

# **“For Destruction from God Was a Terror to Me”**

## **Job 31:1-40**

This is one of the longest chapters in the book of Job (second longest to be exact – only chapter 38 is longer, by one verse). That is not extremely significant other than to show the importance of the subject and the impact it was meant to have by Job.

The verse from which the title comes is found in verse 23.

It was this very sentiment, this very thought, that was the overwhelming driving force behind what Job did in His life. It was not just fear of reprisal that caused him to be considered by God a perfect man, but it was also a fear of disappointing God, bringing shame and reproach to Him. What about us? Is that a consideration in our life?

Because of this motivation:

### **I. HIS ATTENTION WAS RIGHT – VS. 1-12**

***A. His attention, his thoughts, were right towards the things that would cause him to become a disgrace to the Lord and cause him to become a disgrace to his family.***

***B. This is seen in the first verse – this verse seems out of place, but it is a statement to show that his attention was devoted to righteousness, and nothing would deter him from that.***

1. Consider this: Job lived long before the

Levitical Law was given, long before the kings of Israel, the prophets and priests of Israel, long before Jesus walked the earth, but what is said here is as much true now as it was then. This principle has not and will not change.

2. Job “made a covenant with his eyes” (literally, cut, cut off, cut a covenant – used of cutting a body part off that has become defiled, or beheading someone). He chose to “cut off” anything else from his eyes that would lead him away from his monogamous life with his wife.
3. “Why then should I think upon a maid?”
  - a) The word for “maid” here, is most often dealing with a virgin, though not always. Of the 50 times the Hebrew word (בתולה) occurs it is translated virgin or virgins 38 times. The use of the word in a context similar to Job is used as “virgin.” Either way, it is speaking of a young, single woman.
  - b) The point Job is making is not that he simply hadn’t thought of anyone other than his wife in a sensual way, it means he was repulsed by even the concept of the possibility. Remember, Job was not a young man at this point, so this would have been something he had done long before and had maintained his entire married life.

“There is much emphasis in the expression used here by Job. He does not merely say that he had not thought in that manner, but that the thing was morally impossible that he should have done it. Any charge of that

kind, or any suspicion of it, he would repel with indignation. His purpose to lead a pure life, and to keep a pure heart, had been so settled, that it was impossible that he could have offended in that respect. His purpose, also, not to think on this subject, showed the extent of the restriction imposed on himself. It was not merely his intention to lead a chaste life, and to avoid open sin, but it was to maintain a pure heart, and not to suffer the mind to become corrupted by dwelling on impure images, or indulging in unholy desires. This strongly shows Job's piety and purity of heart, and is a beautiful illustration of patriarchal religion." (Barnes)

### Psalm 101:2-3

<sup>2</sup> I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

<sup>3</sup> I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

### Psalm 119:37

<sup>37</sup> Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

### Proverbs 4:25

<sup>25</sup> Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

***C. In verse 2 he asks a very important question – if he hadn't made such a covenant to keep his heart right, what portion would he have with God? What help would he get from above? What right would he have to ask God to help in times of trouble? And, what inheritance would he have?***

**D. He then points out, in verse 3, that there is only trouble to those that don't control their thoughts and allow their attention to be given to other things.**

**E. Verses 4-8 bring this whole point out in greater detail.**

**F. Verse 9-12 go back to the actual thought brought out in verse 1 and Job is showing that his thoughts, his attentions, were always right towards his wife (which, in the aspect of Hebrew poetry, correlates to his life – two shall become one) and if there had been any adulterous behavior, God would have judged him for it as "an heinous crime" (vs. 11).**

Genesis 20:9

<sup>9</sup> Then Abimelech called Abraham, and said unto him, What hast thou done unto us? and what have I offended thee, that thou hast brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? thou hast done deeds unto me that ought not to be done.

Genesis 26:10

<sup>10</sup> And Abimelech said, What is this thou hast done unto us? one of the people might lightly have lien with thy wife, and thou shouldest have brought guiltiness upon us.

Genesis 39:9

<sup>9</sup> There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

## **II. HIS ACTIONS WERE RIGHT – vs. 13-23, 29-34**

**A. Towards those that worked for him – towards those that would have been considered by many his inferiors – vs. 13-15**

**B. Towards those that are poor, as well as the orphans – vs. 16-23**

**C. These groups of people represent all those around us today that need our help, and point to the responsibility we have to help, if we are given the ability to do so. Some don't have the ability to help to any great degree, but Job did, and he was found to have his actions toward them right.**

### **III. HIS ATTITUDE WAS RIGHT – vs. 24-28, 35-40**

**A. Towards money and possessions – vs. 24-28**

1 Timothy 6:10

<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Proverbs 11:28

<sup>28</sup> He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

Luke 12:15

<sup>15</sup> And he said unto them, **Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**

***B. Towards those that had accused him of being wicked – vs. 35-39***

Conclusion: Do we fear grieving God as much as Job did?