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## ***Three Short Biblical Commentaries***

### **Not Afraid Job's Sufferings Tough Decisions**

**Q**Some of you may wonder why there are times I just tend to cover a great deal of secular articles, news and perspective. Some of you want me to wear a prophet's mantle with every word I write. Brothers, that is not my calling and many of those who are out there prophesying are not called by God either into that very difficult, dangerous and life shortening office.

Prophets have a tough job, one of the toughest because his job is to tell folks what they don't want to hear, deliberately ignore and often want to violently suppress. Very few 'want' to be a prophet but when God calls them into that ministry they know they have a *very* tough job ahead. Most of your prophets were single. Jeremiah was and Ezekiel lost his wife in the middle of his ministry. Go and look you will see that the Prophets life is a lonely one because he is often ostracized from his own people, laughed at and mocked. Do you know why many Churches in America won't let a real prophet into their halls and often will drive them out? Because like Israel of old, they don't want the truth, they want 'smooth things' uttered to them. Words of comfort, not woe; words of peace, not judgment. They want God to save them **in** their sins, not *from* their sins.

Many years ago, the Lord told me, after many a trip to local Churches to not even bother with them again, that 'they will never accept you'. I cannot begin to describe

the 'deadness' and formulaic ways of doing things I saw in many of them. I had even been essentially tossed out of one for doing nothing more than coming on three successive Sundays. They weren't particularly nice about it and other visitors (who were white) were not treated as I was. But God has always looked out for me and has told me essentially that he's not in those Churches. They are not his, though they make many holy noises and much spiritual talk, their deeds betray them and that I was not to worry about their opinion and the best thing for me was to not let their spiritual leprosy cling on to me. In short: Anyone knows that spending too much time in a leper colony invites leprosy on oneself. Here the leprosy is compromise, sin, rebellion against God's clear commandments, lukewarmness and love of this world.

Like Israel of old, the American Church has slipped and slidden into a pitiful state, many now allow openly, shameless and utterly unrepentant sinners into positions of leadership in to their clergy and perform abominations right in the Church! Those that don't are so hooked on the trinkets of Mammon and cannot hear God when he calls to them. Instead you get the Gospel according to the GOP or Obama, or the Gospel according to Wall Street, read from the Book of Mammon, verse 501(c)3.

The whole counsel of God is missing and that is when God has to send in his prophets to redirect the people away from their myriad errors. Anyone who reads the Old Testament knows that the people almost never listened. Rather, they mocked and laughed at God's prophets. Even when the very thing God had predicted was right at the doors and could be seen with their own eyes, they would not see and would not repent. In Ancient Israel it was the Babylonian Army, today its a major debt crisis and covert warfare that is sweeping the nation. In Israels day, a killing spree ensued particularly against Israel's leaders and the king had his eyes put out.... right after he saw his sons slain before him. Clearly his tormentors wanted the image of his dead sons to be the last one he ever saw.

*Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah. Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon.  
(Jer 39:6-7)*

Let me tell you something here and now. This God we serve is no joke, he **will not be mocked**. Zedekiah saw fit to ignore God as did Israel and the result were rivers of blood at tears. They had **no** excuse, they were warned and warned for many years. The prophets message can be summed up in these next versus.

*And it shall come to pass, when ye shall say, **Wherefore doeth the LORD our God all***

*these things unto us?*

*then shalt thou answer them, Like as ye have forsaken me, and served strange gods in your land, so shall ye serve strangers in a land that is not yours. Declare this in the house of Jacob, and publish it in Judah, saying, Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not: Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? **But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone.** Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest. Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you. **For among my people are found wicked men:** they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men. As a cage is full of birds, so are their **houses full of deceit:** therefore **they are become great, and waxen rich.** They are waxen fat, they shine: **yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked:** they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge. **Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?** A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?  
(Jer 5:19-31)*

God has not changed. He is not going to let this nation and these entities that call themselves Churches continue to mock him and his ways with their loathsome behavior and pervert the gospel message with their myriad sins and abominations and thus making a mockery of Christ, What they are doing is *turning millions away from ever hearing the truth because of the bad behavior and hypocrisy of a Church mired in sin, greed and rebellion.*

God will not be mocked.

*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.  
(Gal 6:7)*

Brothers and sisters. try and understand something here. I do my very best as a watchman. That does not always mean citing scripture everyday and coming up with deep spiritual commentary. There are times when I do it, times I am told to do it (divine instructions) and times I feel like I am wasting my time trying to get my countryman to

open their eyes and fellow Christians to *get real* about their salvation and the perilous times we have entered into.

I am not here to be 'the great prophet', but God has given me a job to do and I am going to do it until he says to stop. But I will say this - I am a little suspicious of men who always seem to have special word from the Lord. Two or three times a week they have a new 'word from God'. Well, I am not saying they don't, but I am not saying they have heard from him either. I also a little leery of men who constantly stoke up images of fear all the time. A true prophet tells the *whole* story, both sides of it. What God is going to do to those stuck in sin and what he is going to do with those who really do fear the Lord and honor his word and ways. God always has a plan for his people and while they may be persecuted and even killed for the sake of the Gospel, it is not God's *long established* pattern to gather up the wicked and the just and punish them both in the same way.

God *will* take care of his people. Just make sure brothers when its our time to pass over our own spiritual 'river Jordan', that we make our deaths count for something, that being Christ. If we are to die as Christians for the gospel and the word of our testimony (Rev 19:10, 12:17, 12:11), let us rejoice because we have long and honorable heritage of those who went before us. In short, I am not going to tell you that many of us will not lose our lives in the years ahead. The scriptures bear witness that being a Christian, a genuine blood purchased, Holy Spirit led servant of Jesus Christ is going to be very dangerous as we move through these last days. This is because the devil is going to be given **great authority** for 1260 days and will use his time to blaspheme God *and* kill his servants (Rev Chapter 13). He will be given power over the saints to kill us. So brothers and sisters in Christ, steel your heart, mind and soul around this so that when things get rough and the truly evil day arrives you will have your hearts already established having already **fully** counted the cost of your faith and walk with Christ. Let us not mince words for many of us, it will mean our heads will fall into a basket.

*And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them **that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.***  
(Rev 20:4)

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I know many of you wonder why I focus so much on news. It is because so much is happening that no one wants to accurately report... with large chunks of the story omitted from the news reports or buried in the back pages of the paper or blogosphere. I do my best to try and relate stores of interest and shed some light on those stories. Look... I hit a lot of sites everyday, I see a lot of regurgitation and little real analysis, thought or perspective and **you cannot accurately watch in these times unless you**

**open your eyes and see what is going on.** For that you need news... accurate, timely information without those careful omissions and political spin. If I do any 'spinning' it is the Spiritual spin. I do my best to give my readers credit and not talk down to them. I should not have to tell you that defrauding a person out of their home isn't good or lobbing drones on 5 year olds is not godly. So nine times out of ten, I don't cite a verse with a news story. If I feel I need to, I do but I am not trying to be overly spiritual and impress people with my scriptural knowledge. The only one I want to impress is the Lord. I have learned by and large to ignore the rest.

So brothers, don't expect me to try and be the 'Great Prophet'. I would run from that job like Jonah ran from his. Sure, I would probably repent and do it, but under protest. No, I will let others get the glory and become the 'great authority' on this or that. I just want to do the task God has called me to do as best as I can and let others bask in the fame of their ministries. Me?

I just want to get into the Kingdom and I can't do that if I don't do the job God has given me to do. So I do it with no more murmurings or complaining. God hates murmuring (1 Cor 10:10).

## **Job's Sufferings**

*Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling? As a servant earnestly desireth the shadow, and as an hireling looketh for the reward of his work: So am I made to possess months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me. When I lie down, I say, When shall I arise, and the night be gone? and I am full of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day. My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome. My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.*

*(Job 7:1-6)*

Job suffered. He suffered greatly and for nothing that he did. Often when we suffer as Christians, we do not know why. God usually does not tell us the reasons for things. God does answer my prayers but the prayers he more often than not doesn't answer is a question that starts with the word 'why'.

Job clung to his God even though he was upset with the Lord. He hung in there. Then he has his three friends who were miserable comforters come and torment him even more.

*Then Job answered and said, I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all.*

*(Job 16:1-2)*



They were constantly insisting that Job had some secret sin in his life and he hadn't. They had all the right theology but little compassion. They had the 'book learning' but did not really know why God did what he did so they kind of 'made it up' as they went along... adding to Job's woe's.

I know whereof Job speaks. Many, *many* years ago the Lord put me through a trial I would not wish on anyone at anytime *whatsoever*. I am never going to reveal it but it was 100% pure horror. The only thing I can say is that I came as close to hell as any man would want to get. The Lord gave me this trial not long after he took me to me heaven... for just a few moments. I often read the book of Job for comfort in those months. I always liked that book because it really describes what it means to suffer, cry out to God and not have him answer you in your trials. The lesson here? Two fold. Keep your **faithfulness** to God, even in the midst of a great trial and have **patience** in its midst.

*Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*  
(Jam 5:11)

In the end, the Lord had the last word... and Job's miserable comforters? Well, the Lord was not pleased with them.

*And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.*  
(Job 42:7-8)

The Lord was pretty mad at Job's friends. Why? They pretended to know and understand things that they did not and did more harm than good with their 'theology'. Job had to act as their intercessor (and priest) in order for the Lord not to take them out to the divine 'woodshed' for a serious chastisement.

My point here is that those of you who may be suffering, trust God who knows all things. We many not fully understand it on this side of the grave, Job was never told that his suffering was the result of God's 'bragging rights' over his servant and satan's accusations. He never knew and God never told him why. It was still a mystery to Job

even after the Lord doubled his wealth and gave him a new wife ([comment on this](#)) and family.

*And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left. And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly. And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:  
(Gen 13:6-14)*

## **Tough Decisions**

When strife and problems arose between Abraham and Lot over what can, in our popular vernacular be termed 'grazing rights', Abraham took the 'high road'. He did not assert any rights as the elder or remind Lot that it was he who brought Lot with him from the land of Ur (Babylon). Rather, Abraham who had to put his *total trust* in God, to the point he uprooted his whole life and family to take them to a place he did not even know, knew that God would fulfill his promise. Abraham probably figured that whatever the reason for the strife between Lot and Abraham, he would let the Lord handle it. So rather than get angry and become assertive, he just told Lot to choose where he wanted he has his flock to live and he would go in the other direction. Clearly, Abraham just wanted peace.

I think that what we should keep in mind is that God had made some very bold promises to Abram (later Abraham) and so far, he did not have an heir. But he had put his trust in God. He probably saw God's hand in the strife that arose. I say this because once it was resolved, the Lord promised him once again, the Land of Canaan, the very place Lot did

*not* choose. God's promises are sure and eternal. One thing you can absolutely certain of, *God is going to keep his word*. Be it for good or ill, if he makes a promise **or** a threat, be assured he *will* carry it out. Our job as Christians is to follow the example of Abraham, the father of faith (Rom 4:16) and to believe God and **do** as he commands.

Abraham did not need to make a fuss over the pasture land, there was no need to. He knew that as long as he obeyed the voice of the Lord, he would prosper - and prosper he did. He could easily have gotten discouraged earlier when he came into this land and found Famine there (Gen 12:10) but did not. He could never have left Ur and did as so many modern day Christians do and wonder why God has not fulfilled his promises. Abraham had to **do** something in Ur: ***He has to pack his bags and go***. The three basic tenets of faith... the Promise made, the faith to believe it and the will to do your part (obedience). Abraham could have said, 'yes Lord, I hear you you; you are going to give me land... amen, hallelujah! and then sit in Ur waiting for it to happen, omitting the other part of God's word, the command,

*Now the LORD had said unto Abram, **Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.***  
(Gen 12:1-3)

Lot on the other hand was not walking in the same anointing and faith of Abraham. We notice here that Lot chose that which *looked* the best to his natural eyes. It had the most water and was near a major commercial center. It's like today when we look at real estate, '*location, location, location*' are what makes or breaks a property in our times. It was not much different back then. What were the names of those cities that Lot chose to dwell near? Sodom and Gomorrah. The sight of Lot's eyes deceived him and in the end, he barely escaped Sodom with his life and only *after* Abraham's concerted intercession. Even later, we saw how the spirit of Sodom had infected Lot's daughters (Gen 19:32ff); they got him drunk and committed incest with him and their offspring were a constant thorn in the flesh of Israel, the Moabites and Ammonites.

The scriptures make clear that these cities had a frightful reputation (Gen 13:13) and if Lot and Abraham dwelt near those cities for any length of time, they had to be aware of it. It did not seem to phase Lot much, he wanted what looked best for him, right now. Abraham was walking in faith, knowing that God was going to work out his will and a little family acrimony was not going to thwart God's plans. Besides, Abraham was close enough to God to probably *not* want to live too close to a place known for such wickedness. I think Abraham was more than pleased Lot chose as he did, in fact, he may even have anticipated it, knowing his Nephew as he did. Abraham was already promised



the land of Canaan (Gen 12:7), so I think Abraham knew (by faith) where Lot was going to take his herd and family. Abraham knew that in some instances, the best decision is to take a hands-off approach and let the Lord work it out. When we try and enforce our own will or try and 'fulfill' God's promises with our own fleshly efforts, we can make a real mess of things. This is what Abraham did later with his servant girl. The world is still paying for that mistake!

I think the lesson here is that important decisions should be reached in a way that is fully consistent with God's promises, exhortations and are based upon our faith in God. We must trust him in *all* things, even to work out family problems that could turn nasty if one is not willing to yield to God and trust him. He knows the end from the beginning.

I have learned this and walk in it. Those of you who are in the process of making some big decisions - try and take your emotions out of it, even your own desires and seek God's face on the matters that face you; as an old wise woman would often say to me, 'put yourself in neutral'. Ask him, not so much what *you* want but what *he* wants. Let your prayer not just be uttered, '*thy will done*' but let that be the attitude you take as you wait upon God's answer.

*(Note: I know some of you want to split hairs about some points that are not 100% clear in scripture. Some of the texts in Job and Genesis were written long before Moses and thus present unique issues of interpretation. So please don't get upset if my views on some obscure theological or historical question do not line up 100% with yours.)*

In Christ,

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