil shunning believer (Job 18 / Bildad).

**2. Job is referred to as a follower of Christ by the title, “My Servant.”**

Four times in two closing verses God reaffirms this title to Job (42:7-8). The Book of Job opened with God assigning this title to Job. God made this declaration at both angelic conferences in the heavenly court (1:8; 2:3) – “Have you considered My Servant Job. There is no one on earth like him.”

God’s unshakable faith in Job’s integrity is the theme of the book – “My servant Job!” “Till I die I will not put away my integrity from me. I hold fast my righteousness and will not let it go, my heart does not reproach any of my days.” (27:5-6)

**3. The doctrinal advise given by Job's three friends is challenged in Act 7 by God (42:7-9).**

"I am angry with you (Eliphaz) and your two friends (Bildad and Zophar), because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My Servant Job has." (42:7)

The Lord referred to their advice as FOLLY (nebalah / senselessness, even disgraceful) (42:7-8). They will be placed under divine discipline for it unless they offer a burnt offering and have Job pray for them (42:8).

"The burnt offering symbolized the entire surrender to God of the individual or of the congregation, God's acceptance thereof, with a view to the renewal and sanctification of the entire man and consecration to a course of life pleasing to God." (Unger, pg.947)

In shadow Christology, the B.O taught a covenant grace relationship based on Christ offering Himself as an atoning substitutionary sacrifice in the place of the sinner (Heb.9: 11-14).

**4. Job's prayer for his friends finished Job's undeserved suffering (U.S) in the Angelic Conflict (42:9-10).**

"Job's prayer marked the turning point back to prosperity for him." (NIV, 42:10)

"After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before." (42:10)

Doctrinal principle: The spiritual mature believer does not suffer without divine purpose (S.I.M, D.D, and U.S).

**5. The Lord restored Job's relationship with his friends and family before his fortune (42:11 – "brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before."**)

You will recall that in the midst of suffering these people deserted Job. "God has made me a by word to everyone, a man in whose face people spit." (16:6)

"He has alienated my brothers from me; my acquaintances are completely estranged from me. My kinsmen have gone away; my friends have forgotten me." (19:13-14)

"All my intimate friends detested me; those I love have turned against me." (19:19)

**6. The Lord restored Job's fortune two-fold (42:10). "The Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first." (42:12; Deut.30:1-10)**

Two-fold fortune is compared (42:12-13 to 1:2-3, 21-22). It was two-fold except for the children (7 sons and 3 daughters).

Job granted his daughters equal inheritances as sons (42:15; Num.27:8).

**7. The Lord restored Job's fame throughout biblical history.**

"As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy." (James 5:11, NIV)

**8. Job's funeral reflected his promotion to super grace status after his suffering**

"And so he died, old and full of years." (42:17)

"The longevity of a true patriarch (see note on Ex.6: 16) (NIV, 42:17).