

God Had a Son before Mary Did

Chapter 6: “All Wisdom and Knowledge”, Part Two

TARES IN HEAVEN: Satan

The First Gathering of the Sons of God

- If we think of Satan as wicked when we read Job’s story, we are right; at the same time, if we think that Job or anyone else at that time saw Satan that way, we are mistaken.
- God is the one who brought up the subject of Job and sent Satan to earth to afflict him, and Satan did exactly as God commanded, nothing more or less.
- \The book of Job a story about God and Job, not Satan and Job.
- We have a sense of Satan’s wickedness when we find him in the Old Testament only because the Son came and revealed that Satan was evil.
- God had an astonishing blessing in mind for Job, and He chose Satan to be His agent in initiating the process.

God’s Plan, Not Satan’s

- Because we know Satan is evil, it is easy for us to overlook the reverential deference that Satan showed God.
- It was God’s plan, not Satan’s, that Job should suffer.
- If God had sent Gabriel to afflict Job, would Gabriel have refused to obey God’s command?
- Satan carrying out the mission God gave him would not have revealed to anyone that he was wicked; indeed, it would have been seen as wicked if he had *not* brought disaster upon Job.
- Job and his friends did not agree on much, but they always agreed that it was God who had afflicted Job.

The Second Gathering of the Sons of God

- Had the sons of God judged Satan to be wicked for his cruel treatment of righteous Job, they would have had to judge God as the source of that wickedness, and that was unthinkable.

“I Will Not Let It Go!”

- God’s secret purpose for Job’s great suffering was to compel him to let go of his own righteousness so that he might be honored with a taste of God’s kind of righteousness.

Opinions

- The holding of an opinion is not sin, even if the opinion is proved wrong.
- If ignorance were sin, then every creature in heaven and earth would be sinning merely by not being God, for only God knows everything.
- God has no opinions, only knowledge.

- God had something wonderful in mind for Job, and He used His ignorant creatures, Satan in heaven and humans on earth, to accomplish His good purpose.
- Before the Son was revealed, ignorant creatures were the only kind of creatures available for God to use.
- God's patience is terrifying.

Job's Judgment Day

- The most trying part of Job's suffering was not the afflictions of his body and mind that God sent upon him, but the refusal of God to communicate with him.
- Job was determined to hold on to his righteousness, even to death, and even if it felt as if God was no longer holding on to him.

Forced into a Blessing

- God exalted Job's spirit to the threshold of the sacred place where His Son was hidden, a place which no creature even knew existed and, so, had never even hoped to experience.
- Job was not made a "new creature in Christ", for the Son had not yet made God's kind of life available.
- A single touch of New Testament grace made Job different from everyone else on earth — and vastly superior to them.
- God forced Job's eyes open to see that no degree of human righteousness would justify him before God.
- God forced Job's heart open to see the terrifying truth that there was no earthly way of obtaining a righteousness that would save him.
- God compelled Job to taste the sweet rest that comes with abandoning all hope except for the love and grace of God.
- Job's forced awareness that all human righteousness is unclean in God's sight is the only thing that could have made him willing to let his righteousness go.
- With the Son hidden, Job could not have understood all that he was feeling, but he did feel it.

Forever Changed

- To God's heavenly sons as well as to men, righteousness was righteousness, no matter whose righteousness it was; they had no concept of different kinds of righteousness.
- All along, Job felt compelled to confess his purity because he would not lie, and he knew that he had been perfectly righteous according to the standard of righteousness he knew.

Beyond Perfection

- God was right when He testified of Job that no one on earth was like him, but then, there was no one like Job in heaven, either.
- The only way a perfect man like Job could have become more like God was for God to interrupt the normal course of life and take him beyond perfection

Made Willing

- Job's sense of uncleanness before God, though being perfectly righteous, was an impossible conviction for his time.
- Thousands of years after Job died, God was still praising him, and even then, no one understood what God had really done to Job because no one yet had God's kind of life.

God Took Him There

- Only God could have made Job confess to being wrong when everything Job had ever known about God was telling him that he was righteous and that he must always stay that way.
- For man to know God's thoughts and ways, His thoughts and ways must be revealed.
- None of us, in ourselves, can even long for God as He really is because what He really is, is contrary to everything in our nature.
- God is patient with us because He is so determined to bless us, just as He was determined to bless Job.
- To be carried by God is the only way anyone ever gets to the "secret place of the Most High".
- None of us who have God's kind of life have it because we wanted it; we have it because He wanted us.
- God had to create in us a hunger for His kind of life, and when He did that, we fell on our knees and sought Him for the relief from ourselves that His Spirit brings.

Poor Job?

- From the beginning, God has determined that the pathway into His kingdom would be fraught with suffering, and those whom God calls to walk that path are blessed.
- Even the most righteous are blessed with chastening from their heavenly Father so that they might be made more like Him and bear more fruit.
- Those of genuine faith understand that only those who suffer will be saved, and they humbly submit to whatever suffering they must face, knowing that in Christ, it has a good purpose.
- God loved Job as much as He could love him without revealing His Son.
- If the men who despised Job had known God, they would have preferred Job's lot to theirs

Man in His Best State

- After Jesus brought young Paul down from his Pharisaic perch into his kind of humility, Paul valued more than his own life the knowledge of God which the Son had compelled him to find.
- People who feel that their own kind of life is sufficient for salvation, as Job once did, feel unjustly attacked, as Job did, when they come face to face with God's kind of life.
- Nothing but God's life reveals the worthlessness of a man "in his best state", that is, a man perfectly in human righteousness, like Job.
- Job's three friends were shining examples of man in his best state, and their unjust condemnation of Job was the best judgment that man in his best state had to offer.

Like a Slave

- Man's view of God is in a direction different from the direction to which Jesus pointed them. That is why men always look the wrong way when they search for greatness.

- Jesus was continually demonstrating God’s kind of meekness, and men were continually confused by it.

Satan Was Pleased

- In Satan’s view, God’s rebuke of Job, together with Job confession of wretchedness, proved him substantially right about Job.
- Satan was sure that God was just like him, proud of His glory and power, and that God was willing to hurt even innocent souls like Job in order to demonstrate His superiority.

Leviathan

- What God did for Job was entirely a matter of the heart, and God alone knows the heart.

The Third Option

- Job’s ordeal was not a test. It was a reward.
- Job was driven by God to repent, as it were, for being human, even though before the Son came, there was no cure for that disease.
- The truth is neither the way that good people of the world see it nor the way that evil people see it; the truth is “a new and living way” that no one who is of this world can see.

Thoughtless

- The glory of the place to which God took Job left Job more than speechless; it left him thoughtless. What can one think when confronted with a completely unknown kind of life?
- Satan may have rejoiced that God brought Job down to the dust where he really belonged, but in bringing Job down to the dust, God had raised Job up so high that Satan couldn’t see him.
- Job’s mind was useless to help him understand what he was repenting for, but his broken heart knew that he must.
- Job never confessed to any specific sins because he had not committed any.
- Job repented and abhorred himself only because he had been ushered into a place of such holiness that it made his righteousness feel unclean.

“Wash Me, Not the Animals!”

- The washing of the spirits of men would be the Messiah’s credentials, the proof that he had come.
- On the day of Pentecost, when the resurrected Jesus began washing souls from sin, conclusive proof was given to Israel that Jesus was their Messiah.
- Until the Son came, the few who were touched by God’s life and felt a longing for the Promise neither understood their longing nor knew that such a relief could ever be given.