

JOB

Job was not remembered for his “Bill Gates” wealth or the wisdom in his counseling. He was remembered for his suffering, persevering, endurance and ultimately patience.

With patience you will win your soul — welcome to your crisis.

With God’s judgments filling the earth and establishing the kingdom of God expect your crisis to happen. It is not if, it is when. Everyone will be faced with his time of crisis — better stated as “Life as we knew it ended today”. Crisis or krisis is a Greek word for judgment. My definition is: the time of the germination of the seed so as it can become the fruit that God is looking for and that the world needs to heal its spirit, soul, and body.

As God brings our old life to an end to give us a new life in a new millennium the tendency is to start condemning oneself as God’s measuring rod is His holiness. We can no more use other people as a measuring rod — no pointing fingers, no scapegoats — just you and God. His judgments seem like punishment instead of the tremendous change one must go through to belong to a new world with a new atmosphere — the Bible calls it going from night to day — I call it going from living in water to being able to live in fire or going from hell to heaven. In the Bible this crisis is called the “second coming of Christ”, “the harvest”, “the end of the age or world”.

Always remember, Job was about as good as man can get. However, we know the Bible says there is no good man, no not one. And also that the heart is deceitfully wicked and also, the whole world is deceived. Job was perfect and upright and feared God and avoided evil. So why would God do to him what He did??? Well Job was like all of us — just a seed waiting to be germinated and changed into a new creation.

Personally I feel it is easier for a harlot, a drug addict, one with no worldly ambitions, to enter the

kingdom than a religious man like Job. However, God is patient and longsuffering and allowed Job to continue for twenty-two chapters justifying his sin and maintaining his innocence. (Sin is not what we do, but “falling short of the glory of God”). In other words, as long as we are incomplete or not whole we are called sinners.

So we see Job with this high and lifted up image of himself trying to reconcile to God his old destroyed life. Like Humpty Dumpty, he could not put it back together again.

Everyone has built an image of God and then built a life conforming to the god that we worship for we always become like the thing that we worship. In India it is a cow, in the Muslim religion it is the Buddha, in Christianity it is a wafer we eat or the icon we call Christ.

Now Job’s crisis came exactly as Jesus said He would come. “Did I not say I will come not to bring peace but as a sword. And divide the family and cause you to hate your old life”???????

Does this not describe what is happening today in this year 2006??? Job 2:1 — “Again, there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord.” Judgment was in the land and each person then as it is today must stand before the judgment seat of Christ alone — no scapegoats, no manipulation, no escape — just you and God becoming one.

Now, if you think your crisis is bad, read the first chapter of Job. If you got together with a group of people who have been hit by the tsunami called God and each threw their crisis in the center of the circle and you could pick out the one you would want, you would

probably pick out the one God has given to you to grow you up. Remember, we “inherit” the kingdom. That means your old man has to die so as to allow you to inherit eternal life.

Well, the sword came into Job’s life and first took his wealth. How many of you know when God has something new for you to do He will take your business or all your expertise? What a shock to lose everything you have labored for and stored up for the time of your life when you can work no longer. What a disgrace when you go from rich man to poor man overnight. What a humiliation when the very accomplishments that gained the respect in the business world are taken from you. What a blow to the pride. How easy it is to stick your middle finger up to God especially when you have led a life where you really believed as the Bible states, “Acknowledge God in all things and He will direct your path.” “Well buddy, if this is Your path You can shove it.”

You will notice when the light of “change” first hit Job he just got more religious and did what he always did like a good charismatic — he fell on his face and praised the Lord and quoted scripture. Perhaps the shock of a God who “chastises those He loves” and that old feeling of being special to God was no longer a comfort, compelled him to try old methods for a new happening hoping he would get the same old feeling.

How many of you are aware of the fact that the devil knows us better than we know ourselves???? So when Job tried to keep his life instead of losing it, the devil got permission to hit Job in his physical health to disrupt his control. When his wife saw how unbending and controlling he was she advised him to curse God and die. So Job first admonished her. He was growing and she was not. Far be it from Job to say, “F. You God,” so he cursed the day he was born, he cursed his mother’s womb, cursed everything and everyone but God. Poor righteous Job had answers nobody could refute — bewildered and in pain he uttered these true words of wisdom. “What, shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?” Seeing as Job acknowledges God in everything it is surprising he did not humble himself to his comforters.

Chapter 3 we find Job getting a little more real. He curses the day he was born. Wishes he were dead,

curse his mom, curse the womb that bore him and like David of old finally realized, “I was conceived in sin and shaped in iniquity.” Oh, my God, what a conundrum or Isaiah — “Woe is me, I am a man undone.”

There is nothing worse than to have so called counselors and advisors — who you befriended before the tsunami hit come and “comfort” you. First words usually are, “ I know what you are going through,” when the fact is they know nothing of the sort. Actually they had Job pegged pretty good except Job could not or would not look at who he was for he was righteous in his own eyes. He continually “killed the messenger” not realizing that the one who held the hammer they were wielding was God.

“It was so easy for you to counsel people going through what you are going through and now you faint and are troubled when the same crisis hits you??”

Have you had comforters like Eliphaz, the termite, give you counsel?? Actually, a lot of what he told Job was true. However, truth not tempered with wisdom and mercy is more destructive than constructive.

God promises if we lose our family by dying out to our old life, our family will sup with us again in the kingdom. However, the termite, Eliphaz, only added more grief to an already broken heart, not realizing that Job was, indeed, a parent on a scale of 1 to 10, perhaps 10. He prayed for his daughters, provided for them and then hoped for the best for them. Losing control of his daughters, being cut off from his wealth and wife was so discomfoting no man could comfort him. Then along comes the termite.

“Happy is the man whom God correcteth; therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty for He maketh sore and bindeth up. He woundeth, and His hands make whole.”

How can one refute truth such as this??? Well, Job had a perfect answer — “How forcible are right words!! But what doth your arguing reprove?? Your words give me no understanding, nor are they the words that will redeem my soul even though they may be “right words” as Job calls them.

Bildad had some good words of encouragement for Job — ”When you are perfected He will fill your mouth with laughing and thy lips with rejoicing. They that hate

thee will be filled with shame and the dwelling place of the wicked shall come to nought.”

However, Job still maintained his innocence. His logic and reasoning were like an impenetrable fortress. What a pain in the ass. Why did he just not cry out “uncle” and die?? Why did Job’s comforters not just walk off and leave him as a poor lost self righteous bastard? Well, probably because God is patient and longsuffering. Or perhaps his comforters were good Jewish friends who like to argue doctrine, God versus man, or “God would never do to anyone what He has done to you unless there was great sin in his life”.

“He taketh the wise in their own craftiness and the counsel of the froward is an abomination.” “He sends rain upon the earth to set on high those who are low, that those who mourn may be comforted”.

Who, but Job could refute words such as these?? Even when spoken by a messenger who was self righteous and arrogant???? God does not choose messengers to please our sick affections.

“In famine He shall redeem thee from death. Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue; neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh. Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like a shock of corn cometh in in his season.”

These comforting words come from the messenger for Job’s comfort, for his admonishment. And what

comes from smart ass Job but his own reasoning, his justifying his sin, the very scourge of the tongue accusing the messenger. This will reveal the evil in Job’s heart. How many of you know that Jesus warned us about the day in which we live? Your very words will judge you. Job 6:14 — “To him that is afflicted pity should be showed from his friend; but he forsaketh the fear of the Almighty. “

Showing pity to an afflicted, self pitying sniveling baby like Job would be a disgrace to the judgments of the living, holy God whom Job seems to think will conform to his whimpering.

Well, like all of God’s stories, the story of Job is indeed one that made him a part of all of our hearts; one we all can identify with and one who gives hope to the lost souls seeking for their Redeemer.

And so my story and Job’s story ends. “I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye seeth thee, wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.”

His repentance and finally humbling himself led to his freedom. So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning. Be of good cheer, He has overcome the world. Good night, sweet latter day saints.



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