

Life-Study of Job Review – Messages 36-38

The Significance in the Sequence of Job and the Psalms

The book of Job ministers to its readers a picture of **man's concept** concerning God's dealing with His holy people. Second, the function of this book is to **expose** the deficiency of the divine revelation in Job's age, which was quite primitive in knowing God. Third, the book of Job serves the Bible readers with a **negative background** so that they will proceed further from what they can receive in the book of Job and seek the divine and spiritual truths as the progression of the divine revelation shown in the Psalms.

The book of Psalms **fills the gap** left at the end of the book of Job, and shows Bible readers how the Holy Spirit **turned** the psalmists from the law, which they loved and tried to keep, to Christ, of whom they did not have any idea. The Psalms ministers to the Bible readers, in their ignorant seeking of God, **the all-inclusive Christ in God's economy**. Furthermore, the Psalms helps the Bible readers to know that the divine revelation is progressive.

Two Trees, Two Sources, Two Lines, Two Principles, and Two Ends

The **tree of life**, as the highest sign, signifies God, even the Triune God, as life to man in man's relationship with Him. The **tree of the knowledge of good and evil**, as the highest negative sign, signifies Satan the devil, as death to man in man's fall before God.

The two trees, as signs of God and Satan, are the two sources of two categories of men. The first tree is the source of men who **seek God as life** for their supply and enjoyment, of whom Abel is the leading one. The second tree is the source of men who **follow Satan as their poison** unto death and eternal perdition, of whom Cain is the leading one.

The two lines, as the two ways, originate from the two sources. The first way is the **way of life**, the constricted way, the Way, the straight way, the way of righteousness, the way of salvation, the way of God, and the way of the Lord, for men to seek God, to gain God, and to enjoy God in His eternal life as the supply and unto His eternal life as the goal, that they may be **born of God** in His life and nature, transformed and conformed into His glorious image, and glorified in Him as glory to gain Him and participate in Him to the fullest extent. The second way is the **way of good and evil**, the way of death, the broad way, for men to follow Satan to be his **children unto death** and his companions in his eternal perdition.

The two ways constitute the two controlling, ruling, and regulating principles by which men have their relationship with God. The first principle is the **principle of life**, according to which all men in the way of life **keep their contact with God**, and by which they seek God, gain God, possess God, and enjoy God, step by step, until they reach the fullest extent. The second principle is the **principle of death** and of good and evil, in which all men in the way of death follow Satan either consciously or unconsciously, and through which they **reject God** and His way of life.

(Life-Study of Job – Messages 36-38).