

FROM PROSPERITY TO POVERTY TO PROSPERITY

Int.

1. Aim: To show the life of Job and the experiences he encountered and to apply the things he learned to our life today.
2. Job 1:1 NKJV - description by God "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil."
3. Introduction to the life of Job - Job 1 & 2
 - a. Great man - 1:1-5
 - b. Satan questions Job's faith - 1:6-12
 - c. Job loses his property and children - 1:13-22
 - d. Job loses his health - 2:1-10
 - e. Job's three friends - 2:11-13
 - i. His friends came to him in his adversity - They kept still for 7 days.
 - ii. Instead of talking about Job they came and talked with him.
4. Chapter 3 - Job's lamentation about his birth - Job 3:3
5. Theme of book: Why do the Righteous Suffer ?

Discussion

I. FIRST SERIES OF CONTROVERSY - Job 3-14

- A. Eliphaz's first speech - courtly Job 4 & 5
 1. From a dream or vision he advises Job to turn to God and repent since he must have sinned - 4:7
 2. Job's reply [Job 6 & 7] he was disappointed in his friend, he knew he was not wicked and could not understand why he must suffer. He calls for death
 3. Job 6:24 Job 7:5

B. Bildad's first speech - Argumentative - Job 8

1. Insists that God is just - Job's troubles indicate his wickedness - uses old proverbs - 8:6
2. Job's reply [Job 9 & 10] - He says God sends punishment on the wicked and the righteous "He destroyeth the perfect and the wicked." Job. 9:22

C. Zophar's first speech - Blunt - Job 11

1. Condemns Job for declaring his innocence, brutally says it is less than he deserves. - 11:6
2. Job's reply [Job. 12, 13 & 14] Job replies severely and sarcastically, asks them to leave him alone. - 12:2-3 13:15 14:1

II. SECOND SERIES OF CONTROVERSY - Job 15-21A. Eliphaz's 2nd speech - Job. 15

1. Accuses Job of vanity, saying no man is innocent
2. Job's reply [Job 16 & 17] Job complains of their unjust reproaches -
 - a. He calls them "Miserable comforters" in Job 16:2
 - b. His eyes are red with crying - Job 16:16 asv "My face is red with weeping,
And on my eyelids is the shadow of death;"

B. Bildad's 2nd speech - Job 18

1. Assume's Job's wickedness and tries to frighten Job by telling the awful doom of the wicked - 18:5
2. Job's Reply [Job 19] Job appeals to the pity and generosity of his friends. He makes the claim that "I know that my redeemer lives." Job. 19:21-22, 25

C. Zophar's 2nd speech - Job 20

1. He sets out the deplorable fate in store for the wicked.
2. Job's reply [Job 21] Job replies by saying many wicked people are prosperous
Job 21:7-9

III. THIRD SERIES OF CONTROVERSY Job 22 - 31A. Eliphaz's 3rd speech - Job 22

1. He tells Job that he is wicked - says that Job treats the poor cruelly - 22:6-7
2. Job's reply [Job. 23 & 24] Job says he has obeyed the commands of God

B. Bildad's 3rd speech - Job 25

1. A short speech saying no man is without sin and that this is the reason Job is suffering - only six verses - 25:4
2. Job's reply [Job 26-31]
 - a. Job gives a lengthy reply giving a general survey of his life telling how he had lived - 29:12-14
 - b. He firmly denies he had oppressed the poor but affirms that he has helped all who needed any help
3. This last speech silenced his three friends. Zophar did not give his 3rd speech. They had nothing further to say to Job

IV. ELIHU'S JUDGMENT OF WHY JOB WAS SUFFERING - Job 32-37

- A. This man was there and heard all the speeches
 - 1. He was much younger so he waited until they all finished
 - 2. He gave four lengthy speeches in chapter 32-37
- B. His message to Job
 - 1. He condemned the three friends for not answering correctly
 - 2. Accused Job of justifying himself instead of God
 - 3. Pointed out that God sends afflictions for a wise purpose
 - 4. Describes God and how great He is.
 - 5. His main point was that suffering was to keep us from sinning, not punishment for sinning.
 - 6. This was the difference between Elihu and Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar who argued that Job was punished for his sins.

V. THE MISTAKES OF ELIPHAZ, BILDAD, ZOPHAR AND ELIHU

- A. Job's first three friends made a mistake
 - 1. They thought that all suffering is sent as a punishment for our sins.
 - 2. Job 4:7 "who ever perished being innocent."
 - 3. The disciples thought suffering was the result of sin in our life - John 9:1-2
"And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?"
 - 4. God allowed Stephen to be stoned - Acts 7:59
 - 5. God allowed Paul to have a thorn in the flesh - 2 Cor. 12:7

6. Jesus knew suffering, and he never sinned
7. Many times we suffer now on this earth because of our sins, but every time we suffer it does not mean we have sinned !
8. God said Job was perfect and upright. Sin was not the reason for his suffering!!

B. Elihu thought that suffering was sent to keep men from sinning.

1. This has a certain amount of truth in it, but it is not the complete truth as to why God allows suffering.
2. Heb. 12:6-7
3. Some people suffer because they have sinned.
4. If suffering was sent to keep men from sinning then God would cause all of us to suffer so we would not sin.
5. If he only picked out certain ones then God would be a respecter of persons.

VI. GOD'S EXPLANATION - Job 38 -41

A. God speaks out of a whirlwind

1. He talked about the smallness and helplessness of man
2. He asked a series of 60 questions to reveal to Job that He was God and was the creator.
 - a. He talks about the marvels of the world
 - b. Also tells about the marvels of animals
 - c. And then he reveals the might power that God has

B. The message of God is that men with their limited knowledge ought not to expect to understand all the mysteries of his creation.

VII. RESTORATION OF JOB - Job 42

- A. Job repents and bows down to God
 - 1. His friends are severely reproved
 - 2. Job prays for them and his prayer is accepted
 - 3. Job is restored to his former state of prosperity and his substance is doubled
 - a. 14,000 sheep = 7,000
 - b. 6,000 camels = 3,000
 - c. 1,000 yoke of oxen = 500
 - d. 1,000 female donkeys = 500
 - 4. He also had seven sons and three daughters

- B. Why did Job repent in dust and ashes ? Job 42:6
 - 1. His friends accused him of sin, since he was suffering; but Job knew he had not sinned and could not understand how God could punish him so much.
 - 2. God appears and humbles Job who is so self-confident in his own righteousness.
 - 3. In the presence of God - Job seems vile and wicked. His inward impurity was shown and he realized he was not perfect.
 - 4. Sunlight shining through a room will bring out particles of dust which we didn't know were present. They were there but there was no way for us to see them until the light appeared.
 - 5. Job was righteous, but nothing in comparison to the glorious God, so he repented!

- C. "Job died being old and full of days" Job 42:17
1. He had seen life in all of its varieties
 2. He had risen higher than all the men of the East
 3. He had sun lower in affliction, poverty and distress than any other human being before or after.
 4. He knew the worst and the best of human life
 5. He was afflicted in:
 - a. Property
 - b. Family
 - c. Body
 - d. Soul
 6. "Yet he sinned not nor charged God foolishly." Job. 1:22

CONCLUSION

1. Lessons from Job
 - a. We must learn to feel grief
 - i. Sorrow has its use in our life - Heb. 12:5
 - ii. Jesus wept - John 11:35
 - iii. Jesus told the women of Jerusalem to weep for themselves and their children - Luke 23:28
 - b. We can live on in spite of our losses
 - i. Our possessions are transient
 - ii. Learn while you are young that nothing is necessary but Christ.
 - c. In this world neither are the wicked ultimately punished or the righteous ultimately rewarded.

- d. The righteous, though oppressed with sufferings and heartaches, can never be forgotten by Him who made us.
 - e. God's ways are beyond our understanding
 - f. The Godly are allowed to suffer that they may see themselves.
2. The key word in Job is "TRIED". Job 23:10 "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."
3. The basic lesson is that Job by patient endurance, in the end comes to see God and is abundantly rewarded with greater prosperity and blessedness than he had at the first.
4. Job 1:1 "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil."
- a. Can you be described like this?
 - b. You may be in prosperity and good health right now
 - c. But what if poverty and affliction comes to you?
 - d. Will you come through as pure as God
 - e. You can only if you are a faithful Christian.
5. Job was a righteous man who went from prosperity to poverty and then back to prosperity.
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