

Life-Study of Job Summaries - Messages 1-5

Introduction

Burden:

- (1) God deals with His saints for the purpose that they may gain Him as life.
- (2) God strips His seekers of their possessions so that they may inherit Him in full.
- (3) God works out for His overcomers through affliction an eternal weight of glory.
- (4) God is bringing His lovers into Himself as glory through all things and will glorify them with Himself.

Subject: The purpose of God's dealing with His holy one. In Paul's Epistles we see that God's purpose in dealing with us is to strip us of all things so that we may gain God more and more.

The contents of the book of Job are the **expressions of the sentiments** of **godly** men. Their expressions were uttered before the law was given, yet their sentiments were filled with the **principle of good and evil**. Their logic was according to the line of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and, based on this, they considered very much God's justice and righteous judgment. The expression of the sentiments of these godly men are in relation to the judgments of God's government.

The Trials of Job

Job was **perfect inwardly and upright outwardly**, Job **feared God positively and turned away from evil negatively**. However, even with the positive matter of fearing God, there is not anything that is actually positive. God did not create man to merely fear Him. **God created man in His own image and after His likeness that man may express Him**. Ethically speaking, Job was very good. Only God knew that Job had a need, that **he was short of God**. Although Job was full of possessions and full of his attainments, he did not have God within him. Thus, for God's dealing with Job, Satan was needed.

It was not easy for God to gain a person like Job who feared God and turned away from evil. Thus, God was lovingly concerned for Job and held two councils in heaven concerning how to deal with Job. In Job 2, we see that Satan attacked Job and Job suffered the trial in his body. In this trial, Job did not sin with his lips. At the end of Satan's first series of attacks, Job did not pray but blessed God. At the end of Satan's second attack, Job was suffering very great pain in silence. **Eventually Job cursed the day of his birth** instead of complaining to either God or man. This step in God's economy was to carry out the consuming and stripping of the contented Job in his seeking after Him. **God's intention was to usher Job into a deeper seeking after Him that he might gain Him instead of His blessings and his attainments in his perfection and integrity**.

Job's Cursing of His Birthday

Not wanting to lose his perfection, Job released his vexation by cursing his birthday. For Job to curse his birthday meant that he cursed his mother. God's consuming is to exhaust us, and God's stripping is to take our riches from us. God's intention with Job was to **consume** this "perfect and upright" person and to strip his attainments, his achievements, in the highest standard of ethics in perfection and uprightness. It was to **tear down the natural Job** that He might **build up a renewed Job in His nature and attributes**, to have Job in the line of the tree of life. Eventually, God's intention was to make Job a man of God.

The First of the Three Rounds in the Debates between Job and his Three Friends

In the first round, Eliphaz answered Job not by sympathizing, but by rebuking. Eliphaz's word was based on Job's perfection, uprightness, and integrity and was in the principle of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

(Life-Study of Job – Messages 1-5).