



Eternal PERSPECTIVE

Job

BIBLE TEXT | JOB 9:1-35

1 Then Job answered and said:

2 "Truly I know that it is so; But how can a man be in the right before God?

3 If one wished to contend with him, one could not answer him once in a thousand times.

4 He is wise in heart and mighty in strength—who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded?—

5 he who removes mountains, and they know it not, when he overturns them in his anger,

6 who shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble;

7 who commands the sun, and it does not rise; who seals up the stars;

8 who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea;

9 who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south;

10 who does great things beyond searching out, and marvelous things beyond number.

11 Behold, he passes by me, and I see him not; he moves on, but I do not perceive him.

12 Behold, he snatches away; who can turn him back? Who will say to him, 'What are you doing?'

13 "God will not turn back his anger; beneath him bowed the helpers of Rahab.

14 How then can I answer him, choosing my words with him?

15 Though I am in the right, I cannot answer him; I must appeal for mercy to my accuser.

16 If I summoned him and he answered me, I would not believe that he was listening to my voice.

17 For he crushes me with a tempest and multiplies my wounds without cause;

18 he will not let me get my breath, but fills me with bitterness.

19 If it is a contest of strength, behold, he is mighty! If it is a matter of justice, who can summon him?

20 Though I am in the right, my own mouth would condemn me; though I am blameless, he would prove me perverse.

21 I am blameless; I regard not myself; I loathe my life.

22 It is all one; therefore I say, 'He destroys both the blameless and the wicked.'

23 When disaster brings sudden death, he mocks at the calamity of the innocent.

24 The earth is given into the hand of the wicked; he covers the faces of its judges— if it is not he, who then is it?

25 "My days are swifter than a runner; they flee away; they see no good.

26 They go by like skiffs of reed, like an eagle swooping on the prey.

27 If I say, 'I will forget my complaint, I will put off my sad face, and be of good cheer,'

28 I become afraid of all my suffering, for I know you will not hold me innocent.

29 I shall be condemned; why then do I labor in vain?

30 If I wash myself with snow and cleanse my hands with lye,

31 yet you will plunge me into a pit, and my own clothes will abhor me.

32 For he is not a man, as I am, that I might answer him, that we should come to trial together.

33 There is no arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both.

34 Let him take his rod away from me, and let not dread of him terrify me.

35 Then I would speak without fear of him, for I am not so in myself.



Eternal PERSPECTIVE

Job

DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 9:1-35

AUTHOR: EDWARD BARRETT

In Job 9, we see Job go from clear statements of God's greatness to struggling in his thoughts about God. In Job's wrestling, and with his so-called friends' advice to him, Job's view of God is getting fuzzy. Like Job, we all have a limited view of God (1 Corinthians 13:12) which is why we must stay grounded in the truth of God's word. In His word, we are reminded of His character. Job's view of God is being challenged by his circumstances and influenced by his friends and the culture around him. This is where the enemy attacks and, so often, we are not prepared and we easily fall.

I'm reminded in 1 Peter 1:13 to be prepared for action and in Ephesians 6:14 to put on the "belt of truth" and the "breastplate of righteousness". You see, the only offensive weapon we have in this battle of the mind is the word of God, which is "sharper than any two-edged sword" (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12). This "two-edged sword" was the most advanced lethal weapon of that day, and His word is still the most powerful weapon today.

In this chapter, Job is in a very dangerous place in his thoughts. Let me explain using a modern day example. Let's say at work you become a little dissatisfied with your boss or coworker. Before you realize it, they have seemingly become your enemy. Everything you think, hear, or mention about them is negative. You have stopped believing the best about them, and have started to assume the worst. You have convinced yourself that they are against you and are out to get you. But really what has happened is that these thoughts have formed a false narrative in your mind. In isolation, you begin believing the lies as truth. And now you have become so focused on it, that you are consumed by it. You have really become a prisoner to it. Can anyone relate? I sure can. This type of situation reminds me of where Job is, and this is exactly what the enemy does.

God offers us an alternative in His word. He tells us that "love bears all things, believes all things" ("looking for the best in each one" - AMP), hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Corinthians 13:7). As a believer in Christ, we are to believe the best, and not assume the worst like the rest of the world around us. In fact, we are called to seek clarity when we are unsure, and deal with conflict that may arise in doing so. We are to be "peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9). Finally, if we have suffered unjustly, we can endure because "after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you" (1 Peter 5:10). How's that for encouragement!?



Eternal PERSPECTIVE --- *Job*

We are so blessed to have God's word. If we allow it to guide our hearts and minds, we won't get so easily entangled by the world. I wonder if Job had God's word as we do today, would he have wrestled as he did?

Questions:

1. Where are you guilty of listening to worldly counsel instead of God's?
2. Do you know God's word? Have you devoted yourself to it daily? If not, share that with your Journey Group, or other biblical community, and ask them to help you.
3. Do you tend to believe the worst about people or situations? Why or why not? If so, how does 1 Corintihians 13 challenge you?