

# GOD IS IN TOTAL CONTROL! Part 3

## Scripture: Job 42:1-6

*Job 42:1-6. 1Then Job answered the LORD and said, 2“I know that You can do all things, And that no plan is impossible for You. 3Who is this who conceals advice without knowledge? Therefore, I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I do not know. 4Please listen, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me.’ 5I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; 6Therefore I retract, And I repent, sitting on dust and ashes.”*

**Introduction:** God pointed out that we are afraid of His creature such as a leviathan which is a symbol of Satan, but we do not seem to show respect or reverence for the creator, the almighty God. We cannot understand God’s mercy and love when we walk through the harsh reality of valley of death. Just trust in Him. He is in total control of our lives! We may never understand it. But we must trust Him in this life as well as our journey to the abundant life beyond death!

*Job 42:1-3. 1Then Job answered the LORD and said, 2“I know that You can do all things, And that no plan is impossible for You. 3Who is this who conceals (obscures, or hides) without knowledge? Therefore, I have declared that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I do not know.*

Finally, Job realized who he was, just a clay, and God is the potter. He has no reason to question God why his pot is cracked or out of shape! Job spewed out all his words emotionally without giving it much thought. When God made Job see His vast wisdom, understanding, careful planning of every planet, stars, universe, all the living creatures, His eternity, Job realized that he judged God rashly with his ignorant brain. This time, he truly repented and confessed that God can do all things, and no plan is impossible for Him!

Third verse should be read as “who is this who obscures” rather than who conceals or hides. Even though the Hebrew word “awlam” implies conceals or hides, the word “obscures” brings out the actual meaning. Job obscured or undermined the full majesty of God’s power, His Holiness, and His

tender loving kindness due to the excessive pain, suffering, and shame that Job went through! He spoke too rashly of things that he did not understand, and criticized God's majestic purpose and His wonderful plans! God's ultimate goal was to prove that God's children will come out victorious in any circumstances! Satan tried to prove that he could make people lose their faith under adverse circumstances, and curse God! Job should have joined God's team and defeated Satan convincingly. But unfortunately, Job wobbled, and wanted to quit. But somehow, he hung in there and held onto God.

The lesson: Even though we may go through excruciating pain and suffering, we must not detach ourselves from God, but instead, accept God's sovereignty, and just keep moving forward holding His hands! It must be our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ that must overcome! When the devil attacks us vehemently, let us endure the pain in the name of Christ, and come out victorious. In such moments, we must rebuke the devil who inflicts pain, and not God!

*Job. 42:4-6. 4'Please listen, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me.' 5'I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; 6Therefore I retract, And I repent, sitting on dust and ashes.'"*

V4 comes out too authoritative, and harsh. We will not speak to our presidents or kings, or even our bosses. I hope, no one will talk like this to our God! Before, Job had heard of God only through Scriptures or from the words of other people. But now He could see God, and hear Him speak directly to him. Now Job truly repented of his mindless words that were spoken out of anger!

*Job 42:7-9. 7It came about after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is trustworthy, as My servant Job has. 8Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, and go to My servant Job, and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves, and My servant Job will pray for you. For I will] accept him so as not to do with you as your foolishness deserves, because you have not spoken of Me what is trustworthy, as My Servant Job has." 9So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the LORD told them; and the LORD [b]accepted Job.*

Now God addressed Eliphaz? Why Eliphaz? Probably, he was the oldest, and was a little wiser than his two friends. Also, he was the first one to speak to Job. God was angry with Eliphaz and his two friends! (Please note! There is no mention of the fourth person, Elihu at all!).

God was angry with Job's three friends! Why? They all mischaracterized God. They talked with authority as though they knew it all, they sat on the judgement seat, judged Job, and condemned an innocent person! A horrible thing to do! We all do that sometime! Beware!

Also, they just followed a "cookie cut" theology and applied that to all people. If things go well, God loves you, and you are a good person, but if bad things happen to you it is because you have done something wrong, and you must repent from your wicked ways. They basically boxed God in this kind of framework and presented a very simplified angry God to Job. Instead of comforting Job, they aggravated Job's pain even more!

God told them to take seven bulls, seven rams and go to Job, and offer burnt offering! Expensive proposition for their sins. Wages of sin is death! Sin requires blood and restitution. Please note. In a burnt offering, everything is burnt up. They could redeem nothing except themselves. Also, burnt offering is a symbol of self-surrender totally! God specifically told them that Job should pray for their forgiveness so that He may forgive them! God was indeed angry with them. He came very close to destroying them for their foolish, insensitive, behavior.

*Job 42: 10,11. 10The LORD also restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the LORD increased double all that Job had. 11Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all who had known him before came to him, and they ate bread with him in his house; and they sympathized with him and comforted him for all the adversities that the LORD had brought on him. And each one gave him a piece of money, and each a ring of gold.*

Job obeyed God's command, and prayed for his friends. When Job obeyed, the Lord increased double portion of all that Job had before. When wealth came, his siblings came running to him also, and dined with him, and shared their wealth. They should have done this when he had nothing, and when he was suffering! People tend to reject those who have nothing!

One thing really irked me in verse 11. “They sympathized with him and comforted him for all the adversities that the LORD had brought on him”?

All the adversities the Lord had brought on him? This statement cannot be true. It must have been the opinion of the writer. Many people who read book of Job come to the same conclusion, and the Lord presented as a cruel, sadistic God! Look at these verses

*V1:12 says, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not reach out and put your hand on him.*

*V2:6. Behold, he is in your [e]power, only spare his life.”*

God does not tell the devil to test Job, but devil wants to. God just grants the devil. The Lord did not bring adversity upon Job. As a matter of fact, He was concerned that Satan may have eyed Job already to hurt him. That’s why God asks the question, “Have you considered my servant Job?” God was not interested in bringing adversity to Job. It was the devil who was interested from the beginning. It was the devil that challenged God about Job. But Job came out with flying colors in his first test. But the second test was brutal. It was all about pain and suffering, Job did fumble, but not to the extent of cursing God! God is holy and loving. These kind of passages can portray God as cruel. Let us be careful about our interpretation of the Scripture. Never let any part of the Scripture portray God as a cruel sadist.

*Job. 42:12,13. 12The LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand female donkeys. 13He also had seven sons and three daughters.*

God blessed Job and he was provided seven sons and three beautiful girls, just like before.

*Job 42:14-17 14He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. 15In all the land no women were found as beautiful as Job’s daughters; and their father gave them inheritances among their*

*brothers. 16After this, Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons and his grandsons, four generations. 17And Job died, an old man and full of days.*

Jemima means fair as the day.

Keziah means a spice from cassia plant bark which has great fragrance.

Karen-Happuch some dye product used for shading the eye lids.

After the tragedy, Job lived another 140 years. He was already about 50 when the tragedy hit him. So his total years were 190 years. He saw children's children up to four generations.

If a tragedy hits God's children, there is a greater blessing waiting around the corner! So make sure, your faith overcomes under all circumstances!

Let me complete this wonderful book with the following conclusions:

1. God did not bring adversity to righteous. The devil brought it.
2. Let us have Job's attitude: "God gives, God takes it away. Let Him be glorified.
3. Pain and suffering can become unbearable sometimes. We could easily lose our mind. But God understands, and He stands next to us. Let us hold His hands when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death.
4. We must counsel to edify, strengthen, and encourage, and not to tear down, and argue as the friends did!
5. When people are screaming in pain, don't be offended if they shout at you with anger. They know not what they are doing at that time. It is not a personal attack.

6. Nobody is perfect. We are all sinners. Job talked as though he was perfect. There may be sins that we may commit unknowingly. Always be humble enough to confess and acknowledge that.

7. We may suffer for various reasons:

a) because of our own faults

b) because of others' faults (random accidents - Leviathan). The x and y factors of suffering.

c) because of Satan

d) because of our faith in Christ

e) Most common sufferings are natural, death and dying, sickness, aging etc.

8. Our God is awesome, magnificent, loving, and caring God! He created everything through His mighty wisdom and understanding. We cannot fathom His thinking. His thoughts are higher than the sky, and His thoughts are not like our thoughts!

9. Let us not try to judge God under any circumstance. We see things only partly. God sees the complete picture.

10. When we suffer, remember, there is a mighty blessing waiting around the corner. Joy will come in the morning. There will be a new day. There will be no tears or sorrows when we inherit the crown of glory beyond death.

11. Nothing can separate us from the love of God!

12. God is in total control of our life. Just trust Him always, in good times, as well as bad times!

What if the story had ended as a terrible tragedy for Job. Still God would be in absolute control of Job's life. Those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ will reap the crown of eternal life, and he who believes in will never die!

Thank you Jesus!

***Daniel Israel***

***1.24.21***

***[pastor@acts242church.org](mailto:pastor@acts242church.org)***