

# “When He Prayed for His Friends”

## Job 42:7-17

This is the last message in our study of the book of Job. It has been the goal of this study to help us understand a little more about why the righteous suffer, or why bad things happen to good people, as well as to help us to simply know more about our God. The book of Job gives us a clearer understanding of what God allows to happen to His children, and it helps us to understand that, although we don't know why these things may happen to us, we can know that God is still in control, and that He has a purpose.

In this last portion of the book we find the final stage of Job's life. Most of the time we read past the text for this message, missing it completely, and only point out that God gave Job back twice as much as he had at the beginning. However, without Job praying for his friends, it would appear that his end would not have been so good.

The point of this message is to show, in part, that there are far more benefits out of praying than just getting what is asked for. It's similar to the principle taught in the Bible that we received much more when we got saved than heaven when we die.

### **I. HIS FRIENDS NEEDED PRAYER – VS. 7-9**

***A. After speaking to Job, Jehovah turns His attention to Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar and says that His "wrath" was kindled against them for how they treated Job – vs. 7.***

**B. This goes to the point I've made all along in our study of Job – God did not condemn him through all of this, but, in fact, points out here that Job had "spoken of me the thing that is right" (God said this twice about Job here – vs. 8) – even in the midst of the darkest time of this trial when Job wondered what was going to happen, he still spoke "right" of God.**

**C. Because of their treatment of Job, God told them to take an offering, go to Job and offer that burnt offering for themselves in Job's presence – vs. 9.**

1. The principle of Scripture is, from Genesis to Revelation, that "without the shedding of blood there is no remission" (of sin) – without this these friends were without hope.
2. God said that "my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept" – they needed prayer, they needed mercy, and the lesson here was that the only way they would receive that mercy is if they made things right with God (the burnt offering) and made things right with Job.

**D. Fortunately for them they obeyed the Lord and went to Job with the offering and, because someone prayed for them, they were "reconciled to God" – vs. 9.**

2 Corinthians 5:18–21

<sup>18</sup> And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

<sup>19</sup> To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

<sup>20</sup> Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

<sup>21</sup> For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

***E. There's a wonderful clause at the end of verse 9 – "and the Lord also accepted Job" – this was proof positive that, although Job was not a perfectly sinless man through all this, he stayed true to the Lord and because of his righteousness and his holiness through it all, the Lord accepted his prayer on the behalf of his three friends.***

## **II. HE NEEDED TO PRAY – VS. 10**

***A. Not only did his friends need him to pray for them, but, for his own peace with God, and his own righteous standing, he needed to pray.***

***B. I don't believe that the Lord would have "turned the captivity of Job" the way he did if he had not prayed for his friends.***

1. If he had come all this way in this trial and had taken it out on his friends by not praying for them, by not interceding with the ministry of reconciliation, their blood would have been on his hands.

2. The same is true for us today – if we don't pray for others, if we don't intercede for them, then their punishment will be sure, but we will not be guiltless in it.

### **III. GOD BLESSED HIS PRAYER – VS. 11-16**

***A. The answer to the prayer that he prayed was that God turned from the wrath that had kindled against Job's friends and He stayed His hand of judgment. However, a secondary effect of that prayer is found in the end of verse 10 – "the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before."***

***B. Not only did God answer his prayer for his friends, but because he cared enough to pray for them, God blessed him as well.***

***C. As the trial of Job came to a close, we find Job's family coming to console and help him – vs. 11.***

1. "Brethren" and "sisters" in the Old Testament doesn't always mean his brothers and sisters literally (in fact, it doesn't often mean that) – it is a way to say "kinfolks" – all his family, brothers, sisters, cousins, etc.
2. It doesn't say why they hadn't come before so we can only speculate on that, but we don't find Job condemning them for it – he seems happy they came, as was the Lord, for He used it as a means to "resupply" Job with his wealth.

**D. The double part had to do with his livestock, primarily, for those are listed in verse 12, and compared to chapter 1, verse 3, it was, in fact, double what he possessed before.**

Job 1:3

<sup>3</sup> His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

**E. The first part of verse 12 is a wonderful blessing for Job but be careful we don't read more than is there. Just because we go through a trial and lose everything doesn't mean that God will do the exact same thing for us. We may never get it back – but what it does mean is that God is going to be there with us through the trial, and no matter the physical outcome, we are going to be far more blessed afterwards than we were before because we will have the blessing of the presence of God far more real in our lives.**

**F. God "rebuilt" Job's family as well. It would never cover the loss of his first sons and daughters, but it would allow the lineage of Job to continue, which was very important to the people of that time period, and of that area – vs. 13.**

**G. God gives us the names of the daughters but not the sons – no real reason is given except to say that the inheritance of the father was passed to the sons in that**

***region of the world at that time and God was establishing a principle of inheritance here that would carry on even into Levitical Law with Moses' daughter – vs. 14-15.***

Conclusion: Vs. 17 is the conclusion – Once the trial was over, Job lived another 140 years and had the privilege to see his children have children to the fourth generation. (How long he lived before is mostly unknown. “[I]f we could rely upon the LXX, all would be plain, which adds here, τα δε παντα ετη εζησεν διακοσια τεσσαρακοντα. ‘And all the years he lived were two hundred and forty’ – as found in the TSK.)

He saw God honor him for his righteousness and holiness. He will do the same today.