

Subject: *The Best Is Yet to Come*

Scripture: *Job 42:1-6*

A little boy went to the pet store to buy a dog. He saw just the one he wanted, a little puppy in a cage that kept on wagging its little tail. He said, "I want that one with the happy ending." We all love a story with a happy ending. We say, "All's well that ends well." Job is a tragic story with a happy ending. The fact is that the life story of every believer has a happy ending. For God's people the best is yet to come. God loves to write the last chapter of our lives and the last chapter is always the best.

REPENTANCE (vs. 1-6)

One dominant theme in the Book of Job is the problem of human suffering. Job suffered greatly, and he got no relief from his suffering. He got no respect from his friends and family. Worst of all, he got no response from God. There is another great problem in this book. It is the problem of human pride.

Job resented the fact that he suffered greatly and didn't know why. He felt that God was unfair and the punishment didn't fit the crime. Job became frustrated, impatient, and even bitter. Then God showed up. Job was ready to ask questions and get some answers, but instead God asked the questions, and Job didn't have the answers. In the process Job learned life's greatest lesson and that is to let God be God.

- Job accepted God's sovereignty – Now Job understood God's power and wisdom. He got a new vision of God's greatness and his own smallness. Job said, "I have heard of Thee, but now I see." We see God best when there is no way to look but up.
- Job admitted his sin – In 40:3-5, Job didn't say a word. Now he makes a confession. He knew he was wrong to challenge God, and the only thing to do was humble himself and admit he was wrong. "I abhor myself" (vs. 6) means "I despise myself." When you repent you despise yourself and your sin. D. L. Moody said, "My life has been an obstacle course with D. L. Moody as the main obstacle." Job's problem was not adultery, lying, or stealing. Job's problem was Job. He was full of self and full of pride.

As the story unfolds it becomes evident that Satan was wrong, Job's friends were wrong, and Job was wrong. When Job realized he was wrong, he did the right thing; he repented. The word "repent" basically means to change your mind, but it involves more than that. When a person repents he changes his mind, his attitude, and his ways. True repentance involves a change of mind, emotion, and will. We turn from our way of thinking and acting to God's way because we realize we are wrong and He is right.

If Job, the most righteous man of his day, had to repent, where does that leave the rest of us? When the Lord finally came to Job and spoke to him, none of his circumstances changed. But Job changed, and that is the most important thing.

RECONCILIATION (vs. 7-9)

- God was angry at Job's friends – God heard everything that was said and was displeased with what He heard. They had not spoken the truth. God sees and hears everything.
- God accepted Job's friends – Four times in verses 7-8, God calls Job "my servant." God told them what to do. They all humbled themselves and did what God said. Do you see a pattern here? Job is humbled. The friends are humbled. Job offered prayers and a

sacrifice for his friends. This is a picture how all of us are forgiven and reconciled through the blood sacrifice of Christ and His intercession for us.

Job never stopped trusting God or serving God. Suffering brings new opportunities to serve God. Job served God before his suffering, through his suffering, and after his suffering: 1) At the beginning of his troubles Job shut the devil's mouth, although he didn't know it. Sometimes we are doing service for God and we don't even know it. 2) After suffering a while Job served as a priest to offer sacrifice for his friends.

RESTORATION (vs. 10-17)

The turning point came when Job prayed for his friends. God "turned the captivity" which means He restored the things that had been captured or taken from Job. NIV says, "He restored Job's losses." The three friends had said some ugly things about Job, but he forgave them and prayed for them. Bitter things in life don't have to make you bitter. ***Ephesians 4:31-32*** ³¹ *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:* ³² *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

- God restored Job's fortune – God gave Job double what he had before.
- God restored Job's family – God gave Job ten more children. The other 10 children had died, but he still had them in heaven. As far as we know he still had the same wife. God wanted to keep Job humble. Job's daughters represent his blessings: Jemimah means "daylight." Keziah means "sweet smelling." Keren-Happuch describes a beautiful color.
- God restored Job's future – Job lived another 140 years before he died. ***James 5:11*** *Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*

God doesn't guarantee this kind of happy ending to all of His children in this life, but He does promise to reward those who are faithful to Him in the life to come. God will eventually replace suffering with blessing. Job's suffering was replaced with earthly blessing, but our suffering will be replaced with heavenly blessing.

- ***Romans 8:18*** *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*
(present suffering – future glory)
- ***2 Corinthians 4:17*** *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.*
(momentary trouble – eternal glory)

The last chapter of our story has already been written. The title of the last chapter is "Glory." What can we take away from the Book of Job? No matter what happens to us in life we can look forward to what lies ahead in eternity. If we do the same thing Job did: realize God's sovereignty and repent of our sin, then we can rest assured the best is yet to come.

It Will Be Worth It All

It will be worth it all when we see Jesus!
Life's trials will seem so small when we see Christ.
One look at His dear face all sorrow will erase.
So, bravely run the race till we see Christ.