

Crystallization-Study of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes

#1: The Great Question in the Book of Job

and the Great Answer 2/1-7 OL Summary:

I. The forty-two chapters in Job leave us with a great question of two parts: What is the purpose of God in His creating of man, and what is the purpose of God in His dealing with His chosen people? : **A.** Job said to God, “Make known to me why You contend with me” (Job 10:2b); “You have hidden these things in Your heart; / I know that this is with You” (v. 13). **B.** This indicates that Job could not find the reason for God’s treatment of him, but he believed that there had to be some reason hidden in God’s heart; what was hidden in God’s heart was the mystery of the ages—the eternal economy of God.

II. The great answer to this great question is the mystery hidden in God throughout the ages, the eternal economy of God, which is God’s eternal intention with His heart’s desire to dispense Himself in His Divine Trinity as the Father in the Son by the Spirit into His chosen people to be their life and nature so that they may become an organism, the Body of Christ as the new man, for God’s fullness, God’s expression, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem: **A.** Job and his friends thought that what he was suffering was a matter of God’s judgment; however, Job’s sufferings were not God’s judgment but God’s stripping and consuming that God might gain Job so that he might gain God more. **B.** Although God was stripping Job, He surely was not angry with him; neither did God consider Job to be His adversary but His intimate friend. **C.** God knew that after Job had passed through a time of suffering, he would be rebuilt with the Divine Trinity so that he could become another person—a new man, a new creation, to fulfill God’s eternal economy for God’s expression. **D.** In our reading of the Bible, we need to focus our attention on God’s eternal economy for the divine dispensing; unless we know God’s economy, we will not understand the Bible; God’s intention with Job was to make Job a man of God, who was constituted with God according to His divine economy. **E.**

III. Job’s basic problem was that he was short of God; in all of God’s dealings with Job, God’s intention was to reduce Job to nothing, yet to maintain his existence so that He might have time to impart Himself into Job; God cares for only one thing—for being worked into us:

A. Job was self-righteous, and he was contented with what he had become, yet he was unaware of his miserable situation before God. **B.** Job’s glory was his perfection and uprightness, and his crown was his integrity; God had stripped his glory from him and had taken away the crown from his head; Job’s hope had been to build up the “tree” of his integrity, but God would not allow such a tree to grow within Job; rather, God had plucked up this tree, this hope, so that Job would be brought into the sphere of gaining God. **C.** God wanted Job to know that he was in the wrong

realm of building up himself as a man in the old creation in his perfection, uprightness, and integrity; Job glorified himself in these things, but God considered them as frustrations to be stripped away so that Job might receive God in His nature, life, element, and essence and thus be metabolically transformed to be a God-man, a man in the new creation who expresses God and dispenses Him into others. **D.** God’s intention with Job was to tear down the natural Job in his perfection and uprightness so that He might build up a renewed Job in God’s nature and attributes; the discipline of the Holy Spirit tears down our natural being to constitute a renewed being. **E.** The work of the Spirit within us is to constitute a new being for us, whereas the work of the Spirit without is to tear down every aspect of our natural being through our environment; we should cooperate with the operating Spirit and accept the environment that God has arranged for us. **F.** The primary purpose of suffering in this universe, particularly as it relates to the children of God, is that through it the very nature of God may be wrought into the nature of man so that man may gain God to the fullest extent. **G.**

IV. The move of the Triune God to deify man for the fulfillment of His economy to have His corporate expression is altogether in the mingled spirit, the divine Spirit mingled as one with our human spirit: **A.** In our Christian life we should live by the Spirit and walk by the Spirit; we should do everything and be everything by the Spirit, with the Spirit, in the Spirit, and through the Spirit; thus, we need to take care of our spirit, doing everything by exercising our spirit in order to experience the divine Spirit living in us, making His home in us, and transforming us. **B.** We should not take any action apart from the all-inclusive Spirit; we should not face any situation or meet any need apart from the Spirit; we must learn to touch the divine Spirit in our spirit. **C.** To be a Christian and an overcomer is not merely difficult—it is impossible; only the processed and consummated Triune God living in us as the all-inclusive Spirit in our spirit can be a Christian and an overcomer. **D.** As long as we do everything according to the Spirit, we can experience Christ’s incarnation, human living, death, resurrection, and ascension with the outpouring of the Spirit.

V. In God’s appearing to him, Job saw God, gaining God in his personal experience and abhorring himself: **A.** Today our God is the all-inclusive Spirit as the consummation of the processed and consummated Triune God. **B.** In order to see God, we must exercise our spirit. **C.** In order to see God, we must deal with our heart.

VI. God’s purpose in dealing with those who love Him is that they may gain Him to the fullest extent, surpassing the loss of all that they have other than Him, that He might be expressed through them for the fulfillment of His purpose in creating man.

CP1: The reason God stripped and consumed Job was for him to be released from good and evil and rebuilt by the Triune God

OL1: The forty-two chapters in Job leave us with a great question of two parts: What is the purpose of God in His creating of man, and what is the purpose of God in His dealing with His chosen people? [Eph. 3:9](#) And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things. [1 Tim. 1:3-4](#) ...Charge certain ones not to teach different things nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

OL2: Job said to God, "Make known to me why You contend with me" (10:2b); "You have hidden these things in Your heart; / I know that this is with You" (10:13).

OL3: In our reading of the Bible, we need to focus our attention on God's eternal economy for the divine dispensing; unless we know God's economy, we will not understand the Bible; God's intention with Job was to make Job a man of God, who was constituted with God according to His divine economy.

The New Testament is God's answer to Job. We may say that it is a message from God to Job. This message, this answer, reveals that God was not judging Job or punishing him but was stripping and consuming him so that Job could be rebuilt with the Triune God. Although millions of people have read the New Testament, not many understand the answer that it contains.

Job's three friends were not right concerning God's purpose in dealing with His people, because their concept was based on the principle of good and evil, on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the sideline alongside the tree of life as the main line.

Job was right because his concept in general was not based on the principle of good and evil. However, he was groping in relation to the purpose for which God deals with His people. On the negative side, he was right; on the positive side, he was devoid of the divine revelation, not knowing that God's purpose in dealing with His people is that He wants His people to gain Him, to partake of Him, to possess Him, and to enjoy Him more and more, rather than all things.

All the physical blessings with which God blessed Job were to show Job God's lovingkindness and faithfulness in his latter days. This indicates that God is perfect and kind in dealing with those who love Him. Even today, after God deals with us by stripping us and consuming us, and after His purpose is accomplished, God gives us His physical blessings. However, God's purpose in dealing with His people is not to give physical blessings to them but to give Himself to them as their eternal portion, which ultimately consummates in the New Jerusalem.

Application: New ones and Youth/College students
[2 Cor.4:7](#) But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

FN[[the earthen vessels](#)]: we who contain this treasure are earthen vessels, worthless and fragile. A priceless treasure is contained in worthless vessels! This has made the worthless vessels ministers of the new covenant with a priceless ministry. This has been accomplished by the divine power in resurrection. The excellency of the power is surely of God and not out of us. FN[[treasure](#)]: This treasure, the indwelling Christ, in us, the earthen vessels, is the divine source of the supply for the Christian life. It is by the excellent power of this treasure that the apostles as the ministers of the new covenant were capable of living a crucified life that the resurrection life of Christ, whom they ministered, might be manifested. Thus, they manifested the truth for the shining of the gospel.

The economy of God is God's plan for man and the implementation of the plan. Man was created from clay. The composition of the material body of man is the same as that of clay, and when man is buried, he returns to the earth. As an earthen vessel, man is worthless on his own, but Christ, the most precious treasure, is placed in a worthless vessel. This indwelling Christ is the source of the divine supply of the Christian life, the power to express Christ and to share Christ with others. You should understand and consecrate yourself to this divine economy and the divine dispensing, and then keep yourself in it all your life.

If you are a student, concerning your relationships with classmates and teachers, or if you are a worker, concerning your relationships with co-workers and bosses, you can experience an extraordinarily great supply from the indwelling Christ. For example, when you feel that your teachers don't like you, you become disgusted and demotivated. It is natural and easy for you to react in this way. But there is a surpassingly great power within you, that allows you to persevere, to respect, to love, to forgive, to accept, to build relationships. Turn to the spirit, open your heart, and call upon the name of the Lord. Then Satan will say to you, "You are really not liked by the teacher, and you have no hope in this class anymore," etc. to induce division, but you stand against it. You can declare with the faith, "[Satan, you are the father of lies and the enemy of God. Therefore, I will always speak against you and declare in faith, 'Get behind me, Satan!' "](#) Satan always accuses people day and night to bring them into discord and conflict. But you can understand, forgive, reconcile, and become one with each other in the Lord. This is what it means to experience the Lord, express the Lord, and represent the Lord.

Prayer: "[Oh Lord Jesus, the purpose for which God created man is to fill him as a vessel with God by putting Christ, the precious treasure to make him an expression of God. Christ, the precious treasure living in me, is the source of supply for having a divine life. I have learned that the environment that strips me away and consumes me is for me to gain more and more of God, to hold on to God, to possess God, and to enjoy God. Even when having a hard time, I will not be discouraged, but will look to the Lord, trust in Him, and gain Him.](#)"

**CP2: God only cares for one thing,
that is to work Himself into us**

OL1: God's dealing with Job was to bring him out of the sphere of ethics and into the sphere of God-gaining so that he would be turned from seeking perfection in ethics to seeking and gaining God instead of anything else; man's standing before God is based on how much of God he has gained. [John 10:10](#) ···I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly. [1 Cor. 15:45](#) ···The last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. [Rom. 8:6](#) For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Job and his three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, were in the realm of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Even though Job was on a somewhat higher level than his friends, he and they were still in the same realm. God was trying to rescue them from that realm and put them into the realm of the tree of life. The first thing God had to do was to strip Job, consume him, and tear him down so that he would become nothing as a person under suffering. This became the base for God to rebuild Job with the Divine Trinity, that Job could be a new man, a part of God's new creation, to fulfill God's eternal economy for God's expression.

OL2: Job's basic problem was that he was short of God; in all of God's dealings with Job, God's intention was to reduce Job to nothing, yet to maintain his existence so that He might have time to impart Himself into Job; God cares for only one thing—for being worked into us. [Phil. 3:8](#) But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ. [2 Cor. 4:16](#) We do not loose heart ···though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

But why do we stress the distinction between the living God and the God of resurrection? It is because while the living God can perform many acts on man's behalf, the nature of the living God cannot blend with the nature of man. When, on the other hand, the God of resurrection works, His very nature is wrought into the nature of man.... Even when the living God has performed some act on your behalf, after that act as before it, He is still He, and you are still you. His working on your behalf does not impart anything of His nature into you. The living God can work on behalf of man, but the nature of the living God cannot unite with the nature of man. On the other hand, when the God of resurrection works, He communicates Himself to man by that which He does for him. The primary purpose of suffering in this universe, particularly as it relates to the children of God, is that through it the very nature of God may be wrought into the nature of man....Through a process of outward decay, an inward process is taking place that is adding a new constituent to our lives.

Application to business person/graduate students

God's economy does not make you a good man, it makes you a God man. A God-man is one who is filled with God,

reconstituted with God, transformed, expressing God, and acting on God's behalf. Good man "ism" focuses your attention on trying to make yourself look good. But being a God-man in God's economy focuses your attention on enjoying God, magnifying God, and representing God. Therefore, you cannot remain in God's economy unless you come out of the concept of good man ism. In your business life or in your study life, are you careful to stay in God's economy, to enjoy God, to magnify God, to represent God? When you have hardships in your business life, God's purpose is for you to step out of the realm of the knowledge of good and evil and enjoy, acquire, express, and represent God more. Even though your outer man is decaying due to hardships, your inner man is being renewed day by day. Therefore, understand God's will and do not be discouraged by hardships, but exercise your spirit, put your mind on your spirit, and rely on the Body of Christ to deal with hardships.

A testimony to be renewed in the midst of the hardships of business life: I have been working in the companies for over 30 years, and there have always been hardships. However, amidst the hardships, there have been renewing within.

On one occasion, a subordinate filed a power harassment complaint against her boss (my subordinate) and me in court under false pretenses. She had a mental illness, so her supervisor took special care to deal with her. We were all very confused by her complaint. I was shocked to think, "Why should I, a person who loves the Lord, have to go through such a terrible thing?" I was so shocked. The company assigned us a lawyer specializing in labor issues from a major law firm. On the day of the trial, we had to answer the judge's questions for one hour.

My direct supervisor was too nervous to give an answer, so I did almost 100% of the talking. I asked the three main sisters in the church to pray for us during this afternoon hour. In the end, the judge ruled that we were 100% in the right (such rulings are rare in corporate harassment cases). The experienced lawyer who assisted us said, "Your response was 100% perfect. In all my years of handling corporate labor cases, I have never seen anyone respond as perfectly as you did". Later, the employee confessed to the company that she had lied about the entire complaint. Through this, I realized that the Lord had a wonderful hand on myself, the lawyer, and the judges.

What I was praying for myself was to be free from anger and to calmly defend myself on the basis of facts. And through the prayers of the sisters, there was a supply from the Body of Christ. With the support of the Body, the Lord was at work and we were able to experience this special portion of Christ. Praise the Lord! Whenever I said in my heart, "I can't pray about this," I failed (nothing is impossible for the Lord). I think the important thing is to be completely open and trusting the Lord and the church. **Prayer:** "Oh Lord Jesus, Job's basic problem was that he lacked God. Likewise, my basic problem is that I lack God. When I have hardships in my business life, I have learned that God's purpose for me is for me to get out of the realm of the knowledge of good and evil more, to enjoy, acquire, express, and represent God more. Let me be subject to God's arrangement, and in the midst of hardship, let me turn my fears and murmurs into prayers, and use them as opportunities to win God. Amen!"

CP3: We can be renewed in the spirit of our mind and controlled by being reconstituted by the holy word of God

OL1: The move of the Triune God to deify man for the fulfillment of His economy to have His corporate expression is altogether in the mingled spirit, the divine Spirit mingled as one with our human spirit. Gal. 3:14 In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

We must treasure the two spirits in Galatians—the divine Spirit as the aggregate of the divine blessing to us and the human spirit as the receiver, the container, the keeper, of the divine Spirit. Thus, we need to take care of our spirit, doing everything by exercising our spirit. Then we will experience the divine Spirit living in us, making His home in us, and transforming us. Acting hastily is the living of a descendant of Adam. Those who live in that way are quick to speak, to act, and to deal with others. We must remember that, as Christians, we are not the only ones moving. On the contrary, we are moving in another One's moving, and another One is moving in our moving. This kind of life is a constituent of the church. This kind of life keeps the Body of Christ in a living condition.

OL2: In God's appearing to him, Job saw God, gaining God in his personal experience and abhorring himself. Job 42:5-6 I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye has seen You; therefore I abhor myself, and I repent in dust and ashes. **OL3:** Seeing God equals gaining God. The more we see God and love God, the more we deny ourselves and hate ourselves. **OL4:** In the midst of our afflictions, we must take heed to our spirit, taking the Lord as our dwelling place, our secret of sufficiency. **OL5:** We must be renewed in the spirit of our mind by being reconstituted with the holy word of God to be instructed, governed, ruled, and controlled by God's word. We must be on fire with the Lord's love, having an emotion filled with Him as our zeal for His house. We must have our will subdued by Christ and transformed with Christ through sufferings so that it is submitted to the headship of Christ, and we must maintain a good and pure conscience by the priceless, cleansing, and purifying blood of Christ.

Application to the serving ones

Before we carry out the framework gospel, we pray read the Word, enjoy Christ, and be filled before we leave. Otherwise, the gospel will become a mere outward activity and cannot bear any remaining fruit. John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should go forth and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, FN "your fruit should remain": After we go forth to produce believers in the Lord, we need to care for them. The best way is to set up meetings in their homes to cover and protect them that they may be cared for by being nourished and taught, and may become the remaining fruit, living in the branches of the true vine, that

is, in the Body of Christ, to be Christ's increase.

Not only that, as a serving one, it's not enough to read the Holy Word of Morning Revival. In addition to reading the Recovery Version Bible (including footnotes), read 1 message daily from Collective Works of Watchman Nee, Collective Works of Witness Lee, and Life Studies (3 messages / day in Taiwan). It is for you to be reconstituted in the word of ministry, that your mind, emotion, will, and conscience may be made right, that your heart may be good earth, and that you may bear much fruit. Matt. 13:8 But others fell on the good earth and yielded fruit, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold. FN "good earth": The good earth signifies the good heart that is not hardened by worldly traffic, that is without hidden sins, and that is without the anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches. Such a heart gives every inch of its ground to receive the word that the word may grow, bear fruit, and produce even a hundredfold.

A Brother's Testimony: As I read the Bible and the Life Study, I prayed the following when I could not understand some parts well, "Lord Jesus, I didn't study much when I was a student, so my mind is not trained well and my comprehension is weak. Have mercy on me. I set my mind on the spirit, relying on your Spirit of wisdom and revelation. Give me understanding." After praying this way, I read it again. When I still couldn't figure it out, I was discouraged by my incompetence, but I prayed the same way after confessing my sins again by faith. In this way, I came to understand little by little. Reading the Bible and the ministry books with the spirit of prayer has uplifted my reading comprehension and enabled me to read out the Crucial points (CP). As a result, even in the company's works, I was able to simplify one project, which had hundreds of items that were complicated and almost a maze, take out CP1, 2, and 3, and persuade the US headquarters to bring the investment to Japan. I can testify that through the trainings in the church life, what I thought were my shortcomings became my strengths, and also became strength even in the business field.

Furthermore, by reading ministry books, I understood God's will and prayed His will. I realized that if I wanted to pray for His will, I had to first crucify my own desires and make Christ my person. Praying for God's will while having your own desires will result in a formal prayer. In the past, I used to pray for my own benefit and according to my own desires, so the Lord and I were separate. However, after reading the messages of the ministry, when I forgot myself and prayed the Lord's will, and when I honestly opened up the contradiction between myself and the Lord, I felt a peace that surpasses every man's understanding.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, I establish the habit of reading the Bible and the ministry books. I open to the Word of God, which is the Person, and let Him dwell in me richly. Let me learn to pray according to God's will, not according to my own desires."