

In our last podcast we finished **Job 5** and the prophetic words spoken by Eliphaz. As we move forward into **Job 6**, Job answers his friend, or better said, Job puts his friend in his place. Let's pick back up with **EP25 Yahweh According to Job, Job 6:1-14**.

Job 6

Job Answers

Job 6:1-7

Then Job answered, "If my misery could be caused to being weighed and my calamity be put on the scales, for then it would outweigh all the sands of the sea. Therefore, my words have been swallowed up.

For Almighty has struck me down with his arrows, whose poison my spirit drinks. God's terrors are lined up against me.

Don't I have a right to complain? Don't wild donkeys bray over grass, and oxen bellow over his fodder? Can something unsavory be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg? My soul refuses to touch; they are like loathsome food to me!"

We need to be cognizant of all the things Job says about God. He says a lot of things in his complaint and in his bemoaning, and he comments on many aspects of life and suffering, but we need to pay very close attention to what he says about God. This will be important as we get to the conclusion of this amazing story. What Job says about God offends his three friends, as it does many who cling to the if/then God of the religion of Christianity.

Job starts with a little hyperbole. *"If my misery could be caused to being weighed and my calamity be put on the scales, for then it would outweigh all the sands of the sea. Therefore, my words have been swallowed up."* Job is feeling it, beyond miserable. He admits the pain is why his words have been literally gulped down. Many translate this as if Job was admitting to speaking rashly or impulsively, that but would be more like spewing out, not gulping down. Job is saying that even though they did not like what he said, he spoke sparingly, and he has a lot more to communicate. It was just too painful to talk so he just gulped down his words.

"For Almighty has struck me down with his arrows, whose poison my spirit drinks. God's terrors are lined up against me."

Job uses a name for God, "Almighty" or in the Hebrew, "**Saday**," which is a noun, a proper name and not an adjective, i.e., it is not a title for God. The personal pronoun "the" is also not used, just the name **Saday** (which in later texts appears as "*Shaddai*"). Almighty has personally afflicted him with His poisonous arrows. Job describes the affliction he is feeling in his soul; and we know it is the Satan who has literally come against Job, but Job bypasses the Satan altogether and ascribes all responsibility to Almighty. The so called "buck" always stops with God.

Job says he has been shot with poisoned arrows. Not only does the penetration of the arrows cause

tremendous pain, the poison courses through his system and infects his spirit. The Hebrew literally reads *"whose poison my spirit drinks."* This is nothing short of terror. If it were a real arrow, he could treat the wound, but these are spiritual arrows that seemingly come out of nowhere. These are demonic arrows laced with poison which the Satan has stuck into Job.

Job also knows that there does not seem to be a near end to all this agony, for God's terrors, handed out by the hands of the Satan, are lined up against him, attack after attack has been arranged and is in place ready to be launched.

Having experienced similar demonic attacks, including multiple types of poison that coursed through my veins and afflicted my soul delivered through demonic arrows, I can tell you that just because you cannot see the weapons the Satan employs, it would be unwise to write this off as poetic hyperbole. I am far too familiar with those poison-laced arrows. I experienced them in my Storm in the form of constant barrage of very painful attacks within my soul. Though they are not physical, their penetration and impact feel very physical within the soul; it is excruciating, agonizing. During my "Storm," this level of affliction was, as they say, "off the rails." Though **Lamentations 3**, God told me in advance what He was going to do to me and how it would feel.

Lamentations 3:10-18

He is to me like a bear lying in wait, a lion in secret places. He has turned aside my ways and torn me to pieces; He has made me desolate. **He bent His bow and set me as a target for the arrow. He made the arrows of His quiver to enter into my inward parts.**

I have become a laughingstock to all my people, their song all the day. He has filled me with bitterness, He has made me drunk with wormwood. He has broken my teeth with gravel; He has made me cower in the dust. My soul has been rejected from peace; I have forgotten happiness. So I say, "My strength has perished, And my hope from **Yahweh**."

Then in my "Lesson," once again God showed me in advance what He was going to do to me, how He was going to get the "Lesson" started. I received a vision where two demonic spirits, each with an arrow, laced with a different poison, were trying to shoot their arrows at me from a distance, but they kept bouncing off and could not penetrate the protection I had around me. Finally, in frustration, the nastiest, ugly, and most hateful demon grabbed an arrow from his quiver and then one from the other demon and walked up to me, both arrows in his hands, and violently stabbed them into my arm, thereby releasing their poisons into me. The resulting impact was very destructive both to my life and to those in my life because of how it impacted me and the choices I would make while under the poisonous influence. And so, my "Lesson" began.

Don't be ignorant, the enemy has a full arsenal of spiritual weapons that can have a detrimental impact on our physical body, on our mind, emotions, as well as our soul. And when permitted by Saday (Almighty), the Satan, employing his demonic hoards, uses them unrelentingly and the experience is nothing short of terror. God's goal is to get us to the place where, like Job, we say, *"My strength has perished"* for it is only then that we can learn what it is like to truly trust Him to be our strength, our Saday.

Now, before you think I am wacko and off my rocker (just like Job's friends thought about him), there

is another man who experienced the very same thing and wrote about his terrifying and agonizing experience which **Yahweh**, through the implement of the demonic forces, unleashed against his life. It was his writings that God used to warn me about what I was going to experience during my Storm. Let's read the bigger passage where the prophet Jeremiah penned his experience.

Lamentations 3:1-18

I am the man who has seen affliction Because of the rod of His wrath. He has driven me and made me walk in darkness and not in light. Surely against me He has turned His hand repeatedly all the day. He has caused my flesh and my skin to waste away, He has broken my bones. He has besieged and encompassed me with bitterness and hardship. In dark places He has made me dwell, like those who have long been dead.

He has walled me in so that I cannot go out; He has made my chain heavy. Even when I cry out and call for help, He shuts out my prayer. He has blocked my ways with hewn stone; He has made my paths crooked.

He is to me like a bear lying in wait, like a lion in secret places. He has turned aside my ways and torn me to pieces; He has made me desolate. He bent His bow and set me as a target for the arrow. He made the arrows of His quiver to enter into my inward parts. I have become a laughingstock to all my people, their mocking song all the day. He has filled me with bitterness, He has made me drunk with wormwood. He has broken my teeth with gravel; He has made me cower in the dust. My soul has been rejected from peace; I have forgotten happiness. So I say, "My strength has perished, and so has my hope from **Yahweh**."

Enough said! There is little to add to that testimony, even though that is just the tip of the iceberg. If you want the full image, continue reading through the end of the chapter, all 66 verses. Jeremiah put more words to it, but this likely how Job felt, and it is exactly what I experienced for more years than I care to remember; it was excruciating but extremely effective. It brought me to the place where I confessed, *"My strength has perished."*

It's no wonder Job said, *"Don't I have a right to complain? Don't wild donkeys bray over grass, and oxen bellow over his fodder? Can something unsavory be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg? My soul refuses to touch; they are like loathsome food to me!"*

If even animals get upset when they don't get their food, why is it so unreasonable for Job to complain? People complain at far less, as Job said, even when their food is not prepared the way they like it or if it is not salted.

If you ever find yourself going through this level of trial, I can assure you that despite how many words you gulp down, complaint will still be forthcoming. And people are not going to like to hear what you say, people are not going to want to hear what you say. But it is necessary, and being able to talk about it will keep you from going crazy. Even in this God had a plan that wraps around the Satan's plan. The Satan is attempting to use these "friends" to break Job, but God is using them to give Job a place to vent, a way to keep his sanity. This is just one of the ways that Almighty shows mercy in the midst of terror.

The Mystery of the Fellowship of Suffering

Job 6:8-13

Oh, that I might have my request, that God would grant my desire. Would that God be willing to crush me. That he would reach out his hand and cut me off.

But it is still my comfort, and I leap for joy: that in unsparing pain, I have not concealed the words of the Holy One.

What is my strength that I wait. What is my end that I am caused to endure. Do I have the strength of a stone? Is my body made of bronze? Is that my help is not within me, wisdom {or “deliverance”} is caused to be driven from me.

The reason God recorded these events and the words and emotions expressed by Job (and by Jeremiah), and the reason I am sharing what I have been through, is so you might understand what is happening to you if you go through terrible dark times of judgment at the hand of **Shaday**. If your deepest desire is to be one with Jesus and to know the Father, then you will share in Christ’s sufferings and fill up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions.¹ That is your destiny. There is no way around this truth.

Though God directed, your sufferings will come at the hand of the enemy, but also through those you love and trust the most (just like Job’s wife and his friends). He warned me about this dynamic in advance. At first, I was so confused when He focused my attention on **Micah 7:5-10**, but He was wonderfully merciful to prepare me for what I would endure. And it should not be a surprise to us; after all, He too was wounded in the house of His friends, so why shouldn’t we.²

Micah 7:5-10

Don't trust anyone—not your best friend or even your wife! For the son despises his father. The daughter defies her mother. The daughter-in-law defies her mother-in-law. **Your enemies are right in your own household!**

As for me, I look to **Yahweh** for help. I wait confidently for God to save me, and my God will certainly hear me.

Do not gloat over me, my enemies! For though I fall, I will rise again. Though I sit in darkness, **Yahweh** will be my light. I will bear the *indignation* of **Yahweh**, for I have sinned against him. But after that, he will take up my case and give me justice for all I have suffered from my enemies. **Yahweh** will bring me into the light, and I will see his righteousness.

Then my enemies will see that **Yahweh** is on my side. They will be ashamed that they taunted me, saying, "So where is **Yahweh** —that God of yours?" With my own eyes I will see their downfall; they

¹ **1 Peter 4:13; Colossians 1:24**

² **Zechariah 13:6**

will be trampled like mud in the streets.

On the humorous side, the word translated as “*indignation*” is made up of the Hebrew letters Zayin, Ayin, Pe, or ZAP. I will bear the “zap” of **Yahweh**. Sorry, I just thought that was cute.

Now, back to the dark truth. It is a harsh reality to realize that those who will hurt you are those in your own household. Just keep in mind that your God who loves you will be behind it all, as He desires for you to know Him in the fellowship of suffering and literally share in His afflictions. It’s a form of intimacy that will bind you to Jesus like never before. It is one of those inside-out-upside-down realities of the Kingdom of God.

Lessons of the Heavenly Realms: 35

Intimacy with Yahweh is found through our sharing in the fellowship of His sufferings.

The passage in Micah explains that **Yahweh** will be your vindication, “*For though I fall, I will rise again.*” Despite the reasons you have given your enemies (both those who are seen and those in the unseen realms) to mock and deride you, **Yahweh** will take up your case and stand for you before all your enemies. Just wait and see! **Yahweh** will bring you into the light, and you will see His righteousness, for you will have chosen to be clothed only in His righteousness, tossing away all your own filthy garments of personal goodness.

But, in the meantime, you still might want to die, for real.

Job 6:8-9

Oh, that I might have my request, that God would grant my desire. Would that God be willing to crush me. That he would reach out his hand and cut me off.

Don’t be surprised, you might hate life and you might become so depressed that you beg God to just get it over with already and take you away. In the throngs of “*unsparing pain*,” the stillness of death seems to be a far better place than living in sustained torment.

However, let it be known, in that place of despair and darkness you will be joined to a great crowd of many Godly men and women whom **Yahweh** has chosen to bring into the deepest of fellowships—the fellowship of His suffering. And what will be so strange, is that even though you may be in abject terror (both physically, emotionally, and spiritually) and you may express all sorts of surprising (and horrific) things to God, your soul will be drawn to Him and you will burn with passion for Him, wanting only Him.

It is a strange thing to be brought into the fellowship of suffering. You come to realize that He is the source, your only source, and it is only to Him that you are safe to express every feeling, every complaint, and every cry.

The Truth Prevails***Job 6:10***

But it is still my comfort, and I leap for joy: that in unsparing pain, I have not concealed the words of the Holy One.

Job found great solace in the fact that though he gulped down many words of complaint, he did not conceal or hide the words of the Holy One, even when they did not seem to be working to his benefit. He always spoke the truth about God, even though his friends would mock and disparage him for his proclamations of truth. He could not hold back what He knew to be true about **Yahweh**, despite the pain.

We need to stop and think about the marvel of this statement. Job knew the words of the Holy One. As we discussed previously, we have no idea where Job obtained this knowledge. Throughout this book, there is no mention of people or things that we would expect of someone with this depth of knowledge. There is no mention of any of our heroes of faith, not even Enoch, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob nor Moses; and there is no mention of the Law, the Priests, or the Prophets.

Yet, in **Malachi 1:11** there is this amazing verse which explains that God has ensured that people of other nations know Him, understand Him, and are invited to worship Him. He says, *“But my name is honored by people of other nations from morning till night. All around the world they offer sweet incense and pure offerings in honor of my name. For my name is great among the nations,” says **Yahweh Sabaoth** (**Yahweh** of Heaven’s Armies”).*

We don’t normally think this way, but God never restricted the revelation of His glory to the Jews. They have been His chosen path of revealing so much to the world, but it has not been His only path of disclosure. God’s word has gone forth, and people from all nations have heard it and some, like Job, have even responded by offering sweet incense and pure offerings in honor of His name. The spiritual principle of abundance applies to all. God reveals Himself and to those who respond even more will be revealed to them, in abundance even.

Matthew 13:12

For whoever **now** has, to him in the future more will be caused to be given, and he will in the future be caused to have an abundance; but whoever does not **now** have, even what he has **now** will in the future be caused to be taken away from him.

Again, we are speaking of the mystery of the fellowship of suffering. What I am about to say might seem totally foreign to you, but I can tell you that even though I was distraught, perplexed, and expressed a lot of awful things to God during my Storm, I never denied His words. I knew He was honored by faith and faith alone; and I knew He was not punishing me for my sins (though it sure felt like He was, and I repented more times than I can count for everything; I am sure I even made up some stuff to repent about, Ha).

Despite my feelings to which I often gave vent, I relentlessly fought for these truths despite all the accusations that I was reaping what I had sown. I knew the difference between my feelings and the truth, between my pain and my commitment to His Word. I knew He was not the if/then God that I had previously honored, and I knew He was calling on me to convey the truth about who He is.

As a result, I refused to retreat in the face of much pressure and resistance. I continued pressing into all He had appointed for me. Even when I felt I had no strength and thought I literally would burst a brain vessel, I still could not turn away.

Lessons of the Heavenly Realms 36

The mystery of the fellowship of suffering draws you into Jesus like nothing else, and it starts forging the oneness in being that He desires.

Job 6:11-13

What is my strength that I wait. What is my end that I am caused to endure. Do I have the strength of a stone? Is my body made of bronze? Is that my help is not within me, wisdom {or “deliverance”} is caused to be driven from me.

Job felt like he had no strength to endure and had nothing to live for, but he kept pressing on and going forward. He kept fighting against those who would distort and deny the words of the Holy One. Job had a purpose, even though he did not realize it, and somehow there was strength to be found, a strength which **Yahweh** provided. His purpose was to be realized in his offspring, his spiritual descendants, who through generation after generation who would gain instruction and comfort in the words that were penned by the Holy Spirit: *“You will know also that your descendants will be many, and your offspring as the grass of the earth.”*³

By experience, I can honestly declare that during this sort of personal judgment, **Yahweh** holds you up even though you can’t imagine how you are standing; It just happens. **Yahweh’s** power works mightily within those who share in His sufferings.⁴ For when we are weak, then we are strong.⁵ No, our bodies are not made of stone or bronze, and we may even feel like we have nothing left to give, no ability to go on, no strength or endurance, but still we do because He always gives us what we need!

Lessons of the Heavenly Realm 37

Yahweh is training us to know, in the depth of our being, that the source matters, the source is everything, and when He is our source for all things all the time, we will stand despite the “unsparing

³ *Job 5:25*

⁴ *Colossians 1:24-19*

⁵ *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

pain” because He is **Shaday**, our Almighty.

Job says, *“Is that my help is not within me, wisdom {or “deliverance”} is caused to be driven from me.”* This is the landing place in which **Yahweh** wants us to settle. The truth is that we are absolutely impoverished, and He wants us to realize it and accept this truth. As Jesus said, *“Blessed those who are **now** poor in spirit, for theirs **now** is the kingdom of heaven.”* The word translated as poor literally means to be beggarly, crouched over, completely without resource, *“my help is not within me, wisdom {or “deliverance”} is caused to be driven from me.”*

It is sad that it takes terrible suffering for us to believe, at the core of our being, that we need Him to be our **I AM** in all things, all the time. It seems that throughout our life we are always trying to fight for our significance, our own resource, and wisdom. But **Yahweh** is absolutely bent on the **Substitution Principle**: all that He is for all that we are, or better said, all that we believe we are. It is when Almighty drives us to accept our complete impoverishment, our complete neediness, that we are finally ready to receive all that God has planned for those who love Him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

but just as it has been caused to be written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND [which] HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO ARE **NOW** LOVING HIM."

Next Job turns and addresses Eliphaz and the others. Even though Eliphaz is the only one who has addressed Job, the others did not stop Eliphaz or correct him. Job knows he is facing a hostile crowd, and none would stand with him, so he finally calls them to task.

Job 6:14

For the despairing, mercy {or kindness} from his friend; not forsaking the fear of Almighty.

Job is going to slam the counsel and fellowship of his so-called friends. But first he lays the groundwork with a simple statement of what should be. The word we have translated as *“despairing”* is an adjective describing Job’s condition and it literally means the one who is melting, i.e., failing or collapsing. He is in bad shape, emotionally, mentally, physically, and his soul is being tormented.

In this condition, is it not proper that his so-called “friend” extend to him mercy or kindness instead of berating him with religious non-sense, adding insult to injury? Job states that such behavior is indicative of one who does not fear **Shaday** but has forsaken the Almighty.

Eliphaz accuses Job of sin, and even if it was true, the mercy of one who fears **Shaday** should be extended in a spirit of gentleness and mercy, not aggression and arrogance. This is a truth mirrored in the New Testament.

Galatians 6:1-3

Brethren, even if anyone may **now** be caused to be caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, are commanded to **now** restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; **now** looking to yourself, so that you too may not be caused to be tempted.

You are commanded to **now** be bearing one another's burdens, and thereby in the **future** fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone **now** thinks he is something when he is **now** being nothing, he **now** deceives himself.

Eliphaz has deceived himself, thinking he is something when he is now nothing. This is evidenced by the fact that even if it were true that Job was at fault, that Job's sin was the "reason" for his affliction, his goal is not to now restore Job in a spirit of gentleness. And instead of bearing Job's burdens, he adds to them. He does not fulfill the law of Christ, the law of *agape* love.

The idea of now looking to yourself, so that you too may not be caused to be tempted, is addressing the reality that it is far too easy to be deceived by our own sense of personal goodness, it is so easy, in the name of **Yahweh**, in the name of Christ, to judge and condemn what others have done in their time of temptation. This approach, by its very nature, is condescending and places one in the role that only God is to possess. Like Eliphaz, we do not know why someone is going through an ordeal, why they are being tormented. Maybe it is not a natural consequence of their "sin," maybe God said, "*Have you considered my Servant.*"

Considering that we have all sinned by nature and by choice, it is wiser to be the bearer of mercy, kindness, and gentleness, than it is for us to be the corrector, the one who wields the truth around like a club to keep "sinners" in their place. When we attempt to step into the shoes of God, like Eliphaz, we are deceived thinking that we are something, someone who knows what God is doing and what type of instruction a sinner needs to hear, when in truth we are now nothing. May we not follow Eliphaz's example, but instead may we choose to follow the law of Christ, the law of *agape* love.

Let's stop here and in our next podcast we will continue with Job's response to Eliphaz.

I am glad you tuned in and have been ready to listen.