

Eighty-Two Good Years

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I. The good years

A. Job

- Job 1:1** There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.
- Job 1:2** And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.
- Job 1:3** His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.
- Job 1:4** And his sons went and feasted *in their* houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.
- Job 1:5** And it was so, when the days of *their* feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings *according* to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

B. My Mom

- 1:1** There was a woman in the land of New Testament Christianity, whose name *was* Faye; and that woman was one who attempted to walk uprightly, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.
- 1:2** And there were born unto her two sons and one daughter (and a still born child between the two sons).
- 1:3** Her substance also was plenty to eat, and a place to stay, and the memories of a good husband, and a family that loved her dearly, and many friends, and a church where she could have the understanding of God's salvation by sovereign grace, and the promise of God's never-failing providence, and a long list of blessings; so that this woman perhaps had the greatest blessings of all the women of the land.
- 1:4** And her sons and her daughter whom she raised went and lived *in their* own houses.
- 1:5** And it was so, when the days of *their* living in their own houses were gone about, that Faye sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered prayers *according* to the number of them all. Thus did Faye continually.

II. Examples of the lives of some of God's people

A. David—A shepherd who knew a Shepherd

- As a youth—killed a lion, a bear, a giant—respected, promoted, applauded
- Young adult—Rejected, hunted, most wanted
- Middle age—Victories, immoralities, conspiracies, tragedies
- Old age—Weak, weary, dying—Seven chapters of an old man's unselfish service

B. Moses

- Forty years “to enjoy the pleasure of sin for a season”
- Forty years to experience the asylum of “the backside of the desert”
- Forty years “to suffer affliction with the people of God”

C. Naomi

- The security of a husband and two sons—the loss of that husband and two sons
- The providence of a loyal daughter in law—“Entreat me not to leave thee”
- “Call me not Naomi, call me Mara” (bitterness)
- “I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty”
- “There is a son born to Naomi...he *is* the father of Jesse, the father of David”

III. Back to Job

A. Job lost all “things”

- Job 1:14** ...The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them:
- Job 1:15** And the Sabeans fell *upon them*, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.
- Job 1:16** While he *was* yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

Job 1:17 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

B. Job lost all his children

Job 1:18 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

Job 1:19 And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

Job 1:20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

Job 1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Job 1:22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

C. Job lost his health

Job 2:7 So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

Job 2:8 And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.

D. Job lost the help of his helpers

Job 2:9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.

Job 19:17 My breath is strange to my wife, though I intreated for the children's sake of mine own body

E. The loss of dear friends

Job 2:11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.

Job 2:12 And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven.

Job 2:13 So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great.

F. The loss of all sense of personal worth

Job 10:18 Wherefore then hast thou brought me forth out of the womb? Oh that I had given up the ghost, and no eye had seen me!

Job 10:19 I should have been as though I had not been; I should have been carried from the womb to the grave.

G. The loss of hope for now and eternity

Job 14:7 For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again...

Job 14:10 But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?

Job 14:12 So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

H. The questioning of whether righteousness even matters

Job 9:22 This is one thing, therefore I said it, He destroyeth the perfect and the wicked.

Job 9:29 If I be wicked, why then labour I in vain?

Job 9:30 If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean;

Job 9:31 Yet shalt thou plunge me in the ditch, and mine own clothes shall abhor me.

I. The questioning of God's righteousness

Job 23:3 Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat!

Job 23:4 I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.

J. The questioning of God's love

Job 19:11 He hath also kindled his wrath against me, and he counteth me unto him as one of his enemies.

K. The wish to die

Job 6:8 Oh that I might have my request; and that God would grant me the thing that I long for!

Job 6:9 Even that it would please God to destroy me; that he would let loose his hand, and cut me off!

L. The wish for answers

Job 23:8 Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:

Job 23:9 On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him:

M. The wish for a "daysman"

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

Job 9:33 Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, *that* might lay his hand upon us both.

N. The desperation of a struggling faith

Job 13:15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him...

O. The glimpses of hope

Job 19:25 For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth:

Job 19:26 And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Job 19:27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another...

P. The forever lack of an answer to the question: “Why?”

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

Job 38:2 Who *is* this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?

Job 38:3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

Job 38:4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

IV. The back of the Book

A. The message of the Old Testament

Heb 12:20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:

Heb 12:21 And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

Lev 16:2 And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy *place* within the vail before the mercy seat, which *is* upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

Rom 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

B. The love of God—the plan of God

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Rom 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

C. The joy for today

1Pe 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

1Pe 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1Pe 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Jas 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

Jas 1:3 Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

Jas 1:4 But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Php 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice.

Php 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand.

Php 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Php 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

D. The hope for tomorrow

Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

2Ti 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

2Ti 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

