James #9

Never assume you know the test or adversity a Believer is currently in.

Keep in mind we will be doing a Resurrection Sunday message coming up in a few weeks, so the Lord’s Supper will be on that holiday.

Today we are back in the book of JOB.

We will have to do a lot of page-turning and chapter hopping to get thru this message, so please be aware and be prepared for that.

Jump right into chapter 3 first RF.

/Job 3:1 Afterward Job opened his mouth and **cursed the day of his *birth****.* 2 And Job said, 3 “**May the day on which I was to be born perish**, As well as the night *which* said, ‘A boy is conceived.’

Job is now entering into a stage of anger and frustration, because he does not understand the test and the attack he is under.\

[Job 3:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/3/4/s_439004) “May that day be darkness;May God above not care for it, Nor light shineon it.

In many of the upcoming chapters, is where we see this poetic and yet painful sets of scriptures that many considered very creative and Psalm-like in the original Hebrew.

/Chapter 3 is the crying out of pain and frustration as to why GOD has put him under this adversity. Job is put under the greatest of all pressure and rapid-fire attacks then almost all other Biblical heroes. Very few will ever face this or had ever faced this. The greatest witness of all, Jesus Christ, is the one who surpasses Job and everyone on the witness stand.\

TLJC -the first & most important witness.

Job ends the chapter by crying out that his life is in turmoil and he has no peace. He basically longs for death because he is lost in the current pain.

We all would be in the very same struggle if we were in his shoes.

/Disaster testing will automatically blend into thought testing, especially in the realm of doubt, anger or even distress. No one dealt with more testing than the humanity of Christ.

Luk 22:44 And **being in agony**, He was praying very fervently; and **His sweat became like drops of blood**, falling down upon the ground.\

There is no easy answer when disaster first strikes.

You have to regain mental and physical control. The greatest avenue for this is prayer and mediating upon scripture. Also recalling what GOD has already done for you in your life.

The emotional rollercoaster will be tempting and easy to fall into if you do not regain your footing quickly.

 REPEAT

Now jump over to chapter four RF.

Remember Job’s 3 friends, who sat by his side quietly for seven days? What a great comfort that must of have been.

Job is feeling bitter and angry yet he is not cursing God.

Now he has become vocal and his frustration is mounting, also now his friends are going to chime in.

Job 4:1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite responded, 2 “If one ventures a word with you, will you become impatient? from speaking?

[Job 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/4/3/s_440003) “Behold, you have taught many. And you have strengthened weak hands.

/[Job 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/4/4/s_440004) “Your words have helped the stumbling to stand,And **you have strengthened feeble knees**.

Eliphaz begins with an attempt to remind Job of all he has done for others. Then it takes a turn for the worse as his advice keeps flowing.\

[Job 4:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/4/5/s_440005) “But now it comes to you, and you are impatient;It touches you, and you are horrified.

Keep in mind over the course of a few weeks, Job lost everything, his sons and daughters - all his wealth and now his health is gone as well.

All the good intentions of Eliphaz just flew out the window.

[Job 4:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/4/6/s_440006) “Is your fear *of God* not your confidence,And the integrity of your ways your hope?

/[Job 4:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/4/7/s_440007) “**Remember now, who *ever* perished being innocent**?Or where were the upright destroyed?

This is a complete lack of understanding of the angelic conflict. Innocent people (Bel & Unbel) get crushed or killed under evil every day.\

Starting with Abel – Cain murdered Abel who was completely innocent.

Eliphaz uses his own human viewpoint and in fact, he speaks upon his own dreams and visions as well as his own life experiences.

/Eliphaz is speaking upon his own viewpoint and his own experience. He hints to the cause of Job’s suffering as something mankind will bring upon themselves. There is some truth in his speech, yet it is also woven with a lot of human viewpoints. None of what he speaks upon is comforting or accurate in the case of Job’s testing.\

There are many things we simply never know as to why someone is undergoing a challenge or suffering.

To install human viewpoint and your own ideas into the advice during such a difficult time, is actually not only arrogant but very cold-hearted.

There are times we use truth mixed with human viewpoint. Thinking we can resolve an issue and it only brings further confusion into an already difficult circumstance.

 REPEAT

/Job 5:17 “Behold, happy is the person whom God disciplines, so **do not reject the discipline of the Almighty**. 18 “For **He inflicts pain**, and gives relief; He wounds, but **His hands *also* heal**.

Eliphaz brings more thought testing and people testing into Job’s life – not comfort. Because he is unaware of the infinite details of the witnessing Job is called into.\

Job responds in chapter 6 and 7 basically he is crying out for mercy. He lets his friend Eliphaz know, that he hasn’t brought comfort but more misery by his advice.

/If you do not apply solid, doctrinal wisdom during times of disaster and thought testing, it will spiral into more confusion and the emotional waves will increase. Your stability is anchored in your union with Christ and HIS mind. Everything else and everyone else may only bring more misery, this will erode your faith and inner strength.\

Sometimes our own arrogance surfaces when we try to get involved in someone else’s affairs. We bring in more doubt and pain instead of comfort and support.

Never assume you know every detail and every emotion involved in another Christians’ testing or adversity.

 REPEAT

Jump over to chapter 8 RF.

I want to cover all three friends quickly today, to show you the wrong way to support a Royal Family member in need, especially one who is under testing.

Job 8:1 Then Bildad the Shuhite responded,

[Job 8:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/8/2/s_444002) “How long will you say these things,And the words of your mouth be a mighty wind?

Each one of these three friends gets more aggressive as Job pleads his case after each one gives their advice.

/[Job 8:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/8/3/s_444003) “Does God pervert justice? Or **does the Almighty pervert what is right**? 4 “**If your sons sinned against Him**,Then He turned them over to the power of their wrongdoing.

This becomes the height of the arrogant statements and it is the most callous as well.\

Bildad insinuates that Job’s sons were living in sin.

No worries, because in the end GOD will call all 4 of these men on the carpet and straighten out all this arrogance.

[Job 8:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/8/5/s_444005) “If you will search for GodAnd implore the compassion of the Almighty,

[Job 8:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/8/6/s_444006) If you are pure and upright,Surely now He will stir Himself for youAnd restore your righteous estate.

/The added human viewpoint into Job’s misery made him begin to crumble in thought testing. Job hints to a falsehood that God is unfair and questions that GOD must not fully know Job’s integrity (chapters 9 & 10). Never allow anyone to steer you away from your faith and relationship with God. Christians with good intentions sometimes can give the worse counsel.\

Jump over into the final friend’s advice in chapter 11.

Your time of adversity and testing and my time of adversity and testing are never the exact same, or for the matter given for the exact same reasons.

Therefore, do not assume any similarities point to a definitive answer, that you can use as counsel to lift a friend out of adversity.

 REPEAT

Your spiritual life and mine have many similarities - yet GOD deals with each of us in a very unique, specific fashion.

All of us have to pass the tests with the BD we have in our soul.

Job 11:1 Then Zophar the Naamathite responded,

[Job 11:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/11/2/s_447002) “Shall a multitude of words go unanswered,And a talkative man be acquitted?

This had turned into a heated debate. All 4 men did not fathom the spiritual warfare and test Job was undergoing.

/[Job 11:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/11/3/s_447003) “Shall your boasts silence people?And **will you scoff, and no one rebuke**? 4 “For you have said, ‘My teaching is pure,And **I am innocent in your eyes**.’

All four men had now fallen into sins of the tongue and failing thought testing. Arrogance has now arisen, whereas it was not present when they sat in silent prayer (Job 2:12-13).\

[Job 11:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/11/5/s_447005) “But if only God would speak,And open His lips against you,

/[Job 11:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/11/6/s_447006) And show you the secrets of wisdom!For sound wisdom has two sides. **Know then that God forgets part of your guilt**.

All four men were now guilty, whereas Job was introduced as a righteous, blameless man of God in the beginning.\

This was an ongoing debate between these men.

None of them had a clue what GOD was allowing to happen in Job’s life.

During the course of several months these 4 men go back and forth every time they come together.

Job opines for many chapters, speaking in misery about all he has lost and all he used to do in his community.

By chapter 32 a young man of God named Elihu, finally calls out Job and his friends. Elihu carries on for a while, most of it is a reprimand. Shortly after that, GOD steps in through a windstorm and cleans house!

Elihu displayed some of his own arrogance toward Job though he does make a few valid points.

Let us get ready to close in chapter 38.

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind and said,

[Job 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/38/2/s_474002) “Who is this who darkens *the divine* planBy words without knowledge?

This is a sweeping reprimand pointed at all of these men – with a strong focus on Job.

Do any of us think we can align human knowledge alongside the plan of GOD?

/[Job 38:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/38/3/s_474003) “Now tighten the belt on your waist like a man,And I shall ask you, and you inform Me!

Job 40:7 “Now tighten the belt on your waist like a man; I will ask you, and you instruct Me. 8 “Will you really nullify My judgment? Will you condemn Me so that you may be justified?\

In between the series of rapid-fire, rhetorical questions. Which were designed to squash any arrogance left in all of these men, GOD tells Job - buckle up, be a mature man of GOD.

Stand firm in this test.

/God poses a series of rhetorical questions that highlight the vastness and complexity of creation, thereby underscoring the limitations of human knowledge and understanding. None of these men knew what transpired in the heavenly meeting between Satan and God. Arrogance presumes to know as much or more so than the Creator.\

Let us read the final chapter in closing – Job 42.

/God will ask Job 77 questions about cosmology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy that cannot be answered by a finite man. Double 7’s like this, speak to a divine power, not only completion but a spiritual abundance and a heavenly order. God firmly establishes HIS plans and thoughts are far above human plans and thoughts. (Isa 55:8-9) \

Job 42:1 Then Job answered the LORD and said, 2 “I know that You can do all things, And that no plan is impossible for You.

Job is now very humble.

/[Job 42:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/42/3/s_478003) ‘Who is this who conceals advice without knowledge?’

Therefore I have declared **that which I did not understand**, Things too wonderful for me, **which I do not know**.\

In verse 6 we see Job repent and rebound back into fellowship. Then notice what happens to Job’s intellectual friends.

YAHWEH takes all these wise men behind the woodshed for a little introduction to the red-bottom club!

[Job 42:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/42/7/s_478007) It came about after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is trustworthy, as My servant Job *has.*

[Job 42:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/42/8/s_478008) “Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, and go to My servant Job, and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves, and My servant Job will pray for you. For I will accept him so as not to do with you *as your* foolishness *deserves,* because you have not spoken of Me what is trustworthy, as My servant Job *has.*”

GOD then steps in and gives double blessings to Job with more children, grandchildren, servants, oxen, sheep, camels and donkeys.

/Job 42:10 The LORD also **restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends**, and **the LORD increased double** all that Job had.

Job 42:16 After this, **Job lived 140 years**, and saw his sons and his grandsons, **four generations**. 17 And Job died, an old man and **full of days**.\

Meaning full satisfaction, blessed, happy and having an abundant life.