



WARNER PACIFIC COLLEGE

FLOURISH

Trusting the Lord When No Answers Can Be Found

Job 2:6-10; 42:12

The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause." ⁴ Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life." ⁵ "However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face." ⁶ So the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life." ⁷ Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among the ashes. ⁹ Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!" ¹⁰ But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips... ¹² The Lord blessed the latter *days* of Job more than his beginning... (NSAB).

Numerous people of different epochs and backgrounds tried to explain human suffering in the presence of God who is good, almighty, and just; yet we are still struggling to make sense of it today. The book of Job is just one attempt at doing this and it is not the first attempt, for it was written sometime between the time of Abraham and about seventh century B.C.E., but stories from the ancient Near Eastern that deal with similar issues of human suffering go back to 21st century B.C.E., right around the time when the writing was invented.

We read that God considered Job a righteous man. He was proud of Job when he pointed him out to Satan, the Accuser. He was proud that Job continued to be righteous and faithful despite the fact that all of his possessions and children were taken away from him together with his status among people, which was determined by one's possessions and children. However, Satan boldly insisted that Job was a fraud and that he worshiped God only because of the benefits he had received from God. So, God gave Satan permission to test Job but spare his life and Satan made Job suffer physical pain in addition to the emotional pain. In the course of the book, Job had many opportunities to curse God. He was even enticed to do so by the persons closest to him, namely, his wife. However, despite his pain, humiliation, and confusion, Job continued to be faithful to God, and at the end God blessed Job by restoring his family and doubling his possessions, and, therefore, honor. Having read the book of Job, we are still left with questions; yet we are also left with a feeling that God is not a tyrant because he cares about people who trust in him and with an example of how to behave in situations that we cannot explain.

NHT

Point for Prayer:

Lord, help us trust in you with all our hearts when we cannot find answers, help us listen to your comforting voice in the time of doubt, and help us stay away from evil no matter what.