

**Job 42:1-6**

1 Then Job answered the LORD: 2 "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 3 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 4 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.' 5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; 6 therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (NRSV).

When you study the Bible, you learn a lot more than you do by just reading the Bible. I strongly recommend everyone have a good quality study Bible. When you engage in Bible study, you discover valuable information that you would have otherwise overlooked. It just becomes more interesting when the various pieces of the puzzle start to fit together. The more interesting it becomes the more you want to discover more.

Job is a pious man of amazing spiritual endurance. God praised him as an example of human faith. Satan knows human motives and is sure that Job is only righteous because of God's blessing. So begins the test of faith in the face of adversity. In one day Job lost it all. His herds were stolen, all of his children died, he was afflicted with repulsive disease and sores. Then his wife decides to provide him with some not scholarly advice which does not come from knowing God. Her advice is from the assumptions that she makes which is based on incorrect teaching of the religious realm. She says "curse God and die." Meanwhile, his friends sit in silence and mourn with him for seven days. Apparently, this is what they did back then. Then after the mourning period ends it is time to speak and Job questions why he was ever born.

The main lesson that I get from Job is then necessity to stay true to God during times of trouble. It is a matter of spiritual fortitude. The orthodox mentality assumed that punishment was deserved to the individual for some sin that was committed. This is a fallacy of questionable premise from people with self-righteous attitudes. Repentance is a key overall lesson of the Bible. Repentance is an action that comes from a change of attitude after one recognizes their transgression. It requires acknowledgment of the transgression and sorrow. The change of character is from the old way to the new way. The Bible is a way to get the word of God to the people of God. There are two ways to get the word to the people. There is the spoken word and the written word; what is told and what is read. The purpose of getting the word to the people is so that they will recognize that the God of Israel is the one true God and God's way is the right way and the one true way. The book of Job is different from most of the other books of the Bible in that they deal with the nation. Whereas, the life experience of Job correlates to the nation of Israel during exile.

In the Scripture Job is talking with God. He knew God before the tragedy struck and was faithful during good times. He remained loyal to God during the tragedy but he did not understand God because the wisdom of God is beyond human understanding. But now after experiencing the disaster, he sees God in a different light. Education didn't do it, the worship experience didn't do it, it is the despondency that got him to see clearly. Unfortunately, that is the way it is with most of humanity and getting right with God after a tragedy is a repetitive biblical lesson.

You have to make an honest effort to understand what the Bible says. You have to understand what the Bible teaches so that you can get right with God. You can only get right with God when you realize that you are not right with God and repent. One problem that Job faces is a failure to be able to understand why God permits evil. It is easy to blame God for personal pain and hardship as if God is selective in individual intervention when the world is full of billions of people. Many people want a god of their own choosing, a personal god of selfish favor. But their thoughts, opinions, and assumptions are based on their incorrect assumptions.

There are women that get kicked out of the house so that the man can move his girlfriend in. He blames his wife, starts arguments, calls her unfit, and she tries harder and harder to please him. She can't help but wonder what is it she can do and she tries even harder to make it right. She wears herself out trying to be a good housewife when in reality the problem is him and his selfishness. He just wanted to move his girlfriend in and plays his wife for a fool. Job's friends make assumptions based on their opinions and accuse him of being a sinner.

In the New Testament, when the disciples see a man that was born blind, they ask Jesus whose sin is to blame, him or his parents. Jesus tells them it was neither one. The Lord helps us to see the light. The lessons of the Bible extend into the realm of human attitudes and opinions. Their understanding of God is skewed by human desire. The people were convinced that Job was being punished by God. They were wrong but thought that they were right. It is an important lesson on theology. Repentance is a key lesson of the Bible. The Bible is God's way to get the word to the people. God's way is the right way. God is real. The Bible is information about the one true God. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of study, reflection, and wonder. Humans frequently make incorrect assumptions and seldom learn that their assumptions are incorrect. I hope you work toward developing an introspective mind, study the Bible and reflect on your relationship with the Lord.