

## The Book of Job

## 27

## Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

This morning we complete our study of the book of **Job** – this time reading **chapters 29-42**. In this last section, Elihu (the fourth of Job's "comforters") speaks for the first time. **32:4** explains the reason for his delay in speaking:

"Now Elihu had waited before speaking to Job because they were older than he. But when he saw that the three men had nothing more to say, his anger was aroused."

While at first appearance, Elihu's speeches may seem to be a repeat of what Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar had already said, there is a significant difference (note **32:14**). Elihu considered himself more "enlightened" than his seniors and quite likely believed that he was speaking on God's behalf (**36:1-4**). Like his three seniors, Elihu believes Job's guilt to be the reason for his suffering, but rather than seeing his suffering merely as God's punishment, he regards it as a tool in God's hands to discipline and refine the sufferer and ultimately bring redemption.

Job's four "comforters," well meaning as they may have been,\* are part of a larger drama unfolding. We, the reader, see something that neither Job nor his counselors see. In **1:6-12** and **2:1-7**, we are privy to the fact that the source of Job's suffering is found in the accusation of Satan before God and that God himself allows the suffering to take place within specific limits (**1:12; 2:6**). Thus Job's friends, in their prosecution of Job's guilt, had unwittingly joined the side of Satan in his accusations against Job before God.

For this reason, God's reply in **chapters 38-42** is not just God's vindication of Job, but also his closing statement in the court case initiated by Satan. God's verdict is that Job is indeed innocent and he decrees the suffering to end.

With this in mind, let's now read the final section of **Job** – **chapters 29-42**.

\* There is a lesson here for us to learn. Many Christians do great damage when they automatically assume that someone is suffering because of personal sin or a lack of faith. While this is sometimes the case, the cause of human suffering can be quite complex. One or more of three agents may be involved: God, Satan and man. Each case must be seen as unique.

# Memory Verse

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! ...For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Romans 11:33-36

(Memorize all of 11:33-36 if you can)

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!