

# Abounding Grace Christian Church

## What about the Book of Job? – Part 7

### I. Final Thoughts on the Book of Job.

A. As has been stated, the only place in the New Testament which refers to Job is found in **James 5:11**, which reads:

**“Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end *intended by the Lord*—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”**

1. In light of this, we concluded that there are two primary lessons that we are to learn from the life of Job (though there have been several other lessons brought out.) Last time we saw the **“...the end intended by the Lord...”** primarily in **Job 42** where God accepted Job and his prayers for his friends, and restored back to Job twice as much as he had before.

2. Now we come to the second lesson: the perseverance of Job.

a. The word **“perseverance”** in the Greek means;

- 1) **“a holding out, patient endurance, id.:—the enduring to do”**<sup>1</sup>
- 2) **“capacity to continue to bear up under difficult circumstances”**<sup>2</sup>
- 3) **Associated with the ideas of; “staying power”; “sticking to something”; “never quitting”; “going the distance”.**

b. Why is Perseverance Important?

- 1) It's only through Perseverance that we will succeed in the midst of trials. Perseverance brings about **“lacking nothing”** - **James 1:2-4**.
- 2) It's only through Perseverance that we will be fruitful for God. **Luke 8:15**. **“Fruitful”** means; **“bear fruit, produce a crop”**<sup>3</sup> (cf. **Mark 4:20**).
- 3) Perseverance is necessary for receiving the promises of God.

**“For you have need of steadfast patience *and* endurance, so that you may perform *and* fully accomplish the will of God, and thus receive *and* carry away [and enjoy to the full] what is promised.”**  
**Hebrews 10:36.**

4) It's through Faith and perseverance that we inherit the promises of God.

**“...so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and perseverance inherit the promises.”** – **Hebrews 6:12.**

5) To be a **“worker together”** with Christ, we are going to need perseverance in the midst of trouble and persecution. **II Corinthians 6:1-7.**

6) We are called to **“run our race”** with perseverance. **Hebrews 12:1.** (cf. **Acts 20:24; II Timothy 4:7-8**).

c. How do we Persevere?

- 1) By the direction and presence of the Lord, we can persevere with the Perseverance of Christ! **II Thessalonians 3:5; Revelation 1:9.**
- 2) A consistent prayer life helps you to persevere. **Colossians 1:9-11.**

**“We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy,”** – **Colossians 1:11 - NLT**

3) Biblical hope gives us power to persevere. **Romans 8:25; I Thessalonians 1:3.** Biblical hope is **“confident expectation”** based on solid certainty in God's Word. (See also **Hebrews 6:12-19**). Keep **“looking unto Jesus...”** **Hebrews 12:2.** **“Looking”** means; **to keep thinking about, without having one's attention distracted—‘to think about, to fix one's attention on.’**<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> H.G. Liddell, *A Lexicon: Abridged from Liddell and Scott's Greek-English Lexicon* (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1996), 845.

<sup>2</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 307.

<sup>3</sup> James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

<sup>4</sup> Louw and Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*, 353.

- a) Remember; God is for you and not against you. **Romans 8:31.**
- b) He will never leave you nor forsake you. **Hebrews 13:5,6.**
- c) He is faithful and will not allow you to be tempted or tested more than you're able to bear. There's always a way of escape. **II Corinthians 10:13.**

## II. Does the Lord ever “Chasten” a New Testament Believer? – Hebrews 12:1-11.

A. What does the word “chastening” mean?

- 1. “discipline, training (Eph 6:4); punishment, chastisement for improving behavior”<sup>5</sup>
- 2. “the rearing of a child, training and teaching, education”<sup>6</sup>
- 3. Other than **Hebrews 12:5,7-8,11**, this Greek word is found in **Ephesians 6:4** (“training” in NKJV; “nurture” in KJV) and in **II Timothy 3:16** (“instruction”).

B. How does God chasten His Children?

- 1. Through the Word of God. **II Timothy 3:16.**
- 2. Through the Holy Spirit's conviction. **Ezekiel 36:27; Revelation 2,3.**
- 3. Through a Pastor or a preacher. **II Timothy 4:1-2.**
- 4. In some cases of unrepentant sin, the church may be used by God for chastening. **Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5:1-5. (cf. I Corinthians 11:27-32).**

C. What should the Believer's attitude be toward God's Chastening?

- 1. They should not “despise” it. **Hebrews 12:5. “to regard something or someone as of little value—to look down on, to have contempt for, to make light of.”<sup>7</sup>**
- 2. They should not be “discouraged” by it. **Hebrews 12:5.**
- 3. Remember that the chastening of the Lord signifies His love for you. **Hebrews 12:6.**
- 4. Repent quickly!!

## III. Summarizing some things we've learned from the Book of Job.

- A. The book of Job must be interpreted in light of the New Testament.
- B. The traditional theme of the book of Job is often referred to as “Why the Righteous Suffer.” The problem with this is that the book never actually answers that question. **I propose to you that the message of this book is redemption and deliverance from suffering!**
- C. There are some things we just can't know about Job and his life.
- D. Job's suffering lasted for less than one year. **Job 7:3; 29:2.**
- E. Job is believed to have lived to be 200-250 years old. **Job 42:16-17.**
- F. Job wasn't in any formal covenant with God. Job was not an Israelite but probably a descendant of Esau. Outside the Abrahamic Covenant and before there was a Mosaic Covenant. We have a better covenant than Job, ratified by the Blood of Jesus Christ – **Hebrews 8:6; 9:13-15.**
- G. Satan (which means “adversary” or “enemy”) is the accuser and afflicter of Job. **Job 1:6-22; 2:1-8.**
- H. There is very little revelation of Satan in the Old Testament. The culture of that day amongst many people groups was that everything, good or evil, came from God.
- I. As we search the entirety of Scripture, we discover that Satan is the one who is ultimately the author of sickness and disease and God is the Healer of sickness and disease. God is the deliverer of His people in sickness and trouble (**Job 42; James 5:10–11; Acts 10:38; John. 10:10**).

<sup>5</sup> James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

<sup>6</sup> H.G. Liddell, *A Lexicon: Abridged from Liddell and Scott's Greek-English Lexicon* (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1996), 584.

<sup>7</sup> Louw and Nida, 762.