

Abounding Grace Christian Church

What about the Book of Job? – Part 6

I. Job's Repentance.

A. Job repented – **42:5-6**. The word “repent” here means; “be sorry, suffer grief, repent, of one's own doings.”¹ Scholars Guy Duffield and Nathan Van Cleave add:

“The root meaning of ‘repentance’ is a change of mind or purpose. It is a ‘sincere and thorough changing of the mind and disposition in regard to sin.’ It involves a change of view, a change of feeling, and a change of purpose. Thus we can say it contains three elements: the intellectual, the emotional and the voluntary.”²

1. What Repentance is NOT:

- a. Just an emotional response, though there may be emotion.
- b. Becoming “religious”.
- c. Just being sorry for what you have done. **II Corinthians 7:8-12**. True Godly sorrow

will

lead to repentance.

2. Why is Repentance so Important?

- a. God commands Repentance. **Acts 17:30**. “*Truly these times of ignorance, God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.*”
- b. Repentance is called the “first word” of the Gospel. It initially precedes faith for salvation and it precedes forgiveness. We see that before Job was right before God and accepted, he had to repent (**42:7,9**). Duffield and Van Cleave make an important statement:

“Repentance is a subject rarely preached on in our churches today. Some have even taught that it is not necessary, that we are living in a different dispensation which does not require it. They quote Paul's words to the Philippian jailor's question: “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Paul's reply was, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:30, 31). Because Paul did not mention repentance, we are told all we need to do is to believe in order to be saved today. Repentance has to do with turning from sin, and unfortunately the sinfulness of sin is something very seldom emphasized in our day. It is doubtful if a person is ever born again if he does not fully realize that the question of his sin has been dealt with by the Lord Jesus Christ. Many are being asked to come to Christ simply on the basis of blessings to be received and the joy to be experienced. Jesus Christ met the sin question for us and it is of the greatest importance that we turn from our sin before we can believe on Him as our Savior.”³

1) It was the first word preached by John the Baptist

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” **Matthew 3:2**

2) It was the first word preached by Jesus.

“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”
Matthew 4:17

3) It was the first word preached by the disciples.

“So they went out and preached that people should repent.” **Mark 6:12**

4) Peter wrote: God is NOT willing that any should perish but that all should come

to repentance. **II Peter 3:9**.

5) Repentance is the first of the six foundational doctrines of Christ. **Hebrews 6:1-**

2. Without a proper foundation, you can't build a strong building.

c. Without repentance, a church can be removed. **Revelation 2:1-7**. Here we see that repentance is for more than just initial salvation, it also applies to the Christian if

¹ Richard Whitaker et al., *The Abridged Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament: From A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament by Francis Brown, S.R. Driver and Charles Briggs, Based on the Lexicon of Wilhelm Gesenius* (Boston; New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1906).

² Guy P. Duffield and Nathaniel M. Van Cleave, *Foundations of Pentecostal Theology* (Los Angeles, CA: L.I.F.E. Bible College, 1983), 210.

³ *Ibid.*, 209–210.

they sin.

d. Repentance frees people from the power of Satan and causes them to tap into the power of God. **Acts 26:18.**

II. Job prays for his Friends – 42:7-8 – After God rebukes Job’s friends saying; “...for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has”, (verse 7), God tells them that Job will pray for them.

A. Verse 8 – “...My servant Job shall pray for you. For I will accept him, lest I deal with you according to your folly...”. The word “accept” means; “to turn towards”...“to pay attention to”⁴

So, God is saying that He will pay attention to Job’s prayers so his friends don’t get what’s coming to them in terms of judgment. (cf. **Genesis 18:16-33; Exodus 32:9-14; Numbers 14:1-21; Ephesians 1:15-19; Ephesians 3:14-21; Colossians 1:9-12 for other examples of intercessory prayer.**)

B. In this passage, God calls Job His servant four times. Concerning this, John E. Hartley writes; “Yahweh calls Job *my servant* four times in vv. 7 and 8. This title suggests a close, bonded relationship and in the OT is a title of honor for those who serve God. In His conversations with the satan, Yahweh referred to Job as His servant (1:8; 2:3). His use of this title again signifies that He has accepted Job’s recantation and acknowledges that he has the same high status that he had prior to his trial.”⁵

III. Job’s Restoration – 42:9-17. (James 5:11 reminds us that a lesson to learn from Job is “...the end intended by the Lord- that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”)

A. Verse 9 - “...for the Lord had accepted Job.” – The word “accepted” means; “be lifted up; forgive, spare, i.e., remove guilt incurred and its penalty”⁶ The margin of the NKJV reads; “lifted

up the face of Job.” (Note: Several translations apply this to Job praying for his friends. E.g. “...the Lord accepted Job’s prayer.” – English Standard Version.)

B. Verse 10 – “And the LORD restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.” – The word “restored” is often translated as “turned the captivity” of Job. Notice that all the things Job suffered are referred to as captivity, or bondage. Again, John E. Hartley writes:

“After Job had submitted to Yahweh and faithfully carried out His directives, demonstrating a gracious, forgiving spirit in praying for his ‘comforters’, Yahweh restored Job’s fortunes. The fundamental spiritual principle that in giving one receives and in forgiving one is forgiven is demonstrated here (cf. Luke 6:38)...The blessing proves that Yahweh is a life-giving God, not a capricious deity who takes pleasure in the suffering of those who fear Him.”⁷

C. Sometimes we hear people say when they’re suffering, “I’m just like poor ol’ Job”. If you’re going to be like Job then you’re going to have the following:

a. A dynamic revelation of God’s nature and power.

b. You’re going to be able to pray for those who have hurt you and mistreated you and your

going

to have the ability to rise above anger and unforgiveness.

c. You’re going to be healed in your body.

d. You’re going to be successful in business and have prosperity.

e. You’re going to be accepted by God and held up as an example of righteousness.

f. You’re going to live a long, blessed life.

⁴ Victor P. Hamilton, “1782 פָּנָה,” in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, ed. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 727.

⁵ John E. Hartley, *The New International Commentary of the Old Testament: The Book of Job*, (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988)

⁶ James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

⁷ John E. Hartley, *The New International Commentary of the Old Testament: The Book of Job*

