

### **Devotional Questions – Job 42:1-17**

1. *What conclusion did Job reach regarding God (Job 42:2)? What error did he confess (Job 42:3)?*
2. *Did Job repent for having claimed he was not suffering as punishment for his sins? For what did he repent (Job 42:6)?*
3. *Describe God's rebuke of Job's three friends. What were they required to do (Job 42:7-9)?*
4. *What conclusion should we reach regarding the friends' view of suffering and their view of Job's sins?*
5. *Can we be guilty of the sin of Job's friends (Job 42:7-8)? If so how?*
6. *When were the blessings of God given to Job in the end (Job 42:10)?*
7. *Should all believers expect the same 'reward' as Job (Job 42:10-17)?*
8. *What lessons from the Book of Job did God teach Job?*
9. *What lessons from the Book of Job are useful for our lives today?*

## Devotional Questions – Job 42:1-17, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Job* pp 616-633 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 729, 771-772, 1096 for detailed comment.

1. What conclusion did Job reach regarding God (Job 42:2)? What error did he confess (Job 42:3)?

Job 42:2-3 state ***"I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not."***

God is omnipotent i.e. all-powerful and omniscient i.e. all-knowing as the scriptures testify. Note that King David comes to the same conclusion as Job about what God knows and does.

***"O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it"***  
Psalm 139:1-6. As God Himself testifies:

***"Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?"*** Jeremiah 32:27.

Job's error was speaking in ignorance in that he did not understand then that God was using him to typify the lost man in hell and in turn the devil in his final end.

See [www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/) Job 38-39 – Summary Thoughts p 22 and this extract.

- Job's typology is *Lucifer's end state*. Note the following scripture comparisons ***"comparing spiritual things with spiritual"*** 1 Corinthians 2:13.

***"For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment"*** Job 9:32

***"I have said to corruption, Thou art my father: to the worm, Thou art my mother, and my sister. And where is now my hope? as for my hope, who shall see it? They shall go down to the bars of the pit, when our rest together is in the dust"*** Job 17:14-16 "They" being "corruption" and "the worm" with Job as he then perceived his own end.

***"My bowels boiled, and rested not: the days of affliction prevented me...My skin is black upon me, and my bones are burned with heat. My harp also is turned to mourning, and my organ into the voice of them that weep"*** Job 30:27, 30-31.

***"Behold, the hope of him is in vain: shall not one be cast down even at the sight of him?"***  
Job 41:9.

***"Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!...thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms"***  
Isaiah 14:9-12, 15-16.

***"...for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched"*** Isaiah 66:24.

**“Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched”** Mark 9:44, 46, 48.

Job as the type of the lost man in hell typifies Lucifer in his end state with respect to:

- ◆ **“...a man, as I am”** Job 9:32 with **“Is this the man”** Isaiah 14:16 with application to **“that man of sin...the son of perdition”** 2 Thessalonians 2:3
- ◆ **“the worm...the pit...the dust”** Job 17:14, 16 with **“the worm...the worms...the ground...the sides of the pit”** Isaiah 14:11, 12, 15
- ◆ **“And where is now my hope? as for my hope, who shall see it?”** Job 17:15 with **“Behold, the hope of him is in vain”** Job 41:9
- ◆ **“My harp also is turned to mourning, and my organ into the voice of them that weep”** Job 30:31 with **“Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols”** Isaiah 14:11

In sum, Job as the type of the lost man in hell typifies Lucifer in his end state with respect to a lost man, the worm, the pit, the dust, loss of hope i.e. no **“blessed hope”** Titus 2:13 and funeral dirge with stringed instruments. That is seven particulars.

It follows that the individual to whom God says **“Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me”** Job 38:2-3 through Job is Lucifer i.e. Satan.

Even for today’s believer these are **“things too wonderful for me, which I knew not”** until the scripture reveals them as God promises through Jeremiah. **“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not”** Jeremiah 33:3.

2. Did Job repent for having claimed he was not suffering as punishment for his sins? For what did he repent (Job 42:6)?

Job repented for what he was on seeing God.

**“Then Job answered the LORD, and said, Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth”** Job 40:3-4.

**“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes”** Job 42:5-6.

Peter had a similar reaction about himself on seeing Who the Lord Jesus Christ really is. **“When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord”** Luke 5:8. A wholly negative attitude to self or **“the old man”** is essential for today’s believer as Paul exhorts. **“If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness”** Ephesians 4:21-24.

3. Describe God’s rebuke of Job’s three friends. What were they required to do (Job 42:7-9)?

See Question 2 and Job’s confession, Job 40:3-4, 42:5-6 and contexts, which was right. Job’s three friends made no such confession. Therefore God said to them and tasked them: **“And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept; lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job. So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the LORD commanded them: the LORD also accepted Job”** Job 42:7-9.

The bullocks and the rams as burnt offerings are significant as revealed later in the Levitical laws.

**“Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering...And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house...And the bullock for the sin offering, and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall one carry forth without the camp; and they shall burn in the fire their skins, and their flesh, and their dung”** Leviticus 16:3, 6, 27 and context.

Leviticus 16:3, 6, 27 and context show that the burnt offerings of bullocks and rams was the manner under the Levitical law by which a *prominent* figure i.e. Aaron could be made at-one-ment with God along with his household.

That was also the manner, evidently, that centuries before, God chose for equivalent men of distinction and venerability of whom Eliphaz said to Job **“With us are both the grayheaded and very aged men, much elder than thy father”** Job 15:10 as necessary for them to be at-one-ment with Him together with their households.

The manner by which Job was made at-one-ment with God was, however, *distinctly different* and that is significant for today’s believer.

**“The LORD also accepted Job”** Job 42:9 can be taken as the Lord accepting Job’s prayer for his friends according to Job 42:8 **and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept”** but that is not the main sense of the statement. The main sense of the statement **“The LORD also accepted Job”** is that as the Lord accepted Job’s friends on the basis of the sacrifice they made in obedience to God’s command *according to “the old testament”* 2 Corinthians 3:14 and Job’s intercession, so the Lord *also* accepted Job *but on the basis of his confession only*. Job had never made *any* sacrifice for himself, Job 1:5, and did not make one with his three friends *but the Lord accepted him nevertheless in type according to “the new testament”* 2 Corinthians 3:6.

**“Then Job answered the LORD, and said, Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth”** Job 40:3-4.

**“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes”** Job 42:5-6.

The lesson for today’s believer is that *God accepts him on the basis of confession via heart belief without a sacrifice on his part because the sacrifice has already been made for him*. God’s acceptance of Job pictures God’s acceptance of today’s believer according to **“the new testament”** 2 Corinthians 3:6.

**“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”** Romans 10:9-10.

**“...but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself...So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation”** Hebrews 9:26, 28.

It is noteworthy that the number sequence embedded in the statements **“thee...thy two friends...seven bullocks and seven rams”** Job 42:7-8 can be thought of as 3 men and 14 beasts giving the number 42 when multiplied together, corresponding to the 42 chapters of the Book of Job and the 42 months of the beast’s rule when tribulation saints are *themselves* made into sacrifices for their testimony.

**“And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months...And I saw thrones, and they sat upon**

**them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years**” Revelation 13:5, 20:4.

4. *What conclusion should we reach regarding the friends’ view of suffering and their view of Job’s sins?*

The main conclusion is that they had the right view of their *own* sins in obedience to God’s command. Today’s believer should have a right view of *his* and keep short accounts with God.

**“So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the LORD commanded them: the LORD also accepted Job”** Job 42:9.

**“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy”** Proverbs 28:13.

5. *Can we be guilty of the sin of Job’s friends (Job 42:7-8)? If so how?*

Yes. See *Questions 3, 4* and *Proverbs 28:13*. The problem comes with trying to justify sin instead of being open with God about it. This includes spiritual pride which manifests itself as an attitude of **“for I am holier than thou”** Isaiah 65:5 e.g. with a battery of slick answers to every situation which even though correct nevertheless betray a condescending and **“an haughty spirit”** Proverbs 16:18. This is to a man who has suffered Job 1:15-19, 2:7-10:

**“I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause...Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty”** Job 5:8, 17.

Being open with God about sinful attitudes is as King David explains. **“I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer”** Psalm 66:17-19.

6. *When were the blessings of God given to Job in the end (Job 42:10)?*

Job 42:10 states **“And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.”** God blessed Job *after* He turned Job’s captivity following Job’s prayer for his friends. Note again that Job’s ordeal typifies Israel during the great tribulation of the End Times and God’s turning of Israel at the Second Advent from bondage to **“thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end”** Ezekiel 21:25 i.e. the beast to **“me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn”** Zechariah 12:10 **“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature”** Colossians 1:15.

See [www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/) *Job 1 – Summary Thoughts*. Several passages of scripture describe God turning Israel from bondage to blessing at the Second Advent. Today’s believer can echo Psalm 126:3 on the basis of Colossians 1:12-14 **“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”**

**“When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them. The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad”** Psalm 126:1-3 with Jeremiah 29:14, Zephaniah 2:7, 3:20.

7. *Should all believers expect the same 'reward' as Job (Job 42:10-17)?*

The apostle Paul explained about believers' reward. **"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting"** Galatians 6:7-8. Sowing to the flesh is **"me first"** Luke 9:59, 61 and **"wood, hay, stubble"** when **"When every man's work shall be made manifest"** 1 Corinthians 3:12-13. Sowing to the Spirit is **"gold, silver, precious stones"** with souls saved and great joy in that **"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth"** 3 John 4 **"And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels"** Malachi 3:17.

Job 42:13 **"He had also seven sons and three daughters"** should be noted as God's resurrection of Job's sons of daughters, no doubt also much to the delight of Elihu, especially with respect to Jemima, see **Job 1 – Summary Thoughts**, not God giving Job ten additional children. Note first that Job's wife does not return to him in Job 42 and nowhere is Job said to have remarried. God's resurrection of Job's sons and daughters typifies *Israel's resurrection at the Second Advent* as Ezekiel most graphically prophesies. **"Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land; then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD"** Ezekiel 37:11-14.

8. *What lessons from the Book of Job did God teach Job?*

Job himself expressed the main lesson. **"no thought can be withholden from thee"** Job 42:6. Job had earlier said **"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live"** Job 27:6. God knew that was true before Job said it as King David explains, in effect summarising Job's ordeal, God's reason for it and its aftermath in God's overarching wisdom and evident **"lovingkindness"** Psalm 17:7, 26:3, 36:7, 10, 40:10, 11, 42:8, 48:9, 51:1, 63:3, 69:16, 88:11, 89:33, 92:2, 103:4, 107:43, 119:88, 149, 159, 138:2, 143:8, Jeremiah 9:24, 16:5, 31:3, 32:18, Hosea 2:19. See Job 22:22 **"the law from his mouth"** on **"thy law"** Psalm 94:12 and **Job 40-41 – Summary Thoughts** on **"the wicked"** Psalm 94:13. Noting *Question 5* and Job 5:8, 17, Psalm 94:12 could be bestowed on Job after Job 42:9 not before.

**"The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity. Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law; That thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked. For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance. But judgment shall return unto righteousness: and all the upright in heart shall follow it"** Psalm 94:11-15 i.e. the outcome of God's evident judgement on Job was *God's perception of him as righteous* Ezekiel 14:14, 20 noting that **"the LORD also accepted Job...So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning"** Job 42:9, 12. **"All the upright in heart"** would then perceive as Job had, Job 40:3-6, 42:1-6, that **"before honour is humility"** Proverbs 15:33, 18:12.

9. *What lessons from the Book of Job are useful for our lives today?*

See *Question 8* and note further Paul's admonition that the Lord will fulfil for today's believer as indeed He did for Job with respect to 1 Corinthians 10:13. **"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it"** 1 Corinthians 10:11-13.