

A REPENTANT MAN

Job 42:1-10

INTRODUCTION

I have just returned from my trip in Europe where I was blessed to finish the journey in Albania.

A little history: The Albanian Revolt in 1912 led to Albania's independence from the Ottoman Empire. Years later, Albania was occupied by Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany during WWII. In 1944, there was a civil war between Nationalists and Communists and the country then came under the communist dictatorship of **Enver Hoxha** in 1945.

Hoxha was known as, "The Iron Fist of Albania." 50 years ago in 1967, Hoxha closed all churches in Albania, made religious names for people, towns, and cities illegal, and declared atheism the official written policy of Albania, making it the world's first official atheist state. At one point, he even severed relationships with Russia and China because he believed that those countries weren't communist enough.

Albania suffered tremendous persecution, executions, and despair until the death of Hoxha in 1985.

Bob Provost, President of Slavic Gospel Association, tells the story of being in The Master's Seminary Chapel one day in the late 1980s. At that time, during each chapel, they would list a country for the seminary students to pray over with bullet point info about the country. Bob remembers a day when Albania was highlighted with the following information → "No known believers." "Impossible to enter the country."

→ Bob thought, "Christ commanded us ..."

A few years later, Bob received an invitation from the Albanian Secretary of Education. After the death of the dictator, and fall of Communism and the Wall in Berlin, the

Albanians were fascinated with American capitalism and prosperity. [Opportunity for the Gospel]. They knew what desperate straits their country was in and they wanted to know more about how to prosper again as a nation.

After he arrived, Bob learned that while the country was changing, they still had a law on the books that the mere possession of a Bible was a mandatory 7 year sentence in Albanian prison ...

When Shamir and the other Albanian government officials Bob was meeting with asked him about the prosperity and freedom and success of America, Bob said:

“I have this book from which I would like to read to you which explains why Albania is the way it is now → **Jer 17:5-6**.

This is Albania after 40 years of communist atheist dictatorship. But this book also tells how a country can prosper → **Jer 17:7-8**.

Bob and Shamir were not thrown into prison 😊.

Bob’s son, Robb and Pam Provost, went to Albania in 1992 with the teaching of God’s Word in **Jer 29:7** as a platform for the Gospel.

They began training in two languages that they did not have in Albania: English and the language of computers. One time they received a grant for 50 computers and monitors which they were going to give to some of the government officials and others. They were eventually stolen. Bob told me that later he saw them being sold on the street as “Space Warmers” and “TV’s.” The thieves didn’t even know what they were 😊

Twenty years ago, in 1997, they officially opened up the Lincoln Training Center I.

Later, they opened Lincoln Training Center II in the former house of the dictator who had closed all churches in Albania, made religious names for people, towns, and cities illegal, and declared atheism the policy of Albania.

Grace Church Tirana was started, planted a church, and also the Southern European Theological Seminary (**SETS**) for the training of national pastors from the Balkan countries (Albania, Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Montenegro).

The **20 Year Anniversary Celebration** this week – 65,000 students have been trained at the Lincoln Centers in the last 20 years.

Now, some of older people in Albania are unable to even visit the Lincoln Training Center in Hoxha's former home. The pain and suffering was too great in their memories.

There is no better book that deals with pain and suffering like the book of Job. Please open your Bibles to Job 42.

Where is Job at this point?

Job is still sitting on the ash heap – 7 dead sons, 3 dead daughters, and he lost all his wealth. Job's wife says, "why don't you just curse God and die."

Job did not sin initially. But then later, in chapters 27-31, Job wavered in his confidence. He began to wither under the unrighteous accusations of his "friends."

→ He began to find fault with God.

Then God answered Job out of the whirlwind in Job chapters 38-41.

READ Job 42:1-10

Proposition: We'll take a brief look at:

5 Practices of a Repentant Man:

- I. **Exaltation**
- II. **Petition**
- III. **Confession**
- IV. **Intercession**
- V. **Multiplication**

So That: 1) Demonstrate the glory of God
2) Refine Job's righteousness

So That: For us, we can turn to the only New Testament book where Job is directly mentioned → **James 5:10-11** – “As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful.”

Our suffering is the stage for God to show His mercy and compassion.

1st Practice of a Repentant Man, ...

I. Exaltation **Job 42:1-3**

Proof – “¹**Then Job answered the LORD, and said,** ²**I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.**” Job then quotes God from **38:2**, “³**Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?**” **Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.**”

“**wonderful**” – extraordinary, marvelous
Job 5:9; 9:10; 10:16; 37:5, 14; 42:3

Psa 31:21 – “Blessed be the LORD, for He has made marvelous His lovingkindness to me in a besieged city.”

What is exaltation of God?

Illustration – I took great joy in continually telling my beloved how beautiful she was and how much I loved her.

We delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise doesn't just express the enjoyment, but completes the enjoyment. The enjoyment is incomplete till it is expressed.

Illustration – George Mueller, Director of the Ashley Down orphanage in Bristol, England. He cared for over 10,000 orphans during his lifetime and provided educational opportunities for the orphans to the point that he was even accused by some of raising the poor above their natural station in British life. He established 117 schools which offered Christian education to more than 120,000 children, many of whom were orphans.

In 1870, his wife Mary died of rheumatic fever. They had been married 39 years. The Lord gave him the strength to preach at her memorial service. He said,

“I miss her in numberless ways, and shall miss her yet more and more. But as a child of God, and as a servant of the Lord Jesus, I bow, I am satisfied with the will of my Heavenly Father, I seek by perfect submission to His holy will to glorify Him, I kiss continually the hand that has thus afflicted me.”

Application – Job 40:9 – “do you have an arm like God, And can you thunder with a voice like His?”

→ God’s arm is an arm of:

- Redemption
- Refuge
- Reign

Who do we think we are when we murmur against God???

It is recognizing, the pain of Suffering in the life of a believer is the pain of a Surgeon’s scalpel, not the pain of a Scourger’s whip.

2nd Practice of a Repentant Man, ...

II. Petition

Job 42:4

Point – Petition is the heartbeat of our faith. Prayer is the heartbeat of our faith.

Proof – “**4Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me.**”

New King James version of the Bible has the latter phrase Job quoting God from 38:3 and 40:7 – “**Hear, now, and I will speak; ‘I will ask you, and you instruct Me.’**”

That is different than what you see in the NASB version. The meaning of this verse is not changed though
→ Job’s petition is based on recognizing God speaks and we listen ... even in our petitions.

“**instruct**” – from *yada* – declare, make known, teach – describes an intimate knowledge

Not just any petition. Not just any prayer. Muslims pray. Mormons pray. Buddhists pray. Pagans pray.
James 5:15a – “and the prayer offered in faith”
→ literally “and the prayer of the faith”

This is unwavering “**faith**” – not in the outcome of the prayer, but in the object of the prayer!!!

Illustration– If I throw a boathook from the boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore?

Application – In the same way, prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the pulling my will to the will of God. We are aligning our will to the will of God.

Application– **Job 1:5** - We see this in Job – a man who consistently sought out God

3rd Practice of a Repentant Man, ...

III. Confession **Job 42:5-6**

Proof – “**⁵I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You;**”
→ This is experiential knowledge! Job’s confession.

Illustration – Exodus 6:3 – Like YHWH making Himself known to Israel as their Deliverer and Redeemer

Job's confession part two:

“⁶**Therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes.**”

→ Both figurative and literal in Job's case

Psa 34:8 – “O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!”

Illustration – Having honey on your tongue for 5 seconds will show you more sweetness than 10 hours of lectures on the sweetness of honey.

Illustration – The story is told of the Prussian king **Frederick the Great** touring a prison in Berlin. The prisoners fell on their knees before him to proclaim their innocence -- except for one man, who remained silent.

Frederick called to him, “Why are you here?” “Armed robbery, Your Majesty.” “And are you guilty?” “Yes, Your Majesty. I am guilty. I deserve my punishment.”

Frederick summoned the jailer and ordered, “Release this guilty wretch at once. I will not have him kept in prison where he will corrupt all the fine innocent people who occupy it.” ☺

Application – Product of the petition for true understanding is: to trust God more and to fear God more

→ the root of true petition is confession

→ and the fruit of true confession is petition

4th Practice of a Repentant Man, ...

IV. Intercession

Job 42:7-9

Point – God tells the 3 friends they are wrong and commands them to seek forgiveness through the one they accused.

The friends said the wicked suffer and the righteous prosper.
They were wrong.
They had insulted Job.
Worse, they had insulted God.

They said Job was far from God. God says they are far from God and the one they said was far from God is the one they must go to, as priest, to bring them near to God.

→ Mediation and Intercession → in place even before the office of priest in Israel **Gen 14, Job 1:5**

Proof – **“⁷And 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 right as My servant Job has.’”**

“**kindled**” – burned, be(come) hot (literally – God’s nose became hot) His anger broke out, He became inflamed. This was an unjust accusation leveled against God.

“^{8a}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 that I may not do with you according to your folly”

“**folly**” – this is a different Hebrew word than the word used in Proverbs – literally comes from a word meaning carcass, dead body, rotting corpse

Lev 5:2 – “if a person touches any unclean thing, whether a carcass of an unclean beast, or the carcass of unclean cattle.”

Psa 79:2 – “They have given the dead bodies of Your servants for food to the birds of the heavens.”

Gen 34:7 – “he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob’s daughter.

→ Moral Failure and Doctrinal Error – this is not a little issue

“^{8b}because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has.’ ^{9a}So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite *and* Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the LORD told them;”

Illustration – Job was always in the ballpark. In chapters 34-36, he was pointed in the wrong direction, but he was still in the ballpark. His 3 friends weren’t even in the ballpark.

Fascinating finish, “^{9b}and the LORD accepted Job.”

Here at STBC, we believe in Exegesis. We do not believe in Eisogesis. But, there is something in the white space here that must be understood and explained ... that must be explicated.

Job is being asked to forgive those who cursed him. Job is being asked to love his enemies and bless those who reviled him. He is being asked to turn the other cheek and not return evil for evil.

Job’s recognition of his own sins has bent him low in dust, ashes, and sackcloth. How can he not forgive when he has an experiential understanding of the greatness of God and how deep and how far and how wide he has been forgiven???

Application – Let prayer be our passion. Let prayer be our practice.

We can say it this way: The sediment of pride is strained out of Job’s life through the sieve of suffering.

5th Practice of a Repentant Man, ...

V. Multiplication **Job 42:10**

Point – To prove to Satan, all the host of heaven, and to all who would read this book that He is pleased with Job’s broken-hearted joy, God restores his blessings twofold.

Proof – “¹⁰And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the LORD increased all that Job had twofold.”

Point – We need to understand what I mean by multiplication and what I do not mean by multiplication. More importantly, we need to understand what God is teaching about multiplication and what He is not teaching about multiplication.

Prayer pays!? Live your best life now!? NO!!!!

Job’s repentance took place without any change in his outward circumstances. It was purely a matter of a changed heart.

Tony Snow, the former White House Press Secretary for President George W. Bush, wrote in his article, “Cancer’s Unexpected Blessings”

“The moment you enter the Valley of the Shadow of Death, things change. You discover that Christianity is not something doughy, passive, pious, and soft. Faith may be the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. But it also draws you into a world shorn of fearful caution. The life of belief teems with thrills, boldness, danger, shocks, reversals, triumphs, and epiphanies.”

CONCLUSION

Application – God balances privileges with responsibilities, blessings with burdens – if not, we would become spoiled children.

If we want the blessing, we must be prepared to carry the burden and fight the battle.

The sovereign will of God will never take you where the sovereign grace of God cannot keep you if you belong to Him.