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Crushed By A Creed

Text: Job 1:1-22

Location of Uz is uncertain. Some have suggested that it is south of Damascus and others have guessed that it might be in that land mass between Edom and North Arabia. The exact geographical location is not terribly important. Job was a man who actually lived. *Where* he lived is

less important than what he learned as he lived.

Job was not a man who played with God. Look at the four adjectives used to describe him:

blameless; upright, God-fearing, evil-shunning.

This describes Job in terms of his faith and his behavior. Before God, he was committed to holy living. Sought to be without blame. In front of fellow humans, he was upright. Before God, Job was appropriately deferential. When presented with the choice between good and evil, he shunned evil.

Job was rich in every way you define rich.

Family: 10 children

Livestock: 7,000 sheep; 3,000 camels; 1,000 oxen (500 yoke); 500 female donkeys.

His children were loving toward each other (v.4)

Job took being a spiritual leader very seriously.

(V.5) Job prayed for his children, in the event they may have offended Yahweh.

God says of Job the same thing that the narrator says.

V.9-11 Job's integrity, motive and sincerity brought into question.

V.12 Game on.

V.13-19 Calamity strikes and a breathless messengers reports to Job.

V. 20-22- Job's response. The verb used at the end of verse 20 is astonishing. I certainly expected action of *some* kind of action. I fully expected the text to read,

“...fell to the ground and fainted”

“...fell to the ground and sobbed uncontrollably”

“...fell to the ground and called for his wife”

“...fell to the ground and gave heaven the finger”

“...fell to the ground and twisted and writhed as if having a convulsion”

“...fell to the ground and cursed God”

But here is this surprise verb: *worshipped*

Did I read verse 20 correctly? Did I read verse 22 correctly? Job didn't raise his fist to heaven and tell God how faithful he had been *to* God?

Lessons learned from chapter one of this book:

1. The righteous don't get a pass in the area of suffering. Job was righteous (1:1,8; 2:3) yet he

suffered great personal loss and endured physical affliction. We'll look at his physical suffering in the next sermon in this series.

2. At times, suffering is a method, a tool, God uses to purify(not punish) his people. Let me be

cautious here. Not *every* sickness is a chastisement from God. However, sometimes

Comment [1]:

Comment [2]:

affliction is the way God proves our substance- or lack of it. That is, some suffering is disciplinary in nature and other suffering is testing in nature.

When we suffer by testing, it is an expression of the love of God. Cf. Hebrews 12:3-11

Comment [3]:

3For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. **4** You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. **5** And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

“My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

6

For whom the Lord loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives.”

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? **8** But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. **9** Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? **10** For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness.

11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

3. **Worship can take place in strange circumstances.**

Comment [4]:

We might not worship God *for* every trial, but we can certainly worship God *in* every trial. A blogger, named Kaitlin, recalled something one of her professor shared.

Kaitlin is a linguist, working with Pioneer Bible Translators. In her linguistics training she had a professor

gave lessons and advice from her years of service on the field.

“There were stories of shipwreck, hilarious tales of marriage proposals, and a few hair-

raising encounters with spiritual warfare. She told us that when she served in the darkest places, she always brought along her hymn book. Every night, after prayer and studying of scripture, she sang through ten of those hymns, all of the verses. She worshipped God, even when there was no one else to worship with her. Even when there was no one to hear her worship, or see her example. Her worship was personal, but audible and intentional. It was worship in a strange place, but it was powerful in her relationship with Christ.”
(WORSHIP IN STRANGE PLACES

Posted on June 4, 2016 by knittinginpng under Worship)

Job discovered that worship can take place in places other than the temple or the tabernacle or the synagogue or in the presence of the ark of the covenant. Worship can take place in a garbage heap in Argentina and in a hut in Timbuktu and in

a car or in an office high atop the Atlanta skyline
and on a school bus and in a cotton field.

“Job, are you crazy?”

“I probably am!”

Amen