

## The story of

# JOB



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**The story of Job is about a blameless and upright man.  
He was relentless in keeping himself and his family pure before God.  
Yet, there remained a lesson for him to learn, an important lesson for all of mankind.**

The Bible is a book filled with stories. Ordinary people, carefully selected and given roles to live that were intended to mirror the greater story—the spiritual reality. In God’s wisdom and care to remain transparent during dark times in heaven and on earth, God has woven through His imagery the spiritual walk of His people and the lessons to be learned, their redemption and the salvation plan for all of mankind.

In John 4, the woman at the well was an ordinary person living a life that mirrored the spiritual walk of the church of the ten tribes. The healing of the nations of the ten tribes is preserved in the story of Naaman, the general healed of leprosy. The woman bent over for 18 years mirrored the story of the heavily-burdened Jewish church healed on the Sabbath. Jacob’s wives, Leah and Rachel, both mirror two different churches. Jacob shimmers with imagery at multiple levels. The imagery of different trees: cedars, olive trees, fig trees, myrtle, pine, plane all identify different types of leaders in God’s government—His garden of Eden. The story of Job is another record preserved in the pages of the Bible that is rich in imagery. It uncovers a lesson for all Judo-Christians on earth and reveals a beauty that captivates God, a beauty man is yet to see and value.

### **FIRST: THE STORY BEGINS WITH A FOCUS ON THE ACTIONS OF JOB’S SEVEN SONS.**

Job is striving to keep his family pure in the eyes of God. He is concerned about the celebrations hosted by his seven sons. **“His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and**

they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them” (Job 1:4). The New International Version identifies the feasts as birthday celebrations. This places a focus on the sons, individually. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, this celebration is not given any scrutiny and yet, it may be a form of self-glory. In any case, the sons invited their three sisters who did not of their own have a similar celebration, yet they joined in. Job was concerned about the activity during the celebration. “Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, ‘Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in the hearts.’ This was Job’s regular custom” (Job 1:5).

## **SECOND: SATAN CHALLENGES GOD ABOUT JOB’S LOYALTY.**

“Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan said. “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face” (Job 1:9-11).

Satan has long lost God’s Holy Spirit. He can’t understand the conviction of the faithful who don’t put their heart in the things of this world but long for “the city with foundations whose architect and builder is God” (Hebrews 11:10). The faithful pray for God’s kingdom to come quickly and the imprisonment of the wicked heavenly rulers, powers and authorities to end the deception over mankind. The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man, himself, do not lay a finger” (Job 1:12).

Satan wasted no time. In one day, he took everything away from Job. When Job was told of all that happened, “he fell to the ground in worship and said: ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised’” (Job 1:20).

Like the Apostle Paul who “learned to be content whatever the circumstances... and became accustomed to any and every situation—to being filled and being hungry, to having plenty and having need” (Philippians 4:11b, 12), Job accepted his loss.

Sometime later when the other angels came before God, Satan presented himself. Determined to destroy the faithful on earth, Satan challenged God again. “Skin for skin! A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face” (Job 2:4-5).

“Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life,” God said (Job 2:6).

God is not the instigator of the sufferings of the faithful, Satan is. God will allow Wickedness to test the faithful because it becomes an opportunity for God to purify them into His most precious gems. Satan does not understand God’s doings or how He converts Satan’s attacks into the opportunity to refine those He loves. Mankind was created to grow in grace and knowledge and through suffering they blossom into righteousness and forge an eternal unbreakable bond with God.

### **THIRD: JOB STRUGGLES TO UNDERSTAND HIS PREDICAMENT.**

Satan inflicted Job with painful sores and his wife tempted him to curse God. He replied, “You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?” (Job 2:10)

Job understood that God does not curse His faithful servants. While trying desperately to understand his trial, he entered into an in-depth analysis with his three friends.

Job was positioned to learn an invaluable lesson. The Apostle Peter explained this mystery. “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief of all kinds of trials. **These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed**” (1 Peter 1:6-7).

Job’s three friends did not understand the workings of God. Job was certain God had a purpose; he just couldn’t see it initially.

### **FOURTH: GOD SPEAKS TO JOB IN A STORM AND HE LEARNS INVALUABLE LESSONS.**

God took His time to detail every level of His greatness, including His ability to punish wicked heavenly beings. “**The wicked are denied their light, and their upraised arm is broken**” (Job 38:15). The wicked heavenly rulers, powers and authorities of Ephesians 6:12, which include Satan no longer shine; their glory is gone and their power will soon to be taken from all of them.

God’s thundering reply from out of the storm would have been a fearful event and for 21<sup>st</sup> century Judo-Christians would be a terrifying and distressing occurrence—a news-breaking headline since God’s silence has sedated their passion for Him and unbelievers have introduced new ideas about their existence.

Job was not alarmed by God’s awesome presence and spoke his single thought, “I am unworthy—how can I reply to you?” (Job 40:4)

God finished His reply with a detailed description of leviathan, a great fire-breathing dragon who is “king over all that are proud” (Job 41:34). The prophet Isaiah foretells the death of this monster of the sea that will come to pass in a specific time and moment. “**In that day, the LORD will punish with his sword, his fierce, great and power sword, Leviathan the gliding serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay the monster of the sea**” (Isaiah 27:1).

The **sea** is imagery for the abode of wickedness. God said that there will be no sea when the new heaven and new earth are created (Revelation 21:1). This “**monster**” is Wickedness who are a coalition of rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities of Ephesians 6:12 who work in opposition to God and lure mankind into rebellion with them. This monster will be destroyed “**in that day**”. In that day God’s people, Jacob, “will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit” (Isaiah 27:6). That day will be when Jesus Christ and the saints are ruling in the Millennium. There is no salvation plan for the monster, but there is a salvation plan for all of mankind who repent.

Job understood that leviathan is symbolic of God's heavenly enemies who are very powerful, but not more powerful than Almighty God. He knew that mankind is defenseless against leviathan as God also pointed out. Job replied, "I know that **you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted**" (Job 42:2).

Job added, "You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely, I spoke of things **I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know**" (Job 42:3).

New Testament Christians have been given the revelations of the mysteries and wonders of God that remained hidden, never known and sought after in ancient times. God has a glorious plan for His second creation that is, His creation on the earth. Positions once held by the rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities of Ephesians 6:12 of the first creation in heaven will be given to the faithful from earth. The battle continues from ancient times for the kingdom—rulership over heaven and earth, but the Ancient of Days has already foretold His verdict. It will be given to Christ and the saints.

"He [one like the son of man] approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. **His dominion is an every-lasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed**" (Daniel 7:13b-14).

"As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, until **the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High**, and the time came when **they possessed the kingdom**" (Daniel 7:21-22).

Leviathan is doomed. They will not receive the kingdom that they plotted to take by force.

Job's third and final comment, "My ears had heard of you but now **my eyes have seen you**. Therefore, **I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes**" (Job 42:5).

Job learned the lesson of having absolute trust in God and being truly humble—without self-elevation, self-glory, self-righteousness. The Apostle Paul said, "Now we see things imperfectly, **like puzzling reflections in a mirror**, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that **I know now is partial and incomplete**, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely" (I Corinthians 13:12).

The Apostle Paul understood. "For **we walk by faith, not by sight**" (II Corinthians 5:7).

Time is coming when those who fear and serve God will be either resurrected or transformed into their eternal bodies, then everything will be crystal clear. In the meantime, God asks His faithful to: do what is right, love mercy and **walk humbly with your God** (Micah 6:8).

**FIFTH: JOB IS BLESSED WITH A DOUBLE PORTION.**

Like the blessing of an earthly first-born child, Job received a double portion; he images the first-born in the first resurrection. These people though not yet resurrected are already considered by God as His sons because they are led by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14).

They are referred to as the saints in Daniel and in Revelation 14 a group of 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel who are blameless, honest, and pure like Job. They will suffer through the persecution during the last seven years of this evil age and come out victorious without spot, wrinkle and blemish, like Job.

#### **SIXTH: JOB'S DAUGHTER'S BECOME THE CENTRAL FOCUS.**

At the end of the story, the focus shifts from Job's unnamed seven sons with questionable behavior to Job's three daughters born to him after his victory over Satan's attack. Their names are recorded and their beauty is acknowledged as unmatched anywhere in the land. It is this concluding portion of Job's story that provides the bridge into the greater spiritual reality that God shares with those who seek the deep things of God.

The components that forged the bridge into the realization of a spiritual reality was God's revelation in Job's three daughters: their names are recorded, their exceptional beauty is unmatched, they receive an inheritance along with their brothers, and Job's seven sons are down-played; all are uncommon in Biblical tradition.

The seven sons of this new family do not appear to be celebrating themselves. The number seven holds a Biblical significance meaning completion. It can mean that though the sons are complete, they are not God's main focus. Job's daughters have God's captivating attention.

The female gender, created second after the male gender was intended from the very beginning to image a group of people that form a church, a religious group of people [physical men and women] that include teachers, religious leaders and the congregation that follow the instructions of God.

The Apostle Paul understood this mystery. "For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and **the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am speaking about Christ and the church**" (Ephesians 5:31-32).

In the faithful marriage relationship, Christ mirrors the man and the church mirrors the woman. Outside of the marriage, the woman mirrors mankind on earth and churches whether for or against God and the man mirrors the first creation in heaven and the national leaders on earth.

Naming is very important to God. Names are mentioned when people hold a significant role valued by God. Job's daughters image three religious bodies known to God from ancient times. They were a bitter disappointment at one time going along with the nations, but a spiritual rebirth takes place and they are named, beautiful and receive an inheritance, that is, rulership.

God said, "**They broke my covenant**, though I was a **husband** to them, declares the Lord" (Jeremiah 31:32).

Ezekiel recorded the history of this one collective body, the nation of ancient Israel, who were comprised of three groups of people who broke the covenant they had with God. The religious leaders established Jerusalem as their centre and the two houses: Judah and Israel worshiped there. These three groups of people are referred to by Ezekiel as three daughters from the same mother. **Jerusalem, Israel and Judah—the three sisters all betrayed God to worship other gods.** “Son of man, confront Jerusalem with her detestable practices...” (Ezekiel 16:1) “You, adulterous wife! You prefer strangers to your own husband!” (Ezekiel 16:32) “Like mother, like daughter... Your older sister was Samaria [Israel, the ten tribes], who lived to the north of you with her daughters; and your younger sister, who lived to the south of you with her daughters, was Sodom [Judah]. You not only walked in their ways and copied their detestable practices, but in all your ways you [Jerusalem] soon became more depraved than they... Samaria did not commit half the sins you did. You have done more detestable things than they, and have made your sisters seem righteous by all these things you have done” (Ezekiel 16:44, 46-47, 51).

Moses and the prophets image Rachel’s children. Rachel was Jacob’s loved wife who died young never to conceive again after the birth of Benjamin. That is why Matthew quoted Jeremiah, “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, **Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted**, because they are no more” (Matthew 2:18, Jeremiah 31:15).

Rachel had long since died before Jeremiah wrote. Matthew understood that Rachel’s children mirrored the prophets—the righteous teachers. Her name is used by Jeremiah and understood by Matthew as the one crying for the death of the prophets. Jesus was the last prophet and Herod was seeking his life. Matthew recognized the prophecy and quoted Jeremiah as his prophecy was being fulfilled.

**“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you**, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing” (Matthew 23:37).

With the sacrifice of Christ and the receiving of the Holy Spirit, a new birth is forecasted in the story of Job. Three daughters seeded by a blameless and upright man are born. The spiritual reality is the story of the rebirth of Jerusalem, Israel—the Christians, and Judah—the Messianic Jews walking in the ways of God.

The oldest daughter’s name is **Jemimah meaning “dove”**: symbol of peace. Jerusalem in the Millennium under the rule of Jesus Christ and his Bride will be the law-abiding centre living God’s law of love for God and mankind.

The second oldest daughter’s name is **Keziah**. Another spelling of the word is **cassia**. **Cassia oil is like frankincense oil**. It has an **unmistakable fragrance and calming aromatic properties**. It is expensive, rare, and beautiful.

The third daughter's name is **Keren-Happuch** means the **horn of adornment** which is reference to the **outward beauty that comes from inward character**.

These three daughters image the transformation of wayward Israel into three beautiful churches. Their beauty will be seen all around the world. There will be a holy kingdom living God's way and a kingdom of royal priests teaching the world the way of God. The priests in this kingdom are viewed by God as female, his daughters who came out of intense suffering and blossomed into captivating beauties.

The sons born from Job after his trial do not get God's attention like his daughters because the spiritual reality is: God's sole purpose for mankind is to produce a planet of priests, all members of Abraham's family—a holy kingdom of royal priests. "But you are **a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession**" (1 Peter 2:9).

These daughters who image a whole kingdom of priests will receive an inheritance (Job 42:15b). Written in tradition is the giving of the family inheritance to the oldest son through to the youngest son. Daughters received an inheritance only when there wasn't a son to receive it. In the case of Job, he gave his daughters an inheritance along with his sons. It would appear from the mirroring that God weaves into His stories that an inheritance was given only to His first creation in heaven—His sons, but we now know through Job's story, that in fact, three daughters who comprise of the holy kingdom of royal priests will receive an inheritance, that is, rulership. The three daughters are the members of the Bride who will marry Christ. He will share his rulership with her.

#### **SEVEN: THERE IS HOPE!**

As with Job, God will finish the job. "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

All of the nations of 21<sup>st</sup> century Israel will be tried, tested and purified. **Those who refuse to repent will be purged. "In that day** you will feel no shame because of all your deeds by which you have rebelled against Me; for then **I will remove from your midst your proud, exulting ones, and you will never again be haughty on My holy mountain. But I will leave among you a humble and lowly people**, and they will take refuge in the name of the LORD. **The remnant of Israel will do no wrong and tell no lies, nor will a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths;** For they will feed and lie down with no one to make them tremble" (Zephaniah 3:11-13).

Such is the story of Job! A prophecy foretelling the intense suffering of God's people and those who overcome will rejoice in their victory—in the future on our near horizon, after Jacob's trouble. They will humble themselves, trust in God, purify themselves to rebirth a radiant people leaning on Christ in every way and following the ways of God. They will become a shining light on a hill for all the nations to see and their beauty will be captivating. Their names will be known throughout the whole world and recorded eternally in God's book in heaven.

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