

Lessons From Job

The Patriarch of Spiritual Warfare

<https://www.godblog.net/resources/Lessons-From-Job.pdf>

While no longer in vogue, Scripture's *context* is most certainly one of **Conflict Theology**. Like the whodunnit story of Job, considered by many to be the oldest Book of the Bible and perhaps its key codex, conflict between God the "Lord of Hosts" (angel armies) and Satan the "prince and power of the air" (god of this world), provides the backdrop to Job's story.

And much, if not all, the entire Old and New Testaments.

For this and a plethora of reasons, the content of Scripture can only be fully understood by embracing the Bible's overarching **context**. This crucial concern is developed more fully in all of Quantum Christianity's books series, including **Conflict Theology and Eternity...The Wager** (see excerpts **Brief History of Eternity and Satan's Accusation**).

For an excellent example of previous generation's handling of this topic see the Protestant Reformer Martin Luther's hymnal lyrics of "A Might Fortress Is Our God."

The Bible explains that both personally, and as a species, mankind faces the deadly foe of **sin** on three fronts.

1. **Sin within**, resulting from individual and inherited fallen natures.
2. **Sin above**, in the form of devilish and demonic **temptation** and **deception**.
3. And **Sin about**, the collective and cumulative effect of sin within and above.

In regards to sin from above, the New Testament is quite adamant:

- ***"And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk***

away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels." Ephesians 6:10-12 MSG

Scripture reveals Lucifer's angelic rebellion altered Heaven's history and has reshaped mankind's. In a multilevel chess match, humanity's sandwiched between, and inexorably embroiled within, a cosmic conflict between God and Satan.

A spiritual and physical legal battle and war raging across Three Heavens, with the gravest temporal and eternal ramifications.



Interestingly, when it comes to a Scripture reveal as to what **God wants most** from each and everyone, what many believe to be the Bible's first story may have the last word. In fact, given **Conflict Theology is Scripture's very context**, it's perfectly fitting that **Job's behind the scenes bet between God and Satan** appears to be not only the **oldest Book of the Bible**, but its codex.

To set up this incredible narrative, keep in mind that by definition God alone possess **Omni**ty: Eternal Self Existance (causeless first cause), Omniscience (all knowing), Omnipresence (present everywhere), Omnipotence (all powerful) and Immutability (unchanging). God clearly knows the end from the beginning. Thus by flaunting Job in Satan's face, God was initiating all that was to follow.

The primary reason for the **Devil's** requesting and receiving permission to target and destroy all that was dear to Job was his righteousness. For which all Job's possessions would be stolen or destroyed and all the lives of his children forfeit. Furthermore, his immediate reward for standing up against Satan's onslaught would be debilitating disease engulfing his entire body head to toe. So devastating was Job's dreadful state, that his so called three false friends would fast without speaking for seven days and nights in mourning. An act of compassion unique in all of Scripture.

The Book of Job contains a treasure trove of revelation in regards to not only the **human condition** and **spiritual warfare**, but a variety of subjects, from an **insightful creation account** to **persevering faith**.

Several quotes have become foundation to the belief of billions. A few of the most famous include:

- “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” - Job 1:21
- “His wife said to him, “Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!” He replied, “You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?” In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.” - Job 2:9-10
- “What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me.” - Job 3:25
- “Behold, you have instructed many, and you have strengthened the weak hands. Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, and you have made firm the feeble knees.” - Job 4:3-4
- “As for me, I would seek God, and to God would I commit my cause, who does great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number.” - Job 5:8-9
- “Behold, blessed is the one whom God reproveth, therefore despise not the discipline of the Almighty. For he wounds, but he binds up, he shatters, but his hands heal.” - Job 5:17
- “Why are people so important to you? Why pay attention to what they do?” - Job 7:17
- “Even though He kills me; I will hope in Him.” - Job 13:15
- “How I wish that someone would remember my words and record them in a book!” - Job 19:23
- I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth.” - Job 19:25
- “Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.” - Job 28:28

All the above verses merit reflection, particularly in light of the rest of the Bible they introduce. Consider, “Even though He kills me; I will hope in Him.” The King James Version renders Job’s declaration, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.”

The Book of Job affords humanity with a behind the scenes glimpse of the unfolding of a **heavenly cosmic drama**. Without such perspective, Job withstands Satan's offensive by faith alone, without the benefits modern Christianity daily **takes for granted**. Including the inconceivable incarnation and **costly atonement** of Christ, the coming and fullness of the **Holy Spirit**, the complete canon of **Scripture**, as well as a wealth of accomplishments and spiritual commentary provided by 2,000 years of church history. Most of which is instantaneously available in innumerable forms through apps and on the net. Not to mention our technological blessings, exceeding the **prayers and expectations of all previous generations!**

Never before has a generation been entrusted with so much. *And thus all the more accountable.*

Job, with comparatively so little at hand, stands firm in faith regardless of the loss, and thus the cost, to himself and all he loves. Through him, from the Bible's oldest words, Scripture reassures all mankind in our **suffering** and/or wrestling with a variety of **issues with God**. From **loneliness and depression** to the **bitterness of loss**. From **illness and disease** to **financial distress**. From the apparent **silence and distance** of God to questioning **His goodness**.

Sadly, many of these lessons are lost on mankind, and even **modern Christianity**. Nevertheless, they remain foundational for **Prophetic Christians**. All the more during uncomfortable seasons of **spiritual discipline** in regards to greater levels of **obedience and discipleship**.

After chapters of back and forth discourse and argument, Job was granted the audience with God he all but demanded. During which Job received no explanation or apology. Instead, by way of rebuke, God partially revealed His majesty, to which Job replied:

- "I'm convinced: You can do anything and everything. Nothing and no one can upset your plans. **You asked, 'Who is this muddying the water, ignorantly confusing the issue, second-guessing my purposes?' I admit it. I was the one. I babbled on about things far beyond me, made small talk about wonders way over my head.** You told me, 'Listen, and let me do the talking. Let me ask the questions. You give the answers.' **I admit I once lived by rumors of**

***you; now I have it all firsthand—from my own eyes and ears! I'm sorry—
forgive me. I'll never do that again, I promise!" Job 42:1-6 MSG***

Scarcely surviving the scathing interview, Job later receives far more in his later life, which lasted another 140 years, than all that which was lost. Including seven sons and three of the world's most gorgeous daughters.

Did this somehow make up for the children and workers destroyed by Satan's assault, of which God had precise foreknowledge? Perhaps not. But a further gift Job received might.

Without his ordeal, Job would likely have lived a long and healthy, happy and wealthy life. With none the wiser. Rather, through his severe testing and trial, via **God and Satan's wager**, he became the Patriarch of Patience and Suffering for all mankind. And particularly for the **household of faith**.

His story also pulls back eternity's curtain, plainly revealing a level of personal spiritual conflict unprecedented in human history! An ultimate example of Peter's warning and encouragement to embrace and **endure** discipline and/or **persecution**: "*If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and sinner appear?*"

Prophetic Christians

The challenges arrayed against **perceptively perceiving spiritual truth** have never been greater. **Prophetic Christians** are serious **Bible students** and **intercessors**, believers who **seek God in faith** confident that He's said what He means and means what He's said. They're persuaded **Jesus is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever."** Possessed of deep and abiding **repentance**, they **labor for revival** in the **hope and fear of God**.

Understanding both the **love and terror of the Lord** they endeavor to "**persuade men**" to choose **eternal life** rather than **death**. Knowing they too **are sinners**, they treat others as they would be treated: firm, fair, factual and friendly. They compel the lost, including **apathetic and disobedient Christians** within **Churchianity**, to come into the **Kingdom** by first speaking the truth in **love**. Should compassion fail, they spend themselves and their lives trying to pull lost humanity from "**the fire**."

As noted, because **Conflict Theology** is the very context or metamessage of Scripture, it follows that both aspects of **Christian discipline**, correction and training, are most viable in regards to militarized spirituality. That is, from the perspective of Kingdom Citizen Soldiers. Understanding Earth is a besieged and enemy occupied war zone, lets examine a few New Testament passages that make little to no sense from any other standpoint.

For example, initially addressing 1st century persecuted Christians, Peter imparts the following directives:

- **"Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh [and died for us], arm yourselves [like warriors] with the same purpose [being willing to suffer for doing what is right and pleasing God], because whoever has suffered in the flesh [being like-minded with Christ] is done with [intentional] sin [having stopped pleasing the world], so that he can no longer spend the rest of his natural life living for human appetites and desires, but [lives] for the will and purpose of God."** 1 Peter 4:1-2 AMP
- **"The end and culmination of all things is near. Therefore, be sound-minded and self-controlled for the purpose of prayer [staying balanced and focused on the things of God so that your communication will be clear, reasonable, specific and pleasing to Him.]"** 1Peter 4:7 AMP

What's odd about these verses is their original audience. Frequently **persecuted** and even martyred Christians are hardly involved in the "appetites and desires" of **immorality** and obvious **worldliness**. Sadly, the same can not be said for **modern Christianity**.

Nor does one imagine even subtle forms of **temptation** and **deception** taking hold of such **radical disciples** who were extricated from society, often giving up their wealth and possessions, family and lives, for the cause of Christ:

- **"But remember the earlier days, when, after being [spiritually] enlightened, you [patiently] endured a great conflict of sufferings, sometimes by being made a spectacle, publicly exposed to insults and distress, and sometimes by becoming companions with those who were so treated. For you showed**

sympathy and deep concern for those who were imprisoned, and you joyfully accepted the [unjust] seizure of your belongings and the confiscation of your property, conscious of the fact that you have a better possession and a lasting one [prepared for you in heaven]." Hebrews 10:32-34 AMP

Later in the same chapter, Peter offers another important insight along similar lines:

- **"For it is the time [destined] for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not respect *or believe or obey* the gospel of God? *And if it is difficult for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the godless and the sinner?*"** Therefore, those who are ill-treated *and* suffer in accordance with the will of God must [continue to] do right and commit their souls [for safe-keeping] to the faithful Creator." 1 Peter 4:17-19 AMP

Here Peter admonishes and encourages 1st century persecuted believers to remain at their post, even under the greatest of distress, as if it's business as usual. Which it is, for Kingdom Citizen Soldiers. Such passages, and hundreds like them, serve to highlight the difference between Christian [Cruise Vs. Battleship](#) mentality. The civilian mindset objects, inventing and claiming dozens of doctrines insulating and extracting them from such Scriptures and serious concerns. False narratives abound, from eternal security to [pre-tribulation rapture](#).

Paul issues similar warnings, from *"work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,"* to *"But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."*

Time out! Is Paul saying we should *"fear and tremble"* over the status of our [salvation](#)? That after all he had believed and accomplished, the great apostle Paul could [loose his salvation](#)? In a word, Yes. These are explicit warnings that accentuate [Christ's harsher sayings](#) and teaching on [Godly fear](#). As well as that of His apostles on the [virtue of fear](#). Again, the author of Hebrews agrees:

- **"For the Lord corrects *and* disciplines everyone whom He loves, and He punishes, even scourges, every son whom He accepts *and* welcomes to His heart *and* cherishes.** You must submit to *and* endure [correction] for

discipline; God is dealing with you as with sons. For what son is there whom his father does not [thus] train *and* correct *and* discipline? ***Now if you are exempt from correction and left without discipline in which all [of God's children] share, then you are illegitimate offspring and not true sons [at all].*** Hebrews 12:6-8 AMPC

- "So then, as the Holy Spirit says, ***"If you hear God's voice today, do not be stubborn, as your ancestors were when they rebelled against God,*** as they were that day in the desert when they put him to the test. There they put me to the test and tried me, says God, although they had seen what I did for forty years. ***And so I was angry with those people and said, 'They are always disloyal and refuse to obey my commands.' I was angry and made a solemn promise: 'They will never enter the land where I would have given them rest!'"*** My friends, be careful that none of you have a heart so evil and unbelieving that you will turn away from the living God. ***Instead, in order that none of you be deceived by sin and become stubborn, you must help one another every day,*** as long as the word "Today" in the scripture applies to us. For we are all partners with Christ if we hold firmly to the end the confidence we had at the beginning. ***This is what the scripture says: "If you hear God's voice today, do not be stubborn, as your ancestors were when they rebelled against God."*** Hebrews 3:7-15 GNT

Consider the glorified Christ's critique of Revelation's Church of Laodicea. Which represented not only existing Christians in that day, and a tragic mindset throughout church history, but the final church age. Which may well be our own:

- "Write to Laodicea, to the Angel of the church. God's Yes, the Faithful and Accurate Witness, the First of God's creation, says: ***"I know you inside and out, and find little to my liking. You're not cold, you're not hot—far better to be either cold or hot! You're stale. You're stagnant. You make me want to vomit. You brag, 'I'm rich, I've got it made, I need nothing from anyone,' oblivious that in fact you're a pitiful, blind beggar, threadbare and homeless. "Here's what I want you to do: Buy your gold from me, gold that's been through the refiner's fire. Then you'll be rich. Buy your clothes from me, clothes designed in Heaven. You've gone around half-naked long enough. And buy medicine for your eyes from me so you can see, really***

see. “The people I love, I call to account—prod and correct and guide so that they’ll live at their best. Up on your feet, then! About face! Run after God! **“Look at me. I stand at the door. I knock. If you hear me call and open the door, I’ll come right in and sit down to supper with you.** Conquerors will sit alongside me at the head table, just as I, having conquered, took the place of honor at the side of my Father. That’s my gift to the conquerors! “Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches.” Revelation 3:14-22 MSG

Scripture could hardly be clearer. Our privileged position in the unfolding of the Kingdom of God comes at great cost. And as Jesus warned, *"Great gifts mean great responsibilities; greater gifts, greater responsibilities!"*

Here and elsewhere we are put on notice that we are responsible to **honestly acknowledge** and appropriately respond to the **spiritual warfare** raging around us. To grasp and learn from historical mistakes. To never **assume salvation**, confusing **presumption for faith**. Rather to **work out our salvation with fear and trembling**. To take a break from congratulating ourselves for lukewarm faith, long enough to attest the perilous nature of our condition.

Still the original problem persists. **Churchianity's** been taught to believe everything's fine. All the more given our natural inclination to **judge ourselves** by those around us. Compared to our fellow **modern Christians**, we're doing well. Compared to billions **far more worldly** and **worse**, we're doing great!

Yet compared to our full potential we're **doing poorly**. Without the **fullness of the Spirit**, we continually **fall short of our mission parameters**; an acceptable state aboard a cruise ship. A **disastrous state** aboard a **battleship**.

So where are the biggest areas of weakness in regards to welcoming the rigors of **discipline in the arenas of obedience and training**? These break down into **elementary, intermediate** and **advance** issues. Foundational issues include learning and adherence to the basic requirements of **salvation** and **following Jesus**, **Bible study** and **prayer**, **worship** and **fellowship**. For churches, identifying their gospel among the **current seven church models** would be a good start. Prayerfully developing correct **Biblical**

instruction and lifestyle choices can provide an initial litmus test.