

# Job's Conversion Part 2

Knowing God (Second Title)

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 1/13/2018

The Book of Job is written in the oldest form of the Hebrew language - older than the writing of the first five books of the Old Testament by Moses. The Book of Job is a foundational Bible book. Job had an attitude which got worse and worse as his trial went on. Somewhere along the way, Job lost sight of God and the fullness of His sovereignty. Job was so sure of himself that he put God down. He accused God of being unfair and unjust. In his own mind, Job's attitude placed him **above God** by denying that He had the right to deal with Job as He saw fit. Satan made that same mistake.

Trials are designed by God to bring us closer to Him.

Specific Purpose Statement: In today's sermon we will explore the concept of being **right**, because like Job, even when we are right we might not be **right with God**.

We began in Job's Conversion Part 1 with Job trying to reconcile his miserable circumstances with what he felt to be his exemplary life-style.

It doesn't seem to make sense! Job asks, "Why me?"

In God's conversations with Satan, He holds Job up as perhaps the epitome of human righteousness: "Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is none like him on the earth*, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

We ended Job's Conversion Part 1 with:

Job 32:2 Then was kindled the wrath of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram: against Job was his wrath kindled, because **Job justified himself rather than justifying God**.

Job's problem was that he justified himself rather than justifying God—Why?

Because Job **did not know** God! Yes, Job knew God some - but only in a trivial and marginal way. Job did not truly know God.

John 17:3 And this **is life** eternal, that they might **know You** the only true **God**, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore **choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live:

**Do we know God?** This story was once about Job - but today - it is about **us**. The young man, Elihu, gave Job the Godly advice he needed to hear. God sent Elihu directly to work with Job. Elihu's name means, "My God is YHWH"

Job 33:12 Behold, in this [Job], **you are not justified**, just, or right: I will answer thee, that **God is greater than man**.

Incredible as it may seem, Job did not fully realize just HOW MUCH - **God is greater than man**.

Elihu was a flesh and blood ministerial spokesman for God. Elihu proceeded with his discourse:

Job 33:6 Behold, I am according to thy wish **in God's stead**: I also am formed out of the clay...

Elihu continued:

Job 36:2 [Job], allow me a moment, and I will show you that I have yet to speak on God's behalf.

God is not required to give account to anyone or anything! Yet, Elihu points out, even though He is **not required to**, God does give answers—though not in the way that a man might expect – **from the whirlwind**.

The Book of Job goes way back – to approximately 300 years after the flood – possibly 2100 years BC. Roughly 100 – 150 years before Abraham. As far back in time as that was, there are some lessons that we can learn today.

We find that God was working with Job before, during, and after his ordeal – when He blessed Job with a double portion of everything (Job 42:12). In the end, God blessed Job immensely. Job believed in God's original plan for marriage, one woman and one man for life (Matthew 19:4-6). Color and curl came back into Mrs' Job's hair, and Job had a new family like before – only better.

Job was a very successful and rich business man – applying his considerable scientific knowledge.

Canonized by Ezra who added inspired footnotes to the text:

Job 31:40 ...The words of Job are ended.

Job is possibly the oldest book in the Bible.

James 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the **patience** [endurance] **of Job**, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

You remember what Job endured.

He lost all his businesses

He lost his animals and live stock.

He lost his children.

He lost his health.

He almost lost his mind.

Job's physical condition was deplorable and horrible:

Boils (2:7),

His countenance was unrecognizable (2:12),

Loss of appetite (3:24),

Despondency and depression (3:25),

Job was plagued with maggots and pus sores (7:5),

Job was so bitter he could hardly breath (9:18),  
He lost his wisdom (16:13),  
Smelly breath (19:17),  
Weight loss to skin and bones (19:20),  
With deep pain he hurt to the core of his being (30:17),  
darkened skin and fever (30:30).

Job, in the misery, pain and agony of his afflictions and sufferings, thought he was facing **certain death**.

Business was bartering in those days, before coins men had to trade, but Job had instantly gone into bankruptcy and foreclosures.

He had to start again as CEO - "run the family business" – they were losing their shirts without Job's expertise.

Job 42:11 Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and everyone an earring of gold.

Job fancied himself a self made man, and he did not give God the proper credit that was due Him.

It is not that Job was not generous, because he was. He was especially careful to take care of the widows and the fatherless.

Sin, at least in a technical sense, is not the issue in the book of Job, nor the reason for Job's trials. Job never repents of sin in this book. That is because "sin" is not the issue! The issue is that, despite Job's extensive knowledge of God, he did **not know** God as all-powerful!

Job was not an evil man, and yet he came far short of God's expectations for him.

Job 34:37 Job added rebellion unto his sin ... and multiplied his words against God.

Time and again Job rightly **justified** himself to his three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar – who offered Job no real consolation or help during his trial. They accused Job of many sins and **they were totally wrong** every time. From chapter 3 through chapter 31, these three maintain that Job's disastrous circumstances could *only* be as a result of something Job had done to provoke the Almighty. They thought, "Job must be a secret sinner, and he had received what he deserved."

Job's fault was that in justifying himself – he began to **blame God** and **accuse God** – and in doing so he was very wrong.

Job could not see in God the supreme qualities that he himself followed so well – justice, empathy, mercy, pity, love, forgiveness, compassion, justice, righteousness, and blamelessness, greatness, majesty etc...

Luke 16:15 And Jesus said unto the Pharisees, Ye are they which **justify yourselves** before men; but God knows your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

But the Pharisees were **not** righteous men as Job was.

Throughout chapter 31, Job demonstrates that his righteousness was not mere Pharisaical commandment-keeping, but that his approach to life was one of justice, mercy, pity, compassion, defending the poor, and disdaining greed, covetousness, and materialism.

James defines “pure and undefiled religion” as “to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world” (James 1:27), which Job did perfectly.

Job 29:12-17...Because I **delivered** the poor who cried out, the fatherless and the one who had no helper. (13) The blessing of a perishing man came upon me, and I **caused** the widow's heart to sing for joy. (14) I put on **righteousness**, and it clothed me; my **justice** was like a robe and a turban. (15) I was **eyes** to the blind, and I was **feet** to the lame. (16) I was a **father** to the poor, and I searched out the case that I did not know. (17) I **broke** the fangs of the wicked, and **plucked** the victim from his teeth.

Job was a savior to the people of his day.

God requires us to have more than to be right – and just have right doctrine.

We need more than right doctrine. We can memorize that.

God requires that we have more than the knowledge of His Sabbath and Holy Days.

God expects us to **know Him** – recognize Him – be like He is.

Job was a righteous man, but his problem was that he thought that he had reached the **pinnacle** of **righteousness** when he had not.

Job did not fully know God – as he should.

We can find examples of those who think that they know God well enough - in the churches of God today.

Members think that they are in the **right** group, and they start to feel righteous—even when they do not include all the other brethren in their circle of fellowship.

They have a “You and Me Lord” attitude – and they do not realize that God is not like that at all.

Job was absolutely convinced that he had done nothing which warranted such an act of God, and all he wanted was to be able to talk it out so that God might hear *his* side of the story—or, at the very least, be able to hear the reason why something so horrible had occurred to him.

Job felt like he was doing it all **right**, but in fact, he was coming short of the Kingdom of God.

Job had that failing in common with the Pharisees of Jesus’ day.

Matthew 5:20 Jesus said, Unless your righteousness shall **exceed the righteousness** of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the Kingdom of heaven.

One of the better lessons that we learn in the Book of Job is how God is **relentless** in His pursuit of bringing Job to where he understood and **knew God** more properly.

## **It is the same for us!**

James 1:2 Count it all joy when trials come...

Because God is working with us.

Job had thought of God somewhat like a super-man with the foibles of a man—and Job was not afraid to set Him straight. He thought that God was capable of being mean spirited and capricious.

Job was so sure that he had the complete picture of salvation and conversion. In his mind, Job thought himself greater and more righteous than God (Job 35:2).

That is hard to imagine, but time and again Job had the audacity to “set God straight.”

Job did not appreciate God’s great benevolence.

He did not understand that God is perfect and always had his very best interests at heart—and that God is greater than man.

God sent Elihu to rebuke Job, and then God dealt with Job personally from a whirlwind. Job’s pessimism had grown out of bounds:

Job 34:9 Job said, It profits a man nothing that he should delight himself with God.

Job understands **gravity** – but God points out to Job that He created gravity. God created the stars and constellations with their **gravitational pulls**.

Job 38:31 Canst thou bind the **sweet influences of Pleiades**, or loose the bands of Orion?

God showcases the beauty of the animals, not only in form but also in function—why they **behave** the way that they do. In short, everything is the way it is *because He has made it that way*.

What about Job? He could do none of those things – he could only observe their existence.

God showed Job example after example of His elaborate creation with its intricate workings.

Finally Job began to realize how **vastly superior** God was to him – not only with the physical universe but with His involvement with Job’s spiritual welfare.

God is so much **greater** than even Job realized.

Job’s response indicates that he felt the full weight of God’s powerful answer, and he repented:

Job 42:5-6 I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but **now my eye sees You**. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

Job came to really **know God**.

What about us brethren, are we doing everything as perfectly and upright as Job was doing before God corrected him? He did not yet know God. Yes, Job did the letter of the law – but what about us and the **spirit of God’s law and ways**? We do not want to make the same mistake that Job made.

End: Job’s Conversion Part 2