

# Job

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

The book of Job tells of a man who went through a trial of faith. There is much to learn in this story of Job and his three friends. We are able to know their discussions as they gave their opinions about God, man and life in general. Then we can read of God's dealing with both Job and his friends. People wonder why there is suffering in the world, especially for the righteous, while often the wicked seem to prosper. The Lord shows that he is not accountable to man and that what ever happens in life, we are to trust in him.

When all the troubles came upon Job they came one right after another. The lost of his herds, servants, children, his wealth, then his place in society. If that wasn't enough to break him, then his wife urged him to curse God and die. When he kept the faith, then his three friends came and condemned him, trying to get him to confess that all these things had happened to him because of sin in his life. Job maintained that he was innocent of sin and said that

God had become his enemy without a cause.

The three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, had the ideal that bad things didn't happen in a person's life unless he had sinned. So, to them, Job must confess and then he would be restored in his relationship to God. Job knew the life he lived and was confident that he was living in a way to please God. He knew that he hated sin, just as God had told Satan in chapters one and two. The debate continued until the end of chapter 31 with Job giving answer to each of the three friends in turn. Neither side convinced the other.

At the end of the story God spoke both to Job and to the three friends of Job in general, but to Eliphaz directly. God informed them that each was wrong in his words, the three for condemning Job, and Job for condemning God, (**Job 40:8**). Job had wanted to talk to God about the things that had happened to him, but when he was in the presence of God he changed his mind, (**Job 42:5-6**). In life among men he had thought that he was very righteous, but in the presence of God he saw his unworthiness. We need always to beware lest we think too highly of ourselves and too little of others.

Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, were men who believed in God and lived for him. Because they were wrong in their thinking about Job didn't mean that God had cast them out. He loved them and by sacrifice and repentance he would restore them even as he corrected Job. Both Job and his friends were humbled by the Lord as he corrected their thinking. We should take heed to the lessons contained in Job about the way that we feel about others and the disagreements that we let divide us. God showed them that both sides were in error and that he alone is right.

Notice that Job was blessed after he prayed for Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. Not before, but after he, and they, worshipped and prayed. We need to be in a good relationship with our brothers before we are ready to truly worship God. When trials of our faith come we are to hold on to the Lord. When it is over and we have endured through it, we find that we are stronger and are blessed by the Lord. God didn't promise that we would not have trials and hard times in this life, but he did promise that he would never forsake us. Keep the faith in God - let our faith outlast our troubles.

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# Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

THE REBUILDER OF A NATION!

NEHEMIAH, OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, WAS OFFICIAL CUP-BEARER TO KING ARTAXERES OF PERSIA. THE JEWS, HAVING BEEN TAKEN CAPTIVE OUT OF JUDEA ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS BEFORE BY KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, HAD RISEN TO HIGH PLACES IN MANY INSTANCES, BECAUSE OF THEIR TALENTS. NEHEMIAH, BORN IN CAPTIVITY, ROSE TO THE LEVEL OF CLOSEST ROYAL ADVISER IN THE ENTIRE KINGDOM. IN 445 B.C., HEARING OF THE DESPERATE PLIGHT OF THE FEW JEWS LEFT IN JERUSALEM - A RUINED CITY OF CRUMBLING WALLS AND BROKEN GATES, COMPLETELY AT THE MERCY OF ROVING BANDS OF CUT-THROATS AND THIEVES WHO TERRIFIED THE COUNTRYSIDE - NEHEMIAH GOT PERMISSION FROM HIS KING TO GO THERE AND TO REBUILD ITS WALLS SO THAT THE INHABITANTS WOULD HAVE PROTECTION AGAINST MARAUDERS. A PERIOD OF TWELVE YEARS ELAPSED, FROM THE TIME HE ARRIVED IN THE CITY, UNTIL THE DEDICATION OF THE REBUILT WALLS (432 B.C.). BUT BEYOND JUST REBUILDING JERUSALEM'S WALLS, NEHEMIAH COMPLETELY RENEWED THE JEWISH NATION AND REVIVED ITS RELIGION, THE TEMPLE, AND ALL THE ANCIENT CUSTOMS AND MOSAIC LAW! AN EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TASK, WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THE MANY STRATEGEMS AND TRICKS EMPLOYED BY NEAR-BY PETTY KINGS TO PREVENT JERUSALEM FROM RISING TO ITS FORMER STATUS - ALL OF WHICH IS EXCITINGLY RELATED IN THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH.



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