

# Abounding Grace Christian Church

## What about the Book of Job? – Part 4

### I. Opening Text: Job 2:9-10 – Job and his wife.

A. **Verse 9** – After all the calamity of losing her children, her wealth and, the last one where her husband is suffering from painful boils, Job's wife says; **“Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!”** It's safe to say that Job's wife was grieving and hurting greatly. Many times when we're going through difficult times, we say things that we really shouldn't say. There are at least a couple of lessons we can learn from this. First, when you're hurting, it's wise to watch your words (**James 1:19; 3:1-12; Numbers 21:4-9; Proverbs 18:20-21**). Secondly, when a person is hurting and grieving, we should attempt to encourage and strengthen them, not add to their grief by discouraging or condemning them. Note the following quote:

**“The grief-stricken person may appear to be ‘losing his faith’ during times of anger or depression, but that is just part of the process. Be patient and supportive, never judgmental or reproving ... just be a quiet reminder of God's love and constant presence in his life.”<sup>1</sup>**

B. **Verse 10** – **“But he said to her, ‘You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?’ In all this Job did not sin with his lips.”** – Even though Job had his theology wrong regarding where the adversity had come from, he did not sin with his lips because he did not know any better, and he didn't accuse God in anger or complaint, blaming God.

### II. Job 2:11-13 – Introducing Job's three Friends.

A. **Verse 11** – **“Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, each one came from his own place—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had made an appointment together to come and mourn with him, and to comfort him.”** Their intentions were good. **Romans 12:15** states; **“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”** Unfortunately, they didn't succeed in what they intended to do.

1. **Eliphaz the Temanite** – Teman is believed to be either a city in Edom or an entire area. Edom was the territory where Esau, Isaac's son settled. So, Eliphaz was a descendant of Esau
2. **Bildad the Shuhite** – The second of Job's friends. The fact that it states that he was a **“Shuhite”** may indicate a connection with Shuah, a son of Abraham through his marriage to Keturah.<sup>2</sup> (**Genesis 25:2; I Chronicles 1:32**).
3. **Zophar the Naamathite** – **“a native of Naamah, a town possibly located in northwest Arabia (Job 2:11; 42:9). His words of ‘comfort,’ beginning at 11:1; 20:1, are characterized by lack of compassion and a popular, commonsense wisdom that misses Job's hurt completely.”<sup>3</sup>**

B. **Verses 12-13** – Due to the disease that had attacked his body, he was unrecognizable. These men, no doubt, cared about Job. They wept and stayed close to him for seven days and didn't say a word. Sometimes just being present for people when they mourn can be the greatest comfort. Unfortunately, when they began to speak, they were not much help.

### III. Job breaks the Silence. Job begins to really get distraught and curses, not God, but the day of his birth. From here on to the end of Job's discourse is him spewing out things that are not good.

A. The following are just a few Scriptures that point out some of the incorrect understandings that Job had. (But, Job did better than many Christians do who have the Bible.)

1. **Job 6:4** – **“For the arrows of the Almighty are within me...”**
2. **Job 7:20-21** – **“Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, so that I am a burden to myself? Why then do You not pardon my transgression, and take away my iniquity? For now I will lie down in the dust...”**
3. **Job 9:17-18** – **“For He crushes me with a tempest, and multiplies my wounds without a cause. He will not allow me to catch my breath, but fills me with bitterness.”**

<sup>1</sup> Insight for Living, *Counseling Insights: A Biblical Perspective on Caring for People* (Plano, TX: Insight for Living, 2007), 450.

<sup>2</sup> John D. Barry et al., eds., “Bildad the Shuhite,” in *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

<sup>3</sup> Allen C. Myers, “ZOPHAR,” in *The Eerdmans Bible Dictionary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1987), 1092.

4. Job 9:22-24 – “It is all one thing; therefore I say, He destroys the blameless and the wicked. If the scourge slays suddenly, He laughs at the plight of the innocent. The earth is given into the hand of the wicked. He covers the faces of its judges. If it is not He, who else could it be?”
5. Job 10:3, 8,16 – “Does it seem good to You that You should oppress, That You should despise the work of Your hands, and smile on the counsel of the wicked?...Your hands have made me and fashioned me, an intricate unity; yet You would destroy me....If my head is exalted, You hunt me like a fierce lion, and again You show Yourself awesome against me.”
6. Job 14:19 – “As water wears away stones, and as torrents wash away the soil of the earth; so You destroy the hope of man.”
7. Job 16:9-13 – “He tears *me* in His wrath, and hates me; He gnashes at me with His teeth; My adversary sharpens His gaze on me. They gape at me with their mouth, They strike me reproachfully on the cheek, They gather together against me. God has delivered me to the ungodly, And turned me over to the hands of the wicked. I was at ease, but He has shattered me; He also has taken *me* by my neck, and shaken me to pieces; He has set me up for His target, His archers surround me. He pierces my heart and does not pity; He pours out my gall on the ground.”

B. Bible scholar Gregory Boyd makes the following statement:

**“Are we to believe that these are theological insights the author is recommending? Should we view God as our adversary instead of our advocate (cf. Jn 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7; 1 Jn 2:1)? Is comfort found when God leaves us alone (Job 10:20) rather than when he is with us? Doesn't the god job describes in these passages sound much more like ‘a roaring lion ... looking for someone to devour’-in other words, ‘your adversary the devil’ (1 Pet 5:8)? Of course he does, which is why Job later confesses, ‘I have uttered what I did not understand’ (Job 42:3) and proclaims, ‘I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes’ (Job 42:6).”<sup>4</sup>**

C. In the midst of all the wrong things Job said about God, there were some very precious and sacred things that Job said that were right. There were some wonderful glimmers of light and truth that came out.

1. Job 9:32-33 – “For He is not a man, as I am, that I may answer Him, and that we should go to court together. Nor is there any mediator between us, who may lay his hand us both.” Job recognized the need for a mediator – a go-between, between man and God. Of course, God has provided One for us under this New Covenant – Jesus Christ (I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 8:6; 12:24).
2. Job 19:25-26 – “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God.”

**“In his jubilation of faith Job affirmed his certainty that God his Redeemer lives. Though Job believed God was against him, he knew that only God could vindicate his innocence. Job would die, but God lives on as his Defender, Protector, or Vindicator (*gō’ēl*, “a person who defended or avenged the cause of another, or who provided protection or legal aid for a close relative who could not do so for himself”; cf. Lev. 25:23–25, 47–55; Num. 35:19–27; Prov. 23:10–11; Jer. 50:34). Job knew that in the end God would stand upon the earth and, like a witness for the defendant at a court trial, would testify that Job was innocent. In that way all would not only read of his uprightness (Job 19:23–24) but also all would hear of it—from God Himself!”<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>4</sup> Gregory A. Boyd, *Is God to Blame?* (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2003), 93-94.

<sup>5</sup> Roy B. Zuck, “Job,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 741.