

Through the Bible

# JOB

Zac Poonen

Illustrations by Vinay Kuruville



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**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

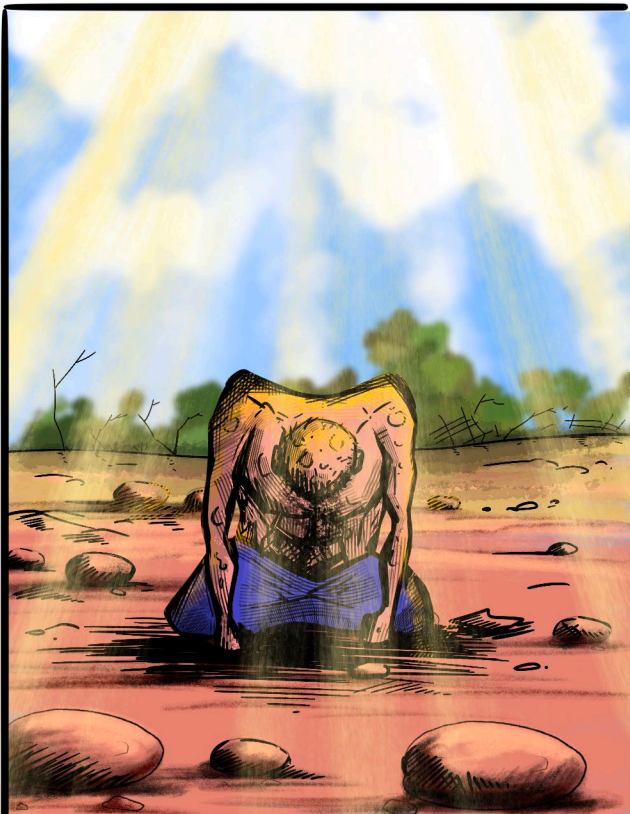
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# JOB



FACTS INDICATE THAT JOB MUST HAVE LIVED IN THE PERIOD **BETWEEN NOAH AND ABRAHAM**. THE BOOK OF **JOB**, THEREFORE, IS THE **FIRST BOOK OF INSPIRED SCRIPTURE** -- WRITTEN HUNDREDS OF YEARS **BEFORE** GENESIS (WHICH WAS WRITTEN BY **MOSES** ABOUT 1500 YEARS BEFORE CHRIST). IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE THAT WHEN GOD DECIDED TO WRITE SCRIPTURE, THE VERY **FIRST BOOK** HE WROTE WAS, **NOT** ABOUT **CREATION**, BUT ABOUT A **GODLY MAN**. THAT TEACHES US WHAT GOD **ALWAYS** LOOKS FOR. HE LOOKED FOR A **GODLY MAN** IN THE TIME OF ENOCH, IN THE TIME OF NOAH AND IN THE TIME OF JOB. GOD PLANNED FROM THE BEGINNING TO GIVE US 66 BOOKS OF SCRIPTURE. AND IN THE VERY **FIRST** OF THOSE BOOKS, HE WROTE ABOUT WHAT WAS **UPPERMOST** IN HIS HEART -- A **GODLY MAN**.



THE BOOK OF JOB GIVES US AN **INSIGHT** INTO SOME MATTERS THAT ARE NOT FOUND ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE BIBLE. WE SEE HERE WHAT HAPPENS IN THE "**HEAVENLIES**" WHEN ONE OF **GOD'S CHILDREN** IS **SUFFERING** ON EARTH. JOB HIMSELF DID **NOT KNOW** WHAT WAS **HAPPENING** THERE, WHEN HE WAS SUFFERING. IF HE HAD KNOWN IT, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN **GREATLY COMFORTED** AND **STRENGTHENED** IN THE **MIDST** OF HIS **TRIALS**. BUT THIS HAS NOW BEEN **REVEALED** TO US. SO WE ARE IN A MUCH **BETTER POSITION** NOW THAN JOB WAS.



NOTICE THE **FIRST SENTENCE** IN THE **FIRST INSPIRED BOOK OF SCRIPTURE**: "THERE WAS A MAN IN THE LAND OF **UZ**, WHOSE NAME WAS **JOB**, AND THAT MAN WAS **BLAMELESS, UPRIGHT, FEARING GOD AND TURNING AWAY FROM EVIL**" (JOB 1:1). GOD GIVES HIS **TESTIMONY** OF THAT MAN -- **NOT** ABOUT HIS **CLEVERNESS**, OR HIS **WEALTH**, OR HIS **REPUTATION** WITH OTHER MEN, BUT ONLY ABOUT HIS **CHARACTER**. THERE WE SEE WHAT GOD TRULY VALUES -- **UPRIGHTNESS, FEAR OF GOD AND TURNING AWAY FROM ALL EVIL**.





GOD IS **NOT** LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WITH **BIBLE-KNOWLEDGE** PRIMARILY. **JOB** DID NOT HAVE ANY BIBLE KNOWLEDGE BECAUSE THERE WAS **NO BIBLE** THEN. HE HAD **NO-ONE** AROUND HIM TO **ENCOURAGE** HIM TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE EITHER. EVEN THE PREACHERS OF HIS DAY ONLY **DISCOURAGED** HIM BY WHAT THEY SAID. BUT **IN SPITE OF ALL** THIS, HE LIVED AN **UPRIGHT** LIFE.

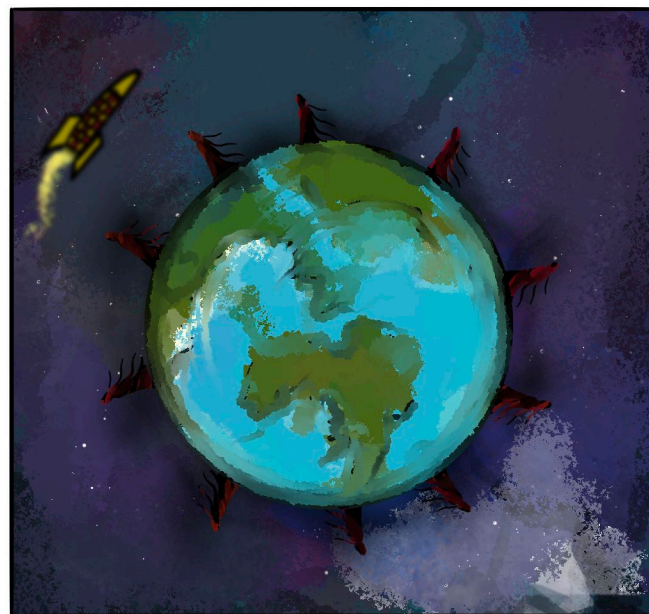
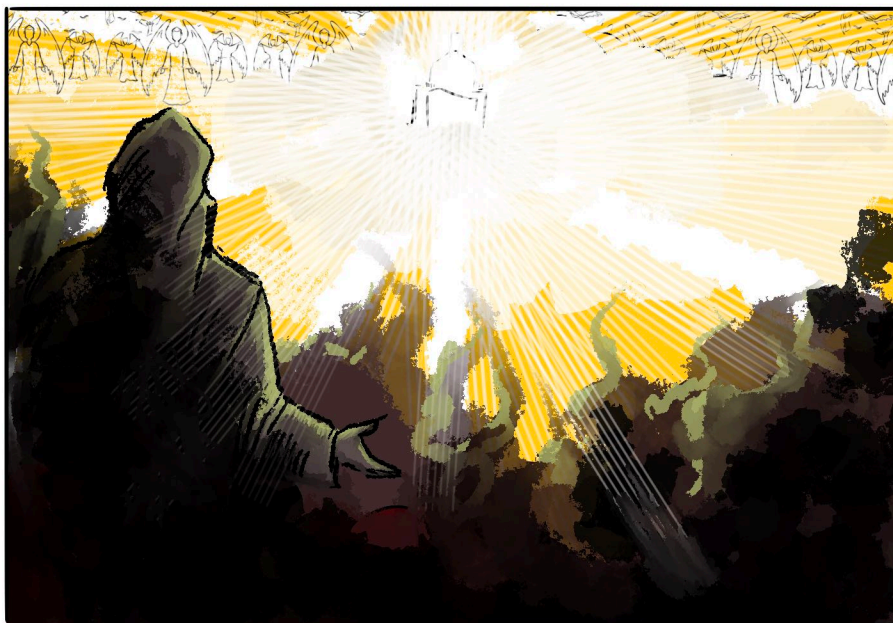


WHEN WE READ OF **JOB SUFFERING** SO MUCH -- LOSING ALL HIS **PROPERTY** AND HIS **TEN** CHILDREN IN A **SINGLE** DAY -- WE CAN WONDER WHETHER THIS STORY IS ONLY A **PARABLE**. BUT **1400** YEARS AFTER **JOB** LIVED, GOD SAID IN **EZEKIEL 14:14** (REPEATED IN VERSE 20), THAT **JOB** WAS ONE OF THE THREE MOST **RIGHTEOUS** MEN WHO EVER LIVED, **NOAH** AND **DANIEL** BEING THE OTHER TWO. (AMAZINGLY, GOD INCLUDED YOUNG **DANIEL** ALSO, WHO WAS LIVING AT THAT TIME IN **BABYLON!!**). AND THE **HOLY SPIRIT**, THROUGH **JAMES**, WRITES ABOUT THE **ENDURANCE** OF **JOB** (**JAMES 5:11**). THAT PROVES THAT THIS IS A **TRUE** STORY.



**JOB** HAD SEVEN **SONS** AND THREE **DAUGHTERS**. THEY HAD ALL GROWN UP AND WERE LIVING IN THEIR **OWN** HOUSES. **JOB** WAS VERY **CONCERNED** THAT NONE OF THEM SHOULD FALL AWAY FROM GOD. HIS **SONS** USED TO **CELEBRATE** THEIR BIRTHDAYS WITH A FEW DAYS OF FEASTING IN THEIR OWN HOUSES AND WOULD INVITE THEIR SISTERS TO COME AND EAT AND DRINK WITH THEM. WHEN THESE PERIODS OF FEASTING WERE OVER, **JOB** WOULD SEND FOR THEM. HE ROSE UP EARLY. **JOB** WOULD THEN OFFER **SEPARATE BURNT OFFERINGS** FOR EACH OF HIS **CHILDREN** AND **CONSECRATE** EACH OF THEM AFRESH TO THE LORD. **JOB** DID THAT BECAUSE HE FELT THAT HIS **CHILDREN** MAY HAVE **SINNED** IN THEIR **HEARTS** DURING THEIR TIME OF FEASTING. NOTICE THAT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE SINNED IN THEIR HEARTS.





IN CHAPTER 1:6, WE READ OF THE "SONS OF GOD". THIS REFERS TO THE **ANGELS**. THIS PHRASE IS USED TO REFER TO **DIRECT** CREATIONS OF GOD. WE WERE NOT BORN AS A DIRECT CREATION OF GOD LIKE ADAM WAS CREATED. BUT WHEN WE ARE BORN AGAIN, THAT IS A DIRECT CREATION OF GOD -- THE NEW CREATION -- AND SO WE ARE CALLED "SONS OF GOD" TOO. **SATAN** ALSO CAME AMONG THESE ANGELS. HE WAS ALSO A DIRECT CREATION OF GOD. HE COULD **NOT** COME INTO THE **IMMEDIATE PRESENCE** OF GOD IN THE **THIRD** HEAVEN FOR HE HAS BEEN **CAST OUT** FROM THERE FOREVER. BUT HE COULD SPEAK TO GOD FROM THE **SECOND** HEAVEN WHERE HE HAD HIS HEADQUARTERS. SATAN TOLD GOD THAT HE HAD BEEN "**ROAMING** ABOUT ON THE EARTH AND WALKING AROUND ON IT" (1:7). SATAN IS A **WORLD-TRAVELLER**. DON'T IMAGINE THAT IT IS A GREAT THING TO BE A WORLD-TRAVELLER. IF **GOD** CALLS YOU TO DO THAT FOR HIS **GLORY**, THAT IS FINE.

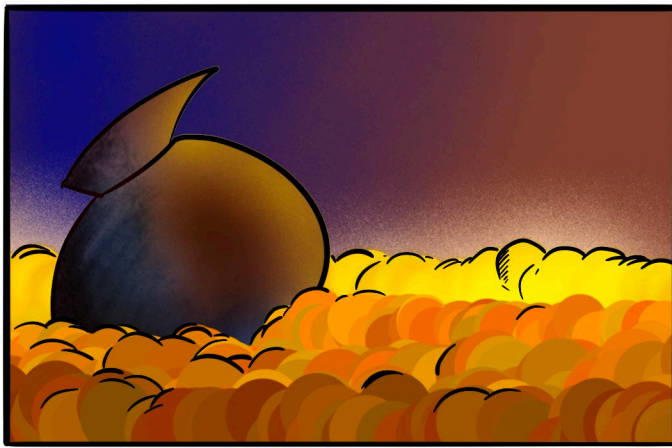


SATAN TRAVELS AROUND THE WORLD, WATCHING **BELIEVERS** ESPECIALLY. THE LORD TOLD SATAN WHAT WAS OUTSTANDING ABOUT JOB: "THERE IS **NO-ONE** LIKE HIM ON THE EARTH -- A BLAMELESS AND UPRIGHT MAN, **FEARING** GOD AND **TURNING AWAY FROM EVIL**". SATAN IS THE **ACCUSER** OF GOD'S CHILDREN. WHEN HE ACCUSES BELIEVERS TO GOD, HE SPEAKS THE **TRUTH**. BUT IN THE MIDST OF MILLIONS OF **CARNAL** BELIEVERS WHO BRING **DISHONOUR** TO THE NAME OF CHRIST, HOW **DELIGHTED** GOD IS WHEN HE FINDS ONE MAN WHO IS **UPRIGHT**. SATAN **CANNOT** ACCUSE ANYONE WHO **CONFESSES** HIS SIN **IMMEDIATELY** TO GOD AND THUS KEEPS HIS **CONSCIENCE CLEAN** EVERY MOMENT (ACTS 24:16). SUCH A PERSON IS "**JUSTIFIED** (DECLARED **RIGHTEOUS** BY GOD) BECAUSE OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST" (ROMANS 5:9) AND HE **OVERCOMES** ALL OF SATAN'S ACCUSATIONS (REVELATION 12:11). WILL **YOU** BE ONE SUCH PERSON?



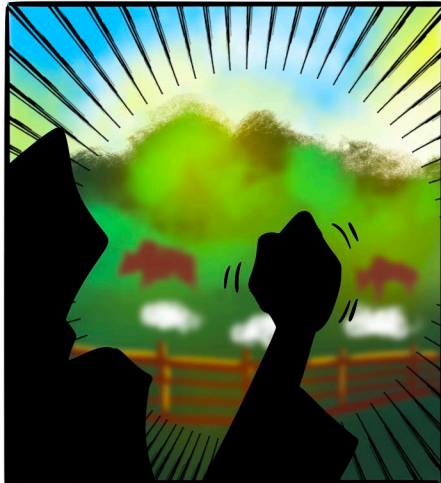
IT MATTERS A **LOT** WHETHER **GOD** CAN **POINT** US TO **SATAN** AND SAY IN THE MIDST OF **MULTITUDES** OF **COMPROMISING, CARNAL** CHRISTIANS, "SATAN, I KNOW THAT **MANY** WHO CALL THEMSELVES MY CHILDREN ARE **COMPROMISERS** AND **CARNAL**. BUT HAVE YOU SEEN **THIS** MAN WHO LIVES ON THAT **STREET** IN THAT **TOWN**? HE IS **DIFFERENT**. HE IS UPRIGHT AND SINCERE. HAVE YOU SEEN THAT **WOMAN** WHO LIVES ON THAT **STREET** IN THAT **TOWN**? SHE IS **DIFFERENT**. SHE IS **GODLY**." AND SATAN'S MOUTH IS SHUT -- BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT WHAT GOD IS SAYING IS TRUE.





WHETHER WE ARE WEALTHY OR POOR MAKES **NO** DIFFERENCE. AND LEST WE THINK YOU HAVE TO BE POOR IN ORDER TO BE SPIRITUAL, REMEMBER THAT THE VERY **FIRST** GODLY PERSON IN SCRIPTURE MENTIONED IN THE VERY **FIRST** BOOK OF THE BIBLE WAS A VERY **RICH** MAN.

IN FACT, THAT WAS WHAT PROVOKED THE **JEALOUSY** OF OTHER PEOPLE AROUND JOB. SOME PEOPLE HAVE THE IDEA THAT ONE HAS TO BE **POOR** IN ORDER TO BE **SPIRITUAL**. THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WE HAVE IS **TOTALLY** **IMMATERIAL**. IT IS OUR **ATTITUDE** TO THE **MONEY** WE HAVE, THAT MATTERS. PAUL AND PETER WERE VERY POOR. SO WAS JESUS. BUT JOB AND ABRAHAM WERE VERY RICH. **GOD** DECIDES SUCH MATTERS. IT IS LIKE THE COLOUR OF OUR SKIN, OR OUR INTELLIGENCE LEVEL. **GOD** DETERMINES THOSE THINGS TOO -- AND THEY **DON'T MATTER**. SPIRITUALITY HAS TO DO WITH OUR **CHARACTER** AND **NOT** WITH THE SIZE OF OUR BANK ACCOUNT.



IT IS **NOT** SURPRISING THAT **SATAN** MADE **JOB** HIS TARGET, FOR **SATAN** **HATES** UPRIGHT PEOPLE. HE HATED JOB IN THOSE DAYS -- AND HE HATES SUCH PEOPLE EVEN **TODAY**. THAT IS WHY HE DOES **EVERYTHING** IN HIS POWER TO **PREVENT** US FROM BEING **GODLY**.



IN THE **FINAL** ANALYSIS, WHEN WE STAND BEFORE THE LORD, THE OPINIONS OF ALL THE BILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WILL COUNT FOR **NOTHING**. ONLY **GOD'S** OPINION WILL MATTER IN THAT DAY. EVEN THE **PRAISES** OF YOUR **FELLOW-BELIEVERS** ARE FIT ONLY TO BE **THROWN** IN THE **GARBAGE BIN**. IT'S ONLY WHAT **GOD** THINKS ABOUT YOU THAT MATTERS. **PEOPLE** MAY PRAISE YOU TO THE SKIES, WHILE **GOD** THINKS **NOTHING** OF YOU. ON THE OTHER HAND, PEOPLE MAY **TEAR** YOU TO PIECES AND **GOD** MAY CONSIDER YOU TO BE THE GREATEST MAN IN YOUR GENERATION.



**SATAN** **ACCUSES** ALL **GODLY** PEOPLE! HE HAS MANY AGENTS (**EVEN AMONG BELIEVERS**) TO **ACCUSE** YOU. HE GOT PEOPLE TO **ACCUSE** **JESUS** HIMSELF. THEN DON'T YOU THINK HE WILL **ACCUSE** **YOU** AS WELL?

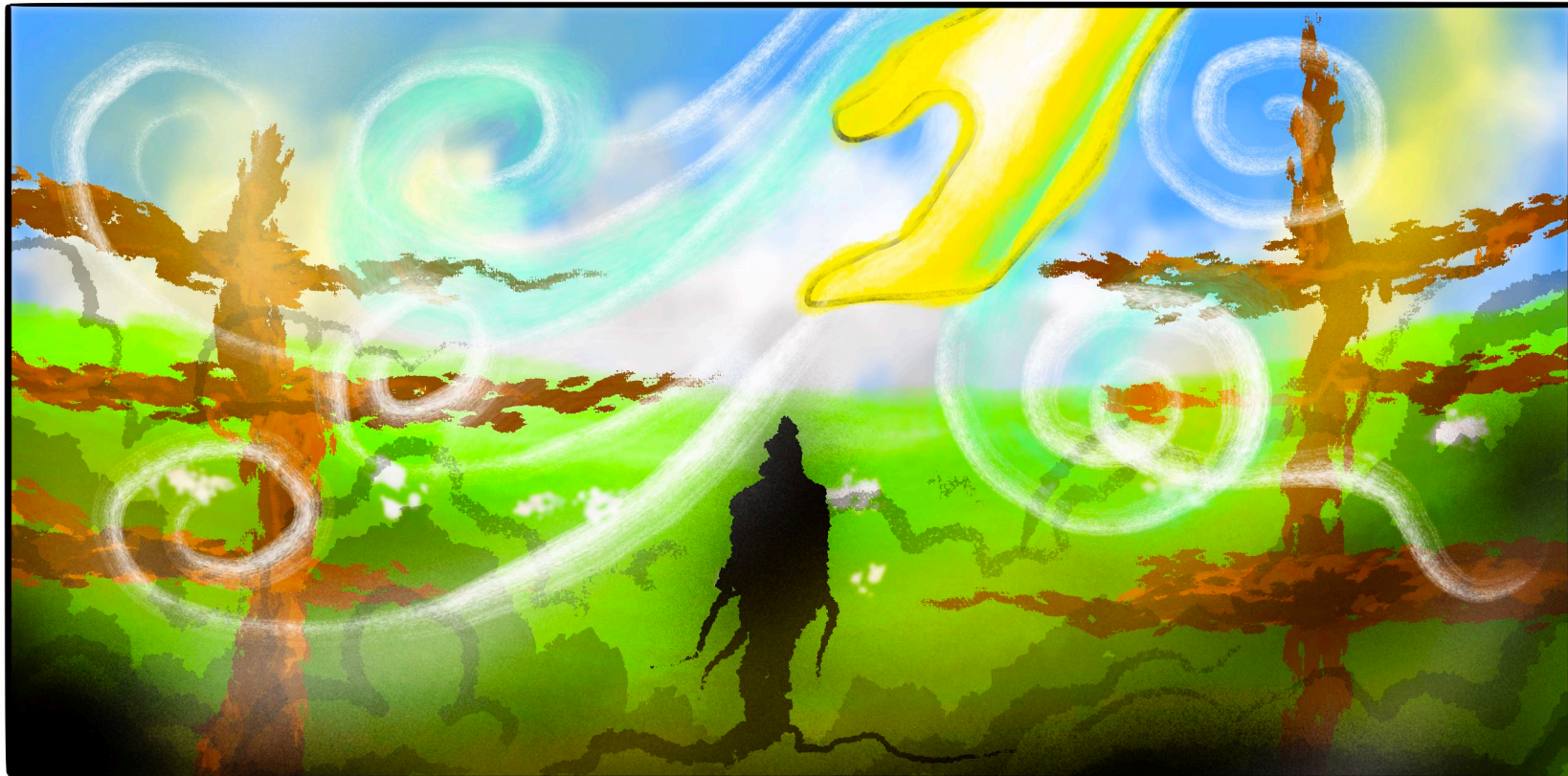
WE READ IN THE BOOK OF JOB THAT EVEN HIS **THREE** FRIENDS **ACCUSED** HIM. THE FOURTH ONE, ELIHU, WAS Milder IN HIS ACCUSATIONS, BUT HE **ACCUSED** JOB TOO. **ACCUSATION** IS PART OF THE **CHARACTER** OF **SATAN** AND OF HIS AGENTS. BUT

A TRULY **GODLY** MAN WILL **NOT** ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE AFFECTED BY THOSE ACCUSATIONS. THOSE WHO HAVE SPIRITUAL **DISCERNMENT** WILL BE ABLE TO RECOGNISE A GODLY MAN, **DESPITE** WHAT **PEOPLE** MAY SAY ABOUT HIM.

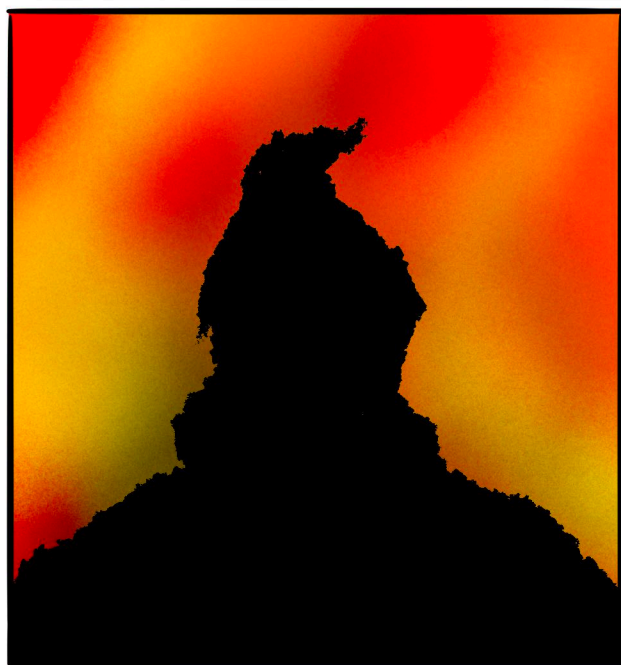


FROM WHAT **SATAN** SAID, WE LEARN THREE GREAT TRUTHS. **GOD** HAS PUT A **THREEFOLD** **HEDGE** AROUND A **GODLY** MAN: FIRST AROUND HIM **PERSONALLY**, SECONDLY AROUND HIS **FAMILY**, AND THIRDLY AROUND HIS **FINANCES** AND HIS **PROPERTY**. **SATAN** CAN SEE INTO THE **SPIRITUAL** REALM AND KNOWS THAT. WE CANNOT **SEE** THEM BUT WE **KNOW** THAT THEY ARE **THERE**..





SATAN IS A **SPIRIT** AND RECOGNISED THAT HE COULDN'T GET THROUGH TO ATTACK JOB OR HIS FAMILY OR HIS POSSESSIONS. THAT IS A GREAT **COMFORT** TO ME TO KNOW THAT IF I LIVE A GODLY LIFE, THERE ARE THREE HEDGES AROUND ME TOO. AND NONE OF THOSE HEDGES CAN BE OPENED UP WITHOUT GOD'S PERMISSION. HERE WE FIND IN THE BOOK OF JOB, THAT SATAN HAD TO ASK GOD FOR PERMISSION TO GET THROUGH THOSE HEDGES. THE LORD **JESUS** TOLD **PETER** SOMETHING SIMILAR, MANY YEARS LATER: "SATAN HAS ASKED FOR **PERMISSION** TO SIFT YOU" GOD GAVE SATAN PERMISSION TO GO THROUGH **ONE HEDGE** AT A TIME. GOD **DIDN'T** OPEN UP **ALL** THE HEDGES AT THE SAME TIME. AT FIRST, GOD ALLOWED SATAN ONLY TO ATTACK JOB'S **POSSESSIONS** AND HIS **FAMILY**. LATER, GOD PERMITTED SATAN TO ATTACK JOB'S **BODY**, BUT EVEN THEN HE TOLD SATAN THAT HE COULD NOT TOUCH JOB'S LIFE. SO SATAN COULD **NOT KILL** JOB.



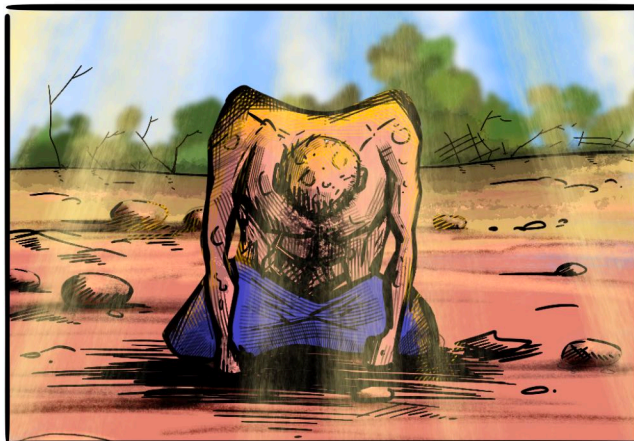
THERE ARE A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN ABOUT **SATAN** ALSO HERE --  
**FIRST** OF ALL, SATAN CAN ONLY BE IN **ONE PLACE** AT ONE TIME. GOD IS EVERYWHERE. BUT IF SATAN IS IN ONE PLACE, HE CANNOT BE IN ANOTHER, BECAUSE HE IS A CREATED BEING. BUT HE HAS MANY DEMONS ROAMING AROUND ON THE EARTH TO DO HIS WORK.

**SECONDLY**, SATAN CANNOT SEE THE **FUTURE**. IF HE COULD HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE, HE WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT JOB WOULD FINALLY BE FAR MORE BLESSED, AND WOULD HAVE LEFT JOB ALONE. IF HE KNEW WHAT WOULD RESULT FROM CHRIST DYING ON THE CROSS AT CALVARY, THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD BE DEFEATED THEREBY, DO YOU THINK HE WOULD HAVE URGED PEOPLE TO CRUCIFY CHRIST? CERTAINLY NOT! IF SATAN KNEW THAT HAMAN HIMSELF WOULD HANG ON THOSE GALLOWES, HE WOULD NOT HAVE HELPED HAMAN TO CONSTRUCT THOSE GALLOWES. HE KNOWS WHAT PEOPLE ARE DOING ALL OVER THE WORLD, AND CAN GUESS (LIKE WE CAN) WHAT THE RESULT OF THOSE ACTIONS WILL BE, BUT HE CANNOT PREDICT THE FUTURE.

**THIRDLY**, SATAN **CANNOT** READ YOUR **THOUGHTS**. HE CAN ONLY SEE WHAT YOU ARE DOING ON THE OUTSIDE. ALL HE COULD KNOW ABOUT JOB WAS ON THE OUTSIDE. HE COULD NOT SEE JOB'S THOUGHTS.

**FOURTHLY**, SATAN NEEDS **GOD'S PERMISSION** TO ATTACK GOD'S CHILDREN.

NOW SEE HOW JOB **REACTED** TO ALL THIS. HE HEARD THAT **EVERYTHING** HAD BEEN LOST. ONE AFTER THE OTHER, HIS SERVANTS CAME AND TOLD HIM THAT EVERYTHING WAS GONE. AND JOB AROSE, TORE HIS ROBE, SHAVED HIS HEAD, FELL TO THE GROUND AND **WORSHIPPED** GOD (1:20). THAT'S ANOTHER THING WE SEE ON THE VERY FIRST PAGE OF INSPIRED SCRIPTURE: A **GODLY** MAN IS A **WORSHIPPER**. MORE THAN KNOWING THE **BIBLE** AND MORE THAN **SERVING** THE **LORD**, A MAN OF GOD IS **PRIMARILY** A **WORSHIPPER**. WE MUST BE WORSHIPPERS WHEN WE **HAVE EVERYTHING** AND WE MUST BE WORSHIPPERS WHEN WE **LOST EVERYTHING**. JESUS SAID, "GOD IS A **SPIRIT** AND THOSE WHO WORSHIP, MUST WORSHIP HIM IN **SPIRIT** AND **TRUTH**, AND THE FATHER SEEKS FOR **SUCH WORSHIPPERS**" (JOHN 4:23, 24). TO WORSHIP GOD IS TO **GIVE HIM EVERYTHING**. HE **WILLINGLY** ACCEPTED WHATEVER THE LORD **PERMITTED** IN HIS LIFE.







THE DEVIL WAS VERY **UNHAPPY** BECAUSE JOB **DIDN'T REACT** THE WAY HE **THOUGHT** HE WOULD. THE LORD TOLD SATAN, "HAVE YOU CONSIDERED MY SERVANT JOB? HE **STILL** HOLDS FAST HIS INTEGRITY EVEN THOUGH YOU INCITED ME AGAINST HIM TO **RUIN** HIM WITHOUT ANY **REASON**" (VERSE 3). SATAN REPLIED, "THAT'S BECAUSE HE **LOVES** HIS OWN **LIFE** SO MUCH. SATAN KNOWS THE **SELFISHNESS** OF MAN . MAN IS SELFISH AND IN A TIME OF **PRESSURE**, HE THINKS OF **HIMSELF** PRIMARILY. SATAN WAS SAYING JOB WAS **NO** DIFFERENT. HE CHALLENGED GOD, "NOW TOUCH HIS **BODY** AND LET ME SEE WHETHER HE **STILL** WILL STAND TRUE TO YOU." THE LORD SAID, "GO AHEAD AND **TEST** HIM. BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE AWAY HIS LIFE." SATAN WENT OUT AND **SMOTE** JOB WITH SORE **BOILS** FROM THE SOLE OF HIS **FOOT** TO THE CROWN OF HIS **HEAD**. IMAGINE HOW **TERRIBLE** IT IS TO GET BOILS FROM HEAD TO FOOT. JOB **COULDN'T LIVE** IN HIS HOUSE ANY MORE. HE WENT **OUTSIDE** THE **TOWN** AND SAT ON A **DUNG HEAP**, **SCRATCHING HIMSELF** AMONG THE **ASHES**.



AND HIS **WIFE** CAME THERE TO **NAG** HIM SAYING, "DO YOU **STILL** HOLD FAST TO YOUR INTEGRITY? **CURSE** THIS WRETCHED **GOD** OF YOURS AND COMMIT **SUICIDE**" (2:9). RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING OF SCRIPTURE, WE SEE **SATAN** TEMPTING PEOPLE TO COMMIT **SUICIDE**, AND TEMPTING THEM THROUGH THEIR **LOVED** ONES. ADAM WAS TEMPTED THROUGH EVE. JOB WAS TEMPTED THROUGH HIS WIFE. **PETER** URGED JESUS NOT TO GO TO THE **CROSS**. SATAN CAN TEMPT US THROUGH OUR **LOVED** ONES. **DON'T** THINK THAT EVERY **GODLY** MAN WILL HAVE A **GODLY** WIFE. BUT **GOD** CAN **USE** THE **UNGODLINESS** OF THE WIFE TO MAKE THE MAN'S GODLINESS TO STAND OUT **EVEN** MORE, JUST AS THE **STARS** SHINE **BRIGHTER** AS THE NIGHT GROWS **DARKER**.



WHEN JOB'S WIFE SUGGESTED SUICIDE, HE REPLIED SAYING, "YOU SPEAK AS A **FOOLISH** WOMAN SPEAKS. SHALL WE ACCEPT GOOD FROM THE LORD AND NOT ACCEPT ADVERSITY?" (2:10). I WISH WE HAD **MORE** GODLY HUSBANDS LIKE JOB WHO WOULD **STAND UP** TO THEIR UNGODLY WIVES, INSTEAD OF TRYING TO **PLEASE** THEM.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT WHEN CALAMITY HITS YOU, YOU MUST **NEVER** ASK THE QUESTION, "WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN TO ME?" UNLESS YOU HAVE ASKED THE **SAME** QUESTION WHEN SOME **BLESSING** CAME UPON YOU!! WHEN YOU ARE BLESSED **UNEXPECTEDLY**, DO YOU EVER ASK, "WHY DID THIS HAPPEN TO ME? WHY WAS I **BLESSED** AND NOT OTHERS?"



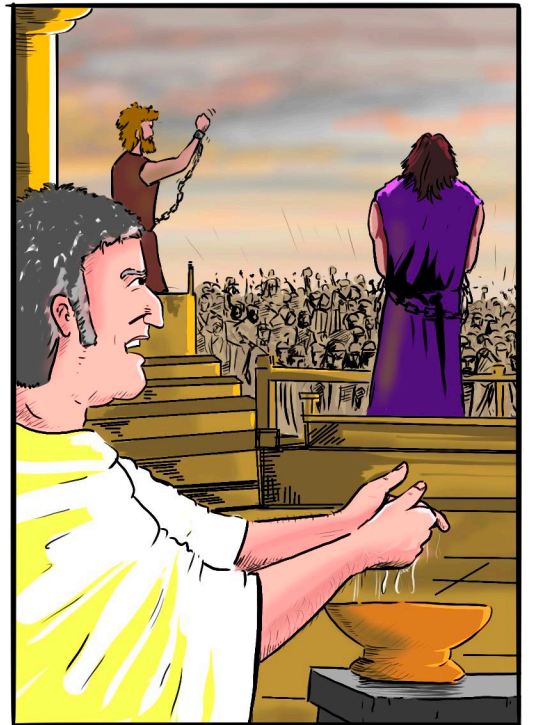
WHEN JOB'S **THREE** FRIENDS -- **ELIPHAZ, BILDAD AND ZOPHAR** -- HEARD OF HIS ADVERSITY, THEY CAME TO **VISIT** HIM, SAYING THEY WANTED TO **COMFORT** HIM (2:11). BUT THEY DIDN'T ACTUALLY COMFORT HIM AT ALL, WHEN WE SEE THE WAY THEY SPOKE TO HIM LATER ON. THEY ONLY **CRITICISED** AND **ACCUSED** HIM. ALL THREE OF THEM WERE IN **FELLOWSHIP** WITH THE **DEVIL**, THE **ACCUSER** OF THE **BRETHREN**.

THESE THREE MEN **PRETENDED** THAT THEY WERE VERY SORRY FOR JOB. THEY **WEPT** WHEN THEY SAW JOB AND **TORE** THEIR ROBES AND THREW **DUST** OVER THEIR HEADS. THEY WERE REALLY GOOD ACTORS. BUT **SECRETLY** THEY WERE **DELIGHTED**, BECAUSE THEY WERE **JEALOUS** OF HIM. THAT'S WHY GOD COULDN'T POINT OUT ANY OF THEM TO SATAN. GODLY MEN SUFFER ATTACKS FROM THE DEVIL, BUT PERHAPS THEIR GREATEST **TRIALS** ARE FROM THEIR **FRIENDS** AND BROTHERS WHO ARE **JEALOUS** OF THEM!



ALL THREE OF THESE MEN COULD **NOT** TRULY **UNDERSTAND** WHY JOB SUFFERED AS HE DID. THEY COULD ONLY **FIND FAULT** WITH HIM. THAT IS BECAUSE THEY WERE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE LIKE THE PHARISEES LATER ON, IN **JESUS'** TIME. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A **SPIRITUAL** MAN AND A **RELIGIOUS** MAN. SPIRITUAL PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD BY RELIGIOUS PEOPLE IN **EVERY** GENERATION. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT "ALL WHO LIVE **GODLY** IN CHRIST **JESUS** WILL BE **PERSECUTED**" (2 TIMOTHY 3:12). THERE ARE **NO** EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE. SO, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY OTHER PEOPLE, THEN DON'T BE **GODLY**! 1 CORINTHIANS 2:15 SAYS THAT "A **SPIRITUAL** MAN **CANNOT** BE **DISCERNED** BY THOSE WHO ARE **NOT** **SPIRITUAL**". A **GODLY** MAN IS THEREFORE A VERY **LONELY** MAN -- BECAUSE VERY FEW CAN UNDERSTAND HIM. HIS ACTIONS ARE MISUNDERSTOOD AND HIS WORDS ARE MISUNDERSTOOD, EVEN BY THOSE WHO **KNOW** THE **SCRIPTURES** WELL. RELIGIOUS PEOPLE **KNOW** ONLY **FACTS** ABOUT GOD. THEY **DON'T** **KNOW** **GOD** HIMSELF.

REMEMBER THAT **RELIGIOUS** PEOPLE COULD **NOT** RECOGNISE JESUS AND THOUGHT HE WAS THE PRINCE OF DEVILS. HOW CAN THEY RECOGNISE A **GODLY** MAN TODAY? THERE WERE **TWO** RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN **JESUS'** TIME, THE **PHARISEES** AND THE **SADDUCEES**. THE PHARISEES WERE THE **FUNDAMENTALISTS**, AND THE SADDUCEES WERE THE **LIBERALS**.

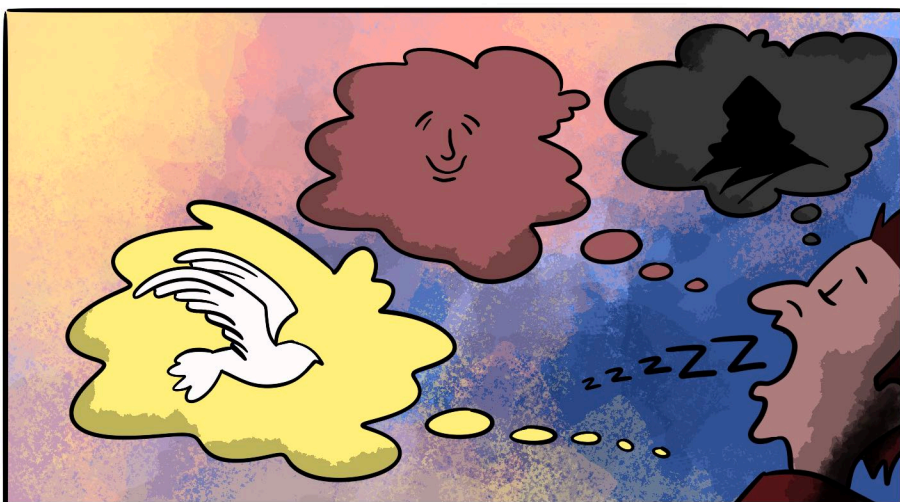
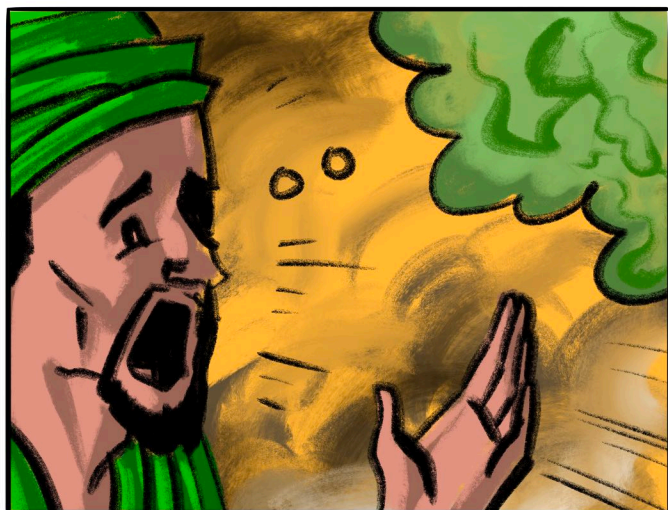


BUT OF THESE TWO, THE **PHARISEES** OPPOSED JESUS **MORE** THAN THE SADDUCEES. IT IS ALWAYS MORE **PAINFUL** WHEN A **BELIEVER** ATTACKS US AND **ACCUSES** US THAN WHEN AN UNBELIEVER DOES THE SAME THINGS. IN THE LAST 50 YEARS, I HAVE FACED A HUNDRED TIMES **MORE** **CRITICISM** FROM **BELIEVERS** THAN I HAVE FACED FROM **UNBELIEVERS**. JESUS FACED MORE OPPOSITION FROM THE PHARISEES THAN FROM THE GREEKS AND THE ROMANS. **PILATE** WANTED TO RELEASE HIM, BUT **ANNAS** AND **CAIAPHAS** WANTED TO **KILL** HIM.





LET US SEE WHAT **GOD** TOLD THESE THREE PREACHERS BEFORE LOOKING AT WHAT THEY ACTUALLY TOLD JOB. GOD TOLD ELIPHAZ AT THE END: "I AM **ANGRY** WITH YOU AND YOUR TWO FRIENDS, BECAUSE YOU HAVE NOT **SPOKEN** OF ME WHAT IS **RIGHT**" (42:7). WE MUST REMEMBER THESE WORDS OF GOD, AS WE STUDY THE WORDS OF THESE THREE PREACHERS. SOME OF THE THINGS THEY SAID APPEAR TO BE RIGHT. BUT GOD SAID THEY WERE **TOTALLY WRONG**. WHY DID GOD SAY THEY WERE WRONG? BECAUSE THE **SPIRIT BEHIND THEIR WORDS WAS WRONG**. IT IS THE SPIRIT **BEHIND** OUR WORDS THAT MATTERS. WE MAY SAY THE RIGHT THING, BUT IF OUR **MOTIVE** IS WRONG, GOD WILL SAY THAT OUR WORDS ARE WRONG. WE MAY BE ABLE TO JUSTIFY OUR WORDS EVEN IN A COURT OF LAW. BUT IN GOD'S EYES, WE ARE WRONG, IF OUR **ATTITUDE** OR MOTIVE IS WRONG. MOTIVE IS **ALL-IMPORTANT** BEFORE GOD. SO, IF YOU PLAN TO SAY SOMETHING TO **HURT** ANOTHER PERSON, WHATEVER YOU SAY WILL BE **WRONG**.



THE FIRST PREACHER, **ELIPHAZ**, WAS A MAN WHO MAJORED ON SPEAKING ABOUT **VISIONS** AND **ANGELS**. THERE ARE PREACHERS LIKE THAT TODAY WHO ARE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT THE ANGELS AND VISIONS THEY HAVE SEEN, IN ORDER TO INSERT SOME **AUTHORITY** INTO THEIR WORDS. FIRST OF ALL, A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF VISIONS AND DREAMS DO COME FROM **GOD**: THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES GIVE VISIONS AND DREAMS -- BUT THEY WILL ALWAYS BE IN **LINE** WITH **GOD'S** WORD (ACTS 2:17). THOSE WHO RECEIVE A GENUINE VISION HOWEVER WILL BE RELUCTANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. SECONDLY, A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF VISIONS COME FROM SATANIC SOURCES. THIRDLY, THE VAST MAJORITY OF VISIONS COME FROM A PERSON'S OWN **FERTILE IMAGINATION**. THE AUTHORITY IN OUR WORDS MUST COME FROM THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD



THE SECOND PREACHER -- **BILDAD** -- BELIEVED IN FOLLOWING THE **TRADITIONS** OF THE FATHERS. HE SAID, "CONSIDER WHAT OUR FATHERS " THESE PEOPLE DO NOT WISH TO **DISTURB** ANY OF THE TRADITIONS THAT HAVE BEEN HANDED DOWN FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS IN "THEIR CHURCH" -- WHETHER RIGHT OR WRONG. THEY DON'T WANT VISIONS OR DREAMS -- AND THEY DON'T WANT ANY **CHANGES** EITHER. THEY DON'T WANT TO **ROCK** THE **BOAT**. AND THEY DON'T WANT TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF THE BOAT EITHER -- EVEN IF IT IS GOING IN THE **WRONG** DIRECTION!!



THE THIRD PREACHER -- **ZOPHAR** -- BELIEVED IN BEING **ANGRY** AND IS A **REPRESENTATIVE** OF SOME "**SELF-APPOINTED** PROPHETS" WHO **IMAGINE** THAT THEY ARE MODERN-DAY ELIJAHS AND JOHN THE BAPTISTS. THEY ARE CRITICAL OF EVERYTHING THEY SEE AND CONSTANTLY **HIT** OUT AT ONE AND ALL. JESUS ALSO CRITICISED THE PHARISEES. BUT THERE IS **ANointed** **CRITICISM** AND THERE IS **CARNAL** **CRITICISM**.





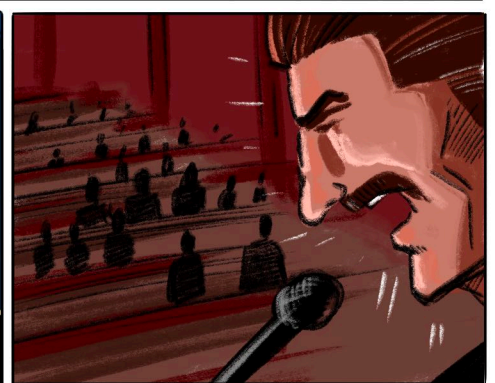
THE FOURTH PREACHER -- **ELIHU** -- WAS A YOUNG **ZEALOT** WHO HAD NO PERSONAL **EXPERIENCE** OF **SORROW** OR **SUFFERING**. HE WAS YOUNG AND FULL OF WORDS BUT WITH ZERO EXPERIENCE (32:6, 18). HE WAS **BETTER** THAN THE OTHER THREE. HE TAUGHT THE TRUTH ACCURATELY. AND **GOD** WAS **NOT** ANGRY WITH HIM AS GOD WAS WITH THE OTHER THREE, BECAUSE ELIHU'S **SPIRIT** WAS NOT **EVIL**. ELIHU IS **REPRESENTATIVE** OF THOSE PREACHERS WHO TEACH **GREAT**, WONDERFUL TRUTHS BUT WHO HAVE NEVER **GONE** THROUGH THE **DEEP** WATERS OF **SUFFERING** AND **TRIAL** THEMSELVES. THEY ARE **PIOUS** PEOPLE WHO ARE READY TO GIVE **ADVICE** TO OTHERS ON MATTERS OF WHICH THEY HAVE NO EXPERIENCE THEMSELVES. **PAUL'S** MINISTRY CAME OUT OF SUFFERING. HE SAID "I'VE BEEN THROUGH PRESSURE, TRIALS, AND **TREMENDOUS DISTRESS**; AND THE STRENGTH THAT GOD GAVE ME IN THOSE TIMES IS WHAT I CAN SHARE WITH YOU NOW" (2 CORINTHIANS 1:4--8). THAT WAS A DIFFERENT TYPE OF MINISTRY ALTOGETHER. IT CAME FROM **EXPERIENCE**. AND THAT IS HOW **OUR** MINISTRY SHOULD BE.



ELIPHAZ TOLD JOB, "YOU ARE **SUFFERING** BECAUSE YOU HAVE SINNED". HE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT JOB'S **PRIVATE** LIFE. BUT HE ACCUSED HIM NEVERTHELESS, JUST LIKE MANY PEOPLE DO **TODAY**. HE SAID TO JOB "YOU ARE GETTING A **HARVEST** OF THE **EVIL** THAT YOU HAVE **CULTIVATED** AND THE TROUBLE THAT YOU HAVE **PLANTED** IN YOUR **PAST** LIFE" (4:8). HE WAS **TOTALLY** WRONG.



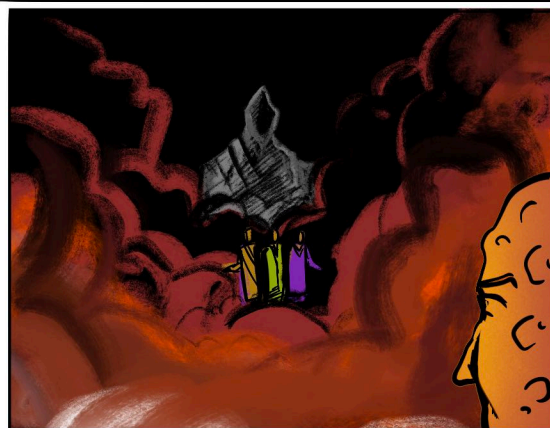
THEN BILDAD SPOKE SAYING, "YOUR **CHILDREN** MUST HAVE SINNED. THEY OBVIOUSLY SINNED AGAINST GOD. SO THEIR PUNISHMENT IS **WELL DESERVED**... BILDAD **ACTED** LIKE A **PIOUS**, **HOLY** MAN, WHO KNEW ALL ABOUT JOB'S CHILDREN (WHEN IN FACT HE **KNEW NOTHING**). DO WE **CRITICISE** OTHER PEOPLE'S **CHILDREN**? DO WE **PRETEND** TO BE GOD, KNOWING **WHY** OTHERS ARE **SUFFERING**? THEN WE ARE LIKE BILDAD.



THEN ZOPHAR SAID " AN EMPTY-HEADED **IDIOT** CAN'T BECOME INTELLIGENT ANY MORE THAN A WILD DONKEY CAN PRODUCE HUMAN CHILDREN" ZOPHAR **DARED** TO CALL JOB (WHO WAS THE **GODLIEST** MAN OF HIS GENERATION) AN EMPTY-HEADED **IDIOT**! HE WAS **VENTING** HIS **ANGER** ON SOMEONE HE WAS **JEALOUS** OF. THERE ARE PREACHERS TODAY TOO WHO USE THE **PULPIT** TO QUOTE **SCRIPTURE** TO VENT THEIR ANGER ON SOMEONE SITTING IN THE **CONGREGATION**, AGAINST WHOM THEY HAVE SOMETHING.



JOB WONDERS IF HE IS BEING **PUNISHED** BY GOD FOR "SINS OF HIS **YOUTH**" (13:26). IF WE HAVE **CONFESSED** OUR SINS TO THE LORD -- NO MATTER HOW **SERIOUS** THEY WERE -- THEY HAVE BEEN **FORGIVEN** (1 JOHN 1:9). GOD ALSO PROMISES US SAYING, "I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE" (HEBREWS 8:12). WE OVERCOME SATAN'S ACCUSATIONS AGAINST US "BY THE **BLOOD** OF THE **LAMB**" (REVELATION 12:11). BUT **JOB** DID **NOT** HAVE THAT **ASSURANCE** AND LIVED WITH THE AWARENESS OF THESE SINS OF YOUTH. HOW WONDERFULLY **PRIVILEGED** WE ARE UNDER THE **NEW COVENANT**.



JOB ALSO RECOGNISED THAT **SATAN** WAS BEHIND THESE ATTACKS, FOR HE SAYS, "MY **ADVERSARY** SHARPENS HIS EYES AGAINST ME" (16:9 - MARGIN). SATAN IS ALWAYS LOOKING AT US **CLOSELY** TO SEE IF WE FAIL IN SOME WAY SO THAT HE CAN **ACCUSE** US. HIS **AGENTS** ON EARTH (BELIEVERS ESPECIALLY) ALSO **SHARPEN** THEIR EYES TO OBSERVE US WHEN WE FALL. BUT JOB RECOGNISED THAT GOD ALLOWED THIS. SO HE GOES ON TO SAY, "MY **ADVOCATE** IS ON HIGH. MY EYE WEEPS TO GOD. O THAT A MAN MIGHT PLEAD WITH GOD FOR ME". HOW BLESSED! WE HAVE A **MAN** AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND **PLEADING** FOR US





BILDAD THEN SPOKE IMPLYING JOB WAS **WICKED**. THAT WAS WHAT HE WAS SAYING, IMPLYING THAT JOB WAS WICKED. JOB'S REPLY TO THAT WAS "TEN TIMES YOU HAVE TRIED TO INSULT ME NOW. YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF DEALING WITH ME SO HARSHLY. AND EVEN IF I HAVE SINNED, THAT'S MY CONCERN, NOT YOURS. GOD WILL DEAL WITH THAT. YOU ARE TRYING TO OVERCOME ME USING MY PRESENT HUMILIATION AS THE EVIDENCE OF MY SIN" (19:2--5). JOB GOES ON TO SAY THAT **GOD** HAS REMOVED HIS BROTHERS, RELATIVES, FRIENDS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND EVEN HIS WIFE FAR FROM HIM AND MADE HIM THE OBJECT OF **DERISION** OF SERVANT-MAIDS AND LITTLE CHILDREN (19:13--18). BUT IN SPITE OF ALL THAT, HE GOES ON **TRIUMPHANTLY** TO SAY, "I KNOW THAT **MY REDEEMER LIVES**. ON THE **LAST DAY** HE WILL STAND ON THE EARTH. EVEN AFTER MY SKIN IS DESTROYED, IN MY FLESH I WILL SEE GOD. I **MYSELF** WILL **SEE HIM**" (19:25--27). JOB WAS SPEAKING AS A **PROPHET** HERE. THROUGH **SUFFERING** HE BECAME A PROPHET. HE MIGHT NEVER HAVE SEEN THIS **WONDERFUL** VISION OF THE **FUTURE** IF HE HAD NOT GONE THROUGH THIS **INTENSE** SUFFERING. THAT IS GOD'S WAY. THIS POINT, WE COULD SAY MARKS A **TURNING POINT** IN JOB'S **ATTITUDE**. ALTHOUGH HE STILL HASN'T COME OUT OF THE PIT OF FEELING SORRY FOR HIMSELF, YET THERE IS A DIFFERENT TONE FROM NOW ONWARDS. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO US TOO, WHEN WE THINK OF THE FUTURE AND FIX OUR HOPE ON BEING **RESURRECTED** AND SEEING OUR **LORD** AND REDEEMER **FACE TO FACE**.



ZOPHAR AGAIN ACCUSES JOB OF BEING **WICKED** THAT THAT IS WHY JOB'S "PROSPERITY HAS **VANISHED**, DISASTERS HAVE OVERTAKEN HIM. JOB CALMLY AND **WISELY** SAYS, "ACTUALLY THE TRUTH IS THAT **WICKED** PEOPLE SOMETIMES LIVE TO A GOOD OLD AGE. THEY ARE **PROSPEROUS** AND SEE THEIR **CHILDREN** AND THEIR **GRAND- CHILDREN**. THEIR HOUSES ARE **SAFE**, THEIR CATTLE **FLOURISH**, AND THEY SPEND THEIR DAYS IN **MERRIMENT** AND GO TO THE GRAVE" (21:7--13). THAT IS ABSOLUTELY **RIGHT**. JOB WAS **NO PROSPERITY** PREACHER. THIS IS **EXACTLY** WHAT WE SEE OF **WICKED** PEOPLE AROUND US EVEN **TODAY**. JOB GOES ON TO SAY THAT THEY LIVE LIKE THIS, **EVEN** THOUGH THEY **REJECT** GOD AND **NEVER** SERVE HIM OR OBEY HIM AND HAVE NO FAITH IN PRAYER VERSES 14--16). JOB GOES ON TO SAY, "THEIR **PROSPERITY** IS NOT OF THEIR DOING" (VERSE 16) -- OR IN OTHER WORDS, THEIR PROSPERITY WAS **NOT** A **REWARD** FROM GOD FOR THE WAY THEY LIVED. "I WILL HAVE **NOTHING** TO DO WITH THAT KIND OF LIFE," SAYS JOB



THEN THE THIRD ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS HAPPENED. HAVING GIVEN HIS REPLY TO BILDAD, JOB THEN GOES ON TO **JUSTIFY** HIMSELF, GIVING A LIST OF ALL THE MANY **GOOD** THINGS HE HAD DONE IN HIS LIFE TO HELP OTHERS ETC. IT IS **AMAZING** TO SEE THE **TREMENDOUS LIGHT** THAT JOB HAD ABOUT **GOD** AND HIS **WAYS** AND THE **HIGH STANDARD** OF LIFE THAT HE LIVED WAY BACK IN THOSE DAYS WHEN THERE WAS NO **BIBLE** AND WITHOUT THE **INDWELLING** HOLY SPIRIT. IT IS GOOD TO LOOK THROUGH SOME THINGS IN THESE CHAPTERS, BECAUSE THEY PUT **US** TO **SHAME** AND **CHALLENGE US** TO LIVE AT A MUCH **HIGHER** STANDARD TODAY. HE HAD BEEN **CAREFUL** WITH HIS **EYES** NOT TO LUST AFTER WOMEN (31:1). HE HAD LIGHT ON THIS SIN **2000 YEARS BEFORE** JESUS SPOKE ABOUT IT IN **MATTHEW 5**. HE HAD WALKED IN **INTEGRITY** WITHOUT ANY FALSEHOOD (31:5, 6), HE HAD NEVER BEEN **UNFAITHFUL** TO HIS WIFE (31:9--12), HE HAD TREATED HIS **SERVANTS** AND **STRANGERS** WITH **KINDNESS** (31:13--15), HE HAD HELPED THE **POOR** AND THE **WIDOWS**, AND BROUGHT UP **ORPHANS** AS HIS OWN CHILDREN (31:16--23), HE HAD NOT TRUSTED IN **GOLD** OR BEEN **IDOLATROUS**. WE SEE WHAT A **GODLY** MAN JOB WAS!





NOW WE COME TO THE LAST PREACHER, **ELIHU**. HE WAS YOUNGER TO THE OTHER THREE PREACHERS BUT HE WAS WISER THAN ALL OF THEM. BUT HE WAS UNWISE IN ANOTHER MATTER. IT SAYS THAT "ELIHU'S **ANGER** BURNED AND HE SPOKE OUT" (32:5--6). MY ADVICE HAS ALWAYS BEEN: "WHENEVER YOU ARE ANGRY, DON'T OPEN YOUR MOUTH. DON'T SPEAK TO ANYONE AND DEFINITELY DON'T PREACH, BECAUSE THE **ANGER** OF MAN CAN NEVER ACHIEVE THE **RIGHTEOUSNESS** OF GOD" (SEE JAMES 1:20). ELIHU MAY HAVE BEEN A BETTER MAN THAN THE OTHERS. BUT WITHOUT THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF TRIAL AND SUFFERING, HIS MINISTRY WAS **SHALLOW**. ELIHU WAS ANGRY NOT ONLY WITH JOB BUT ALSO WITH THE OTHER THREE PREACHERS. ELIHU SAID SOME GOOD THINGS THAT ALL OF US CAN CONSIDER SERIOUSLY: "I AM FULL OF WORDS. THE SPIRIT WITHIN **CONSTRAINS** ME".. "LET ME NOT BE **PARTIAL** TO ANYONE OR **FLATTER** ANYONE".. "NO FEAR OF ME SHOULD TERRIFY ANYONE. NOR SHOULD MY PRESSURE WEIGH HEAVILY ON ANYONE". BUT HE ALSO **CRITICISED** JOB. ELIHU WAS LIKE THE BIBLE SCHOLARS OF JESUS' TIME -- THE PHARISEES, ANNAS AND CAIPHAS -- WHO WERE SURE THAT JESUS WAS THE PRINCE OF **DEVILS**! UNLEARNED PEOPLE LIKE PETER, HOWEVER, KNEW THAT JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD. IT WAS NOT PETER'S CLEVERNESS OR BIBLE-KNOWLEDGE THAT HAD TAUGHT HIM THAT. IT WAS **GOD**.

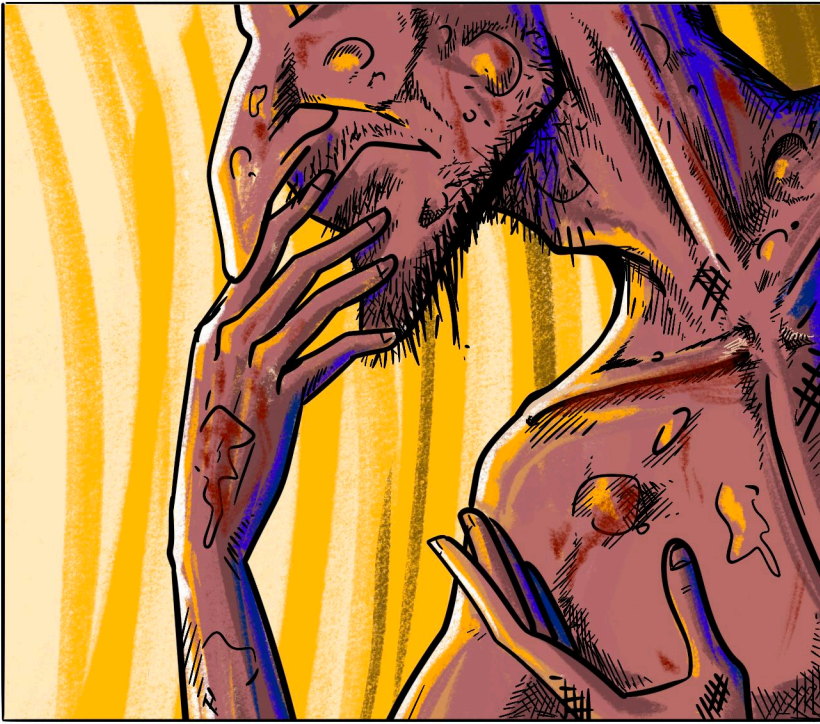


THEN **GOD** REPLIED TO JOB (CHAPTERS 38--41). NOTICE THE COMPLETELY **DIFFERENT** WAY IN WHICH GOD SPOKE TO JOB, COMPARED TO THE WAY THE FOUR PREACHERS, (WHO CLAIMED TO **REPRESENT** HIM) SPOKE. GOD DID **NOT** ONCE **ACCUSE** JOB OF HAVING SINNED IN SECRET OR TELL HIM THAT HE WAS BEING PUNISHED FOR HIS SINS, ETC. YET JOB WAS **CONVICTED IMMEDIATELY** AND **REPENTED!!** WHAT A LESSON WE CAN ALL LEARN FROM THAT, ON HOW TO SPEAK TO PEOPLE AND HOW TO PREACH! GOD'S WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS. MANY PREACHERS TRY TO CONVICT PEOPLE BY TELLING THEM ABOUT SINS THAT THEY IMAGINE THOSE OTHERS HAVE COMMITTED. **NOTHING** RESULTS FROM SUCH AN APPROACH, EXCEPT THAT THE PREACHERS THEMSELVES INCREASE THEIR **GUILT** BEFORE GOD FOR SPEAKING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE **ACCUSER**. GOD IN HIS GREAT **MERCY** AND **COMPASSION**, HOWEVER, SPEAKS TO MAN IN QUITE ANOTHER WAY AND THE MAN IS SO **THOROUGHLY** CONVICTED OF HIS SINS THAT HE SAYS, "O GOD, I AM **CORRUPT**, I AM **NOTHING**. I REPENT. PLEASE **FORGIVE** ME." GOD LEADS PEOPLE TO **REPENTANCE** BY HIS **KINDNESS** (ROMANS 2:4).

THREE BASIC QUESTIONS THAT GOD WAS ASKING JOB (IN THESE CHAPTERS) WERE:

1. "IF YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND THESE WONDERS IN **CREATION**, HOW CAN YOU UNDERSTAND **SPIRITUAL** REALITIES?"
2. "IF I CONTROL ALL MY CREATION, DO YOU THINK THAT I COULDN'T CONTROL THE **LIGHTNING** THAT STRUCK YOUR SHEEP, OR THE **SABEANS** AND **CHALDEANS** WHO KILLED YOUR SERVANTS, OR THE **STORM** THAT STRUCK YOUR CHILDREN'S **HOUSES**?"
3. "IF YOU CAN'T STAND IN FRONT OF A **CROCODILE** THAT I CREATED, HOW CAN YOU STAND BEFORE **ME**?" (41:10). GOD SHOWED JOB HIS **SOVEREIGN** POWER AND **CONTROL**. HOURS OF **DIRECT** ATTACK BY THE FOUR PREACHERS **ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING**. THE **INDIRECT** APPROACH BY GOD **ACCOMPLISHED EVERYTHING** IN A FEW **MINUTES**.





THE LORD ASKED JOB, "DO YOU STILL WANT TO **ARGUE** WITH THE **ALMIGHTY**?" (JOB 40:2). JOB, WHO HAD A **QUICK** REPLY FOR EVERY ARGUMENT THUS FAR IS NOW **SILENCED**. HE NOW SAYS, "LORD, I AM **NOTHING** AND I HAVE **NOTHING** TO SAY. I WILL NOT SPEAK ANY MORE" (40:4, 5). THIS FIRST BOOK OF INSPIRED SCRIPTURE TEACHES US THAT GOD WANTS US TO RECOGNISE OUR **NOTHINGNESS** SO THAT HE CAN BE **EVERYTHING** IN OUR LIVES. THEN OUR LIVES WILL FULFIL **HIS PURPOSE** AND BE A **BLESSING** TO MULTITUDES. BEFORE GOD CAN **USE** SOMEONE, HE HAS TO REDUCE HIM TO **NOTHING**. WHAT A **LONG** TIME IT TOOK JOB TO COME TO THE PLACE WHERE HE COULD **ACKNOWLEDGE** THAT HE WAS INSIGNIFICANT NOW AT LAST THIS **SELF-RIGHTEOUS** MAN HAD BECOME **ZERO**. AS A RESULT OF WHOSE PREACHING? GOD, WHO WAS THE **FIFTH** PREACHER, WHOM WE SHOULD IMITATE. SO LET US ALWAYS **HUMBLE** OURSELVES AND SAY, "LORD, I AM NOTHING. I'LL PUT MY HAND OVER MY **MOUTH** AND KEEP **QUIET**." JOB ALSO SAID, "LORD, I HAD **HEARD** ABOUT YOU BEFORE, BUT NOW I HAVE **SEEN** YOU" (JOB 42:5). THERE IS A **VAST DIFFERENCE** BETWEEN **HEARING** ABOUT GOD AND **KNOWING** HIM PERSONALLY. WHEN JOHN SAW JESUS ON THE ISLE OF PATMOS, HE FELL DOWN AND WORSHIPPED HIM. JOB FELL DOWN AND **WORSHIPPED** GOD TOO.



THEN THE LORD SAID TO ELIPHAZ, "I AM **ANGRY** WITH YOU AND YOUR TWO FRIENDS. NOW OFFER A **SACRIFICE** FOR YOUR **SIN** (OF SPEAKING TO MY SERVANT JOB) AND ASK **MY SERVANT** JOB TO **PRAY** FOR YOU. HE WHOM YOU **ACCUSED** HAS TO BE YOUR **MEDIATOR** NOW." NOTICE HOW **GOD** RECOGNISES **JOB** AS HIS SERVANT (42:7, 8).

THE LORD TOLD THE CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA, "I WILL MAKE THEM TO COME AND **BOW** DOWN AT YOUR FEET AND TO KNOW THAT I HAVE **LOVED** YOU" (REVELATION 3:9). THE SAME THING HAPPENED HERE WITH JOB AND HIS FRIENDS. ELIPHAZ, BILDAD AND ZOPHAR THEN WENT TO JOB AND ASKED HIM TO PRAY FOR THEM. JOB READILY **FORGAVE** THEM AND **PRAYED** FOR THEM.



AS SOON AS JOB PRAYED FOR HIS FRIENDS, THE LORD **RESTORED** JOB'S FORTUNES (42:10). SOON HE HAD RECEIVED **DOUBLE** FROM THE LORD OF **EVERYTHING** HE HAD **LOST**. HE EVEN GOT **TEN** MORE **CHILDREN**. AND THAT SUGGESTS TO ME THAT, AFTER HIS WIFE SAW HOW **GOOD** GOD HAD BEEN TO THEIR FAMILY, SHE ALSO **REPENTED** AND BECAME A **GODLY** WOMAN HERSELF AND A **TRUE** HELPER TO HER **HUSBAND**. SO, "**LOVE** YOUR ENEMIES, DO **GOOD** TO THOSE WHO HATE YOU, **BLESS** THOSE WHO **CURSE** YOU AND **PRAY** FOR THOSE WHO **PERSECUTE** YOU". AND YOU WILL FIND A **MIRACLE** BEGINNING TO TAKE PLACE IN YOUR OWN LIFE. YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF BEING **DOUBLY** BLESSED BY THE LORD.