

Unfolding God's Plan of Redemption

Themes from the Old Testament: Job

I. The Book of Job & The Story of the Sufferings of a Righteous Man

- A. Somewhere in the ancient Middle East about 6-7 generations from Noah
Noah, Shem, Arpachshad, Shela, Eber, Joktan, *Jobab(?)* (I Chron 1:1-23)
- B. Job's character: blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil
- C. Job's status: a wise man, respected above all others, a judge in the gate (Job 29:1-10)
- D. A favorite of God among all the people of the earth (Job 1:8)

II. The Narrative

- A. Job gains the attention of Satan who claims that Job only serves God because God has favored him so much. (Job 1:6-12)
- B. The first series of calamities: children were killed in one disaster, flocks are stolen or destroyed—Job's response is to fall to the ground and worship (Job 1:20-22)
- C. Job loses his health and is afflicted with horrible, painful sores; his wife urges him to curse God and die; he is cast out of the city and banished to the dung heap (Job 2:1-13)

III. Friends Come to Visit: Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, (and Elihu who is not mentioned at first)

- A. Three series of discourses from each "friend" extoling the prevalent wisdom that God blesses the righteous and punishes the wicked, followed by a rebuttal from Job. (He must have done something wrong or he would not be suffering.) Job maintains his innocence and blamelessness. (Job 8:1-6; 16:1-5)
- B. Elihu finally speaks up: He is angry with Job for acting as though he is more righteous than God, and he is angry with the three friends because they have accused Job even though they have no good answers (Job 32:1-22)
- C. A storm arises (apparently) during Elihu's speech and these two things together prepare Job to hear the voice of God (Job 38:1ff)
- D. Job comes to know God in a much deeper way than ever before:
Job 40:3-5 "I lay my hand on my mouth"
Job 42:3-6 "I have declared that which I did not understand"
"I have heard of YOU by the hearing of the ear,
But now my eye sees YOU; therefore I retract,
And I repent in dust and ashes."

IV. The Conclusion & Lessons Learned

- A. God is very unhappy with Job's three friends for condemning him
- B. Job has more children and his fortune is restored by double
- C. Job lives 140 more years and sees four generations of his offspring

Trouble comes for many reasons: because we have sinned and behaved foolishly, because we live in a fallen world filled with sickness and evil, because we are followers of Jesus and Satan hates us, because God allows it to accomplish deeper values and insight in our life. In all cases Romans 8:28 applies. Therefore, we must be careful in our judgment: of others, of ourselves, and even of God.