

BAND of BROTHERS

ALL SERIES 2024 – WEEK 10

Job 23-24, 26-31: The Faint Sign of Faith in a Suffering Saint

“But I know that my defender lives, and afterwards, he will rise on the earth. Even after my skin has been stripped off my body, I will see God in my own flesh. I will see him with my own eyes, not with someone else’s.”

– Job 19:25-27 GOD’S WORD® Translation

- **Job replies: Part 2**

- Job is all over the map emotionally
 - He is a man in turmoil
 - Nothing makes sense
 - His heart is heavy
 - His mind is confused

Ch. 23: Job decries God’s presence

*“If only I knew where to find God,
I would go to his court.” – Job 23:3 NLT*

“I go east, but he is not there.

I go west, but I cannot find him.

I do not see him in the north, for he is hidden.

I look to the south, but he is concealed.” – Job 23:8-9 NLT

Ch. 24: Job details the injustice of life

“Why doesn’t the Almighty bring the wicked to judgment?

Why must the godly wait for him in vain?” – Job 24:1 NLT

*“The groans of the dying rise from the city,
and the wounded cry for help, yet God ignores their moaning.” – Job 24:12 NLT*

Ch. 26: Job defends God

*“God stretches the northern sky over empty space
and hangs the earth on nothing.” – Job 26:7 NLT*

“His Spirit made the heavens beautiful...” – Job 24:13 NLT

*“These are just the beginning of all that he does,
merely a whisper of his power.” – Job 24:14 NLT*

Ch. 27: Job declares his innocence

*“I will never concede that you are right;
I will defend my integrity until I die.
I will maintain my innocence without wavering.
My conscience is clear for as long as I live.” – Job 27:5-6 NLT*

Ch. 28: Job defines the source of wisdom

*“From where, then, does wisdom come?
And where is the place of understanding?
It is hidden from the eyes of all living...” – Job 28:20-21 NLT*

*“God understands the way to it,
and he knows its place.
For he looks to the ends of the earth
and sees everything under the heavens.” – Job 28:23-24 NLT*

Ch. 29: Job deliberates his past

*“I long for the years gone by
when God took care of me,
when he lit up the way before me
and I walked safely through the darkness.” – Job 29:2-3 NLT*

*“Those were the days when I went to the city gate
and took my place among the honored leaders.” – Job 29:7 NLT*

Ch. 30: Job describes his present

“But now I am mocked by people younger than I.” – Job 30:1 NLT

*“They despise me and won’t come near me,
except to spit in my face.
For God has cut my bowstring.
He has humbled me.” – Job 30:10-11 NLT*

"I live in terror now." – Job 30:15 NLT

Ch. 31: Job dismisses all the accusations

*"Let God weigh me on the scales of justice,
for he knows my integrity."* – Job 31:6 NLT

*"Look, I will sign my name to my defense.
Let the Almighty answer me.*

Let my accuser write out the charges against me.

I would face the accusation proudly." – Job 31:35-36 NLT

- **God trusted in God's omnipotence**

"For what has God above chosen for us?

What is our inheritance from the Almighty on high?

Isn't it calamity for the wicked

and misfortune for those who do evil?

Doesn't he see everything I do...

and every step I take?" – Job 31:2-4 NLT

- He believed God sees all and knows all
- Nothing escapes His notice
- He is aware of any and all sins
- He is just and righteous
- He alone knows the truth
- Job was willing to let God decide his fate
 - o His guilt or innocence was up to God
 - o His life was in God's hands

- **Holding onto hope**

"Does not he see my ways

and number all my steps?

"If I have walked with falsehood

and my foot has hastened to deceit;

(Let me be weighed in a just balance,

*and **let God know my integrity!**)"* – Job 31:4-6 ESV

"the Lord knows my innocence!" – Brenton's Septuagint Translation

"for He knows my integrity." – New Living Translation

- Job wasn't bragging
- He was trying to trust God
- He was willing to stand trial
- He was ready to face sentencing...**IF**

*“if my step has turned aside from the way
and my heart has gone after my eyes,
and if any spot has stuck to my hands,
then let me sow, and another eat,
and let what grows for me be rooted out.
“If my heart has been enticed toward a woman,
and I have lain in wait at my neighbor's door,
then let my wife grind for another,
and let others bow down on her.” – Job 31:7-10 ESV*

- He still holds onto his retribution theology
 - o He expects vindication
 - Because he's righteous
 - Not because God is gracious
 - o He believes he deserves justice
- **Job defends his righteousness**
 - But, for God, it was never in question
 - Job was blameless, upright, a God-fearer, and one who turned away from evil
 - But Job thought his **right standing** with God a reward for his **right behavior**

*“Look at what I **haven't** done!”*

Chapter 31 – 12 abuses of power and authority

- Vs 5-6** deceiving others for personal gain
- Vs 7-8** using power to take what is not yours
- Vs 9-12** living above the law to fulfill base desires
- Vs 13-15** failing to treat others with dignity & respect
- Vs 16-18** withholding aid from the less fortunate
- Vs 19-20** treating the poor callously & without compassion
- Vs 21-23** using power to take advantage of the poor & disenfranchised
- Vs 24-28** trusting in riches rather than God
 - seeking your won glory at the expense of another's well-being
- Vs 29-30 rejoicing in the failure of others
- Vs 31-32 refusing to show generosity to the needy
- Vs 33-34 hiding sin to protect your reputation
- Vs 38-40 misusing my resources or refusing to use them for the good of others

*“If I am guilty of any of these things,
then you can throw the book at me!”*

“But I'm not, so You won't!”

- Job had made it all about him
 - o His hope was in **his own righteousness**

- He was confident of **his innocence**
- He was counting on **his acquittal**
- He was sure of **his vindication**

- **A change in demeanor**

“Oh, that I had one to hear me!

(Here is my signature! Let the Almighty answer me!)

Oh, that I had the indictment written by my adversary!

Surely I would carry it on my shoulder;

I would bind it on me as a crown;

I would give him an account of all my steps;

like a prince I would approach him.” – Job 31:35-37 ESV

- Job has gone from **cowed** to **cocky**
- He seems overconfident
- He’s ready to march into God’s presence
- He’s self-assured and self-justified

“Even now my witness is in heaven. My advocate is there on high. My friends scorn me, but I pour out my tears to God. I need someone to mediate between God and me, as a person mediates between friends. For soon I must go down that road from which I will never return.” – Job 31:19-22 NLT

- Job needs someone to come to his aid
 - He sees looking for a heavenly advocate
 - Possibly an angel
 - He is **not** speaking of God

*“God is not a mortal like me, so I cannot argue with him or take him to trial. **If only there were a mediator between us, someone who could bring us together.** The mediator could make God stop beating me, and I would no longer live in terror of his punishment. Then I could speak to him without fear, but I cannot do that in my own strength.” – Job 9:31-32 NLT*

yākah – someone to argue his case before God

- Job was looking for an intercessor
- He needed a defense attorney
- Elihu alluded to such a divine representative

*“But if an angel from heaven appears—**a special messenger to intercede for a person and declare that he is upright**—he will be gracious and say, ‘Rescue him from the grave, for I have found a ransom for his life.’” – Job 33:23-24 NLT*

- **A foreshadowing of future hope**
 - Elihu spoke of an **angelic intercessor**
 - Job spoke of an **advocate on high**
 - This divine defense attorney would...
 - ...testify on Job's behalf
 - ...provide a ransom
 - ...secure his acquittal and restoration

*"Oh that my words were written!
Oh that they were inscribed in a book!
Oh that with an iron pen and lead
they were engraved in the rock forever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth."* – Job 19:23-25 ESV

- Don't put words in Job's mouth
 - o He is **not** talking about Jesus
 - o He is speaking of his heavenly advocate
 - o His divine defense attorney
 - His God-appointed legal representative
- He has no concept of **the Messiah**

*"And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another."* – Job 19:26-27 ESV

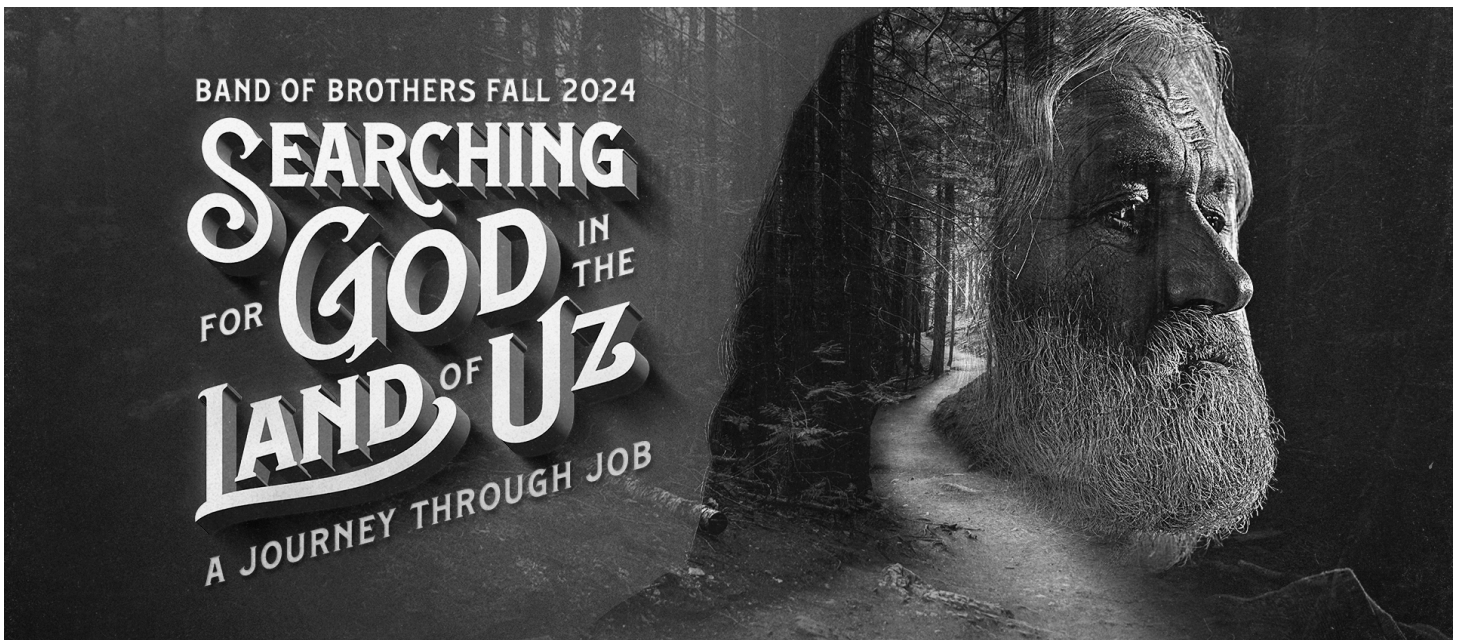
- Job is not talking about **resurrection**
- He is talking about **vindication & restoration**
- His flesh will continue to rot and decay
- But he will live and not die
- His divine advocate will come to earth
- And he will live to see and hear from God
- **But that is for next week**

- **Discussion questions**

1 John 2:1-2 reveals something Job didn't know. How should this insight impact the way we view sin, suffering, and our relationship with God?

Why is it dangerous for anyone to defend their righteousness apart from Christ (see Phil. 3:8-9)?

Look at Romans 8:34. Why must we remember that Jesus is constantly interceding for us?



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FALL SERIES 2024 – WEEK 11 HOMEWORK

WEEK 11 – Now My Eyes See You – Job 38-42

This lesson brings our series to an end, and it does so in a powerful and unforgettable way. With the last words of Elihu ringing in his ears, Job finally gets the one thing he has longed for throughout this long and arduous ordeal: He hears from God. His friends have run out of words, but Job has not lost hope. And amid Job’s ongoing pain and perplexity, God breaks the silence and delivers a loving but stern rebuke to His suffering servant. This chapter provides a stark contrast to all the petty theological postulations of Job’s self-righteous friends. Their words regarding God were guestimates at best. They were speaking more from ignorance than experience. Their views about God were little more than the speculations of mortal men, the byproduct of flawed human reasoning, not divine revelation. For the first time in the lives of these five men, the God of the universe will reveal Himself as who He really is: The all-sovereign, all-powerful God of the universe.

- Read Job 38-42.
- Now, read pages 255-292 from Ken’s Devotional™ on Job.
- Chapter 38-39
What is the significance of God speaking out of the “whirlwind?”

Why do you think God addresses Job the way he does in verses 2-3?

How many times does God use the personal pronoun “you” in these verses?

What is this important? What could be God’s reason for doing so?

Write down all the references from creation you find.

Why are these important?

Chapter 40

What is significant about Job's reaction in verses 4-5?

What is the point God is trying to make in verses 71-4?

Why do you think God brings up the "behemoth" in verses 15-24?

Chapter 41

Rather than trying to figure out what "leviathan" is, write down what God is trying to say by bringing it up at all. What features does it have that might say something about God?

Chapter 42

What lesson has Job learned from what he says in verses 1-6?

What do verses 7-9 tell you about what God thinks about Job, and why is this important?

Read verses 10-17. What is significant about that fact that Job changed his view about God (verses 5-6) before he had everything restored (verses 10-15)?

How do we know that Job's change of attitude was not based on getting all his "stuff" back?

Job was completely restored and rewarded, but he still had to face death. Why is this significant?