

## Chapter 14

### Job – The Suffering Priest

“And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them... and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all.”

—Job 1:5

Before the storm, before the sores, before the scraping of skin with shards of pottery, Job was a priest.

He stood every morning between his children and God—not because they had sinned, but because they might have. He offered burnt offerings “according to the number of them all”—interceding with precision, consistency, and compassion.

Job didn’t wait for scandal to start serving. He didn’t require confirmation of guilt. He lived as a father who prayed preemptively. Before the law, before the Levitical system, before Moses, there was a man who knew how to stand in the gap.

This is the earliest, most detailed depiction of family priesthood in Scripture. And yet, that priesthood was only the beginning.

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### A Priesthood Interrupted

Then the bottom fell out.

Job lost his oxen, his servants, his livestock, his children. The man who stood before God for others was suddenly left to stand alone. Grief robbed him of strength. Boils robbed him of dignity. Silence from Heaven robbed him of clarity.

The priest had become the sufferer.

But suffering does not disqualify the priest—it refines him.

When his friends came to comfort him, they did not bring oil. They brought accusation.

They offered theology, not presence. They spoke long, but they spoke wrong. And still Job did not curse God. He questioned, but he did not rebel.

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### The Shift in Job’s Priesthood

Here lies the mystery: after all the dialogue, despair, and divine silence, God finally spoke—not to Job’s comforters, but to Job. And His instruction was stunning:

“Go to my servant Job... and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will

I accept...”

—Job 42:8

The man who had once covered his house was now being commissioned to intercede for the very men who condemned him.

This was not just a restoration of health and wealth—it was a restoration of priesthood.

But it wasn’t the same. It was elevated.

Job’s priesthood expanded.

He was no longer just the priest of his household, but now the priest of other patriarchs—men who themselves led homes, but lacked spiritual clarity. God had tested Job and found him faithful under fire. And now, God trusted him to intercede.

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### Priesthood Proven by Pain

Pain transformed Job’s offerings. He could now pray not only as a father, but as a man who knew grief, confusion, abandonment, and the aching silence of Heaven.

What he once offered in routine, he could now offer in revelation. He had felt the sorrow, wrestled with the questions, and stood when there was nothing left to stand on.

Job’s sufferings were not punishment—they were priestly training. He became:

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A witness to the sovereignty of God,

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A mirror for every righteous sufferer,

- A vessel for intercession born not of sympathy, but of empathy.

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When Job Prayed for Them

“And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends...”

—Job 42:10

This moment is monumental.

Job’s restoration didn’t begin when he repented, or when he lamented, but when he prayed. And not for himself—for them.

The priesthood he walked into on that day was greater than the one he started with. It wasn’t just personal—it was apostolic, priestly in reach and depth. He became a bridge, even for those who misunderstood him.

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The Greater Priesthood

Job reminds us that priesthood is not preserved by comfort, but proven by trial. He stands in Scripture as a pattern:

- A priest before the tabernacle,

- A sufferer before the cross,

- A restorer before the resurrection.

He foreshadows Jesus—the Righteous One, who was wounded yet interceded, misunderstood yet accepted, crushed yet commissioned.

Job’s story teaches us that:

- Pain doesn’t cancel your calling.

- Suffering is not the end of priesthood—it’s the doorway to the next level of it.

- And sometimes your healing is hidden in the prayers you pray for others.

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From Hearing to Seeing

Job’s priesthood ended with more than restoration.

It ended with revelation.

“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.”

—Job 42:5

He had heard God in doctrine,

He had prayed to God in devotion,

But now—he had seen Him in glory.

The whirlwind wasn’t just the storm—it was the unveiling.

And with eyes that had cried, eyes that had watched loss, eyes that had known pain—he saw God.

There is no higher priesthood than that.