

# Personal Redemption

## GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR PERSONAL REDEMPTION

Focal Verses • JOB 42:1-10

### Aim for Change

By the end of this lesson, we will: **EXPLORE** the conclusion of Job and God's conversation; **AFFIRM** that God will answer our questions in ways best for us; and **BECOME** involved in an active and hopeful prayer life.

### In Focus

Lottie remembered when she and her husband bought a home in 1980. It was the dream home that they had prayed for. They had saved enough for a down payment and knew the time was right. They saw their children grow up there and planned to be there for life. This all changed after her husband experienced a stroke, and they refinanced their home. The mounting medical bills worried her husband, who did not want Lottie to be left paying medical expenses if he passed away. After his death, she learned that the refinanced mortgage loan was not a fixed-rate mortgage but an adjustable-rate mortgage.

Soon Lottie's mortgage payments went from \$1000 a month to \$1700 a month. Lottie, who lived on a fixed income, was in danger of losing her home. She sought the help of an attorney. They soon discovered that she had been the victim of a now bankrupt company that offered subprime loans to minorities. Lottie didn't know how it would turn out but hoped God's goodness would personally redeem her home. Sometime later, a mortgage assistance program reduced her mortgage and gave her financial assistance as well.

*In today's lesson, we will look at how Job's hope in the Lord was rewarded. When was the last time you hoped in God's goodness and personally saw his redemption in your life?*



### Keep in Mind

"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" (Job 42:10, KJV).

## Focal Verses

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**KJV** Job 42:1 Then Job answered the LORD, and said,

2 I know that thou canst do every thing and that no thought can be withholden from thee.

3 Who is he that hidest counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

4 Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

7 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.

8 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.

9 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.

10 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.

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### The People, Places, and Times

**Dust and Ashes.** To sit or to lie in dust and ashes was often a sign of repentance and humiliation in the ancient Near East. Dust represented man's frailty, and to lie in dust was to recognize the frailty of one's humanity in committing a wrong or experiencing grief due to the loss of a loved one, famine, or other calamity. Ashes symbolized worthlessness; to throw ashes on one's head was to humble oneself and acknowledge one's worthlessness in the sight of God. These gestures were not mandated by God but originated in the culture of the time.

**Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar.** Job's friends mourned with him for seven days after he suffered great loss. They then encouraged Job to confess his sin of pride, as they believed that it was the reason for his suffering. Eliphaz appealed to personal experience, Bildad pointed to universal wisdom, and Zophar declared what he felt was common sense.

They all agreed that Job's problems were his own doing and that questioning God simply made matters worse.

### Background

After Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar finished speaking to Job concerning his suffering, a young man named Elihu spoke. Elihu rebuked the three friends for being unable to give Job a reasonable answer for why he was suffering. However, Elihu was only able to give a partial answer to Job's question by saying that people cannot understand all that God allows but must trust Him. This was the best answer that a human could give, yet it was incomplete because Elihu did not have all of the facts.

Finally, the Lord spoke! Instead of answering Job's question directly, God asked Job a series of questions that no human could possibly answer. God showed that He is eternal, holy, and incomprehensible!

## At-A-Glance

1. Job's Response to the Lord (Job 42:1–6)
2. The Lord Responds to Job's Friends (vv. 7–9)
3. The Lord Reverses Job's Situation (v. 10)

### In Depth

#### 1. Job's Response to the Lord (Job 42:1–6)

Job understood his humanity in a new way. He had an encounter with God that caused him to re-evaluate his perspective. Job repented of complaining, as he finally understood that God is sovereign. His spiritual eyes were opened, and he humbled himself in dust and ashes.

Job was now conscious of the fact that he did not speak in the right way concerning God. His speech only served to hide God's true purposes rather than reveal them. He sought to understand God and his ways, but fell short. His repentance was an acknowledgment that God is in control and that He alone knows what is best for His creation.

#### 2. The Lord Responds to Job's Friends (vv. 7–9)

The Lord was angry with Job's friends. They were deserving of His wrath. He demanded a sacrifice from Job's friends as a payment for defaming the name of the Almighty: seven bulls and seven rams. Job presented this offering, which represented a sin offering, and he prayed for his friends. Only then would the Lord forgive Job's friends and not treat them as their sins deserve.

The Lord calls Job's friends to account for their bad advice and counsel. They spoke for God when they too did not understand God. In fact, God says they did not speak about Him correctly. They accused Job and did not have the right to do so. As a result, their sins must be

atoned for and they must rely on the prayers of the one whom they sought to accuse.

#### 3. The Lord Reverses Job's Situation (v. 10)

Job prayed for his friends, and the Lord accepted His prayer. Job is accepted because he had already repented of his arrogance and pride. God reversed Job's situation and brought him out of "captivity." The text then reported that the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. This is all detailed in the rest of the chapter (vv. 11–17). All this happened as a result of Job's prayer for his friends.

Throughout the story of Job, we see him questioning God and His goodness. Now we see God giving Job even more than what he had before. The Lord knew the whole story while Job only knew a piece of it. Amid the wrestling, Job came to have his spiritual eyes opened—not after he was blessed, but during the time of his trial. When Job first experienced his troubles, he had no idea that the Lord would restore him. When he began to pray for his friends, he had no idea that God was about to bless him with twice as much as he had before.

### Search the Scriptures

1. How was Job able to see God when God did not make a physical appearance (Job 42:5)?
2. Why was the Lord's wrath kindled against Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar (v. 7)?

### Discuss the Meaning

1. In what ways do we speak for God without truly understanding Him?
2. How can we maintain our hope even when we do not see God's purpose in our trials?

### Liberating Lesson

There are many people in our society who are experiencing the trials of life. Because of this, their hope grows thin and they resort to relieving the pain they feel through addictive

and destructive behaviors. Even as believers, we often question God's ways and whether He is good to us. This lesson shows us that the Lord can sustain us in our hope when we maintain intimate communication with Him. When our hope fades, He can strengthen us until His purpose is finally revealed.

### **Application for Activation**

Evaluate the circumstances in your life and pray that the Lord would open your spiritual eyes to see what He is doing. But do not stop there! Pray that the Lord would show you how to respond to your family and friends who are going through circumstances that are beyond their control. Offer wisdom, prayer, and silence. We as humans cannot know what God is doing in someone's life unless we seek God for our friend in need. Only speak when your friend is in danger or when the Lord shows you, then remain silent and let the Lord reveal an answer.

### **Follow the Spirit**

What God wants me to do:

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### **Remember Your Thoughts**

Special insights I have learned:

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**Sources:**

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### Say It Correctly

Eliphaz. el-ee-FAHZ.  
Bildad. bill-DAD.  
Zophar. zoh-FAR.  
Jemima. dzeh-mee-MAH.  
Kezia. keh-zee-AH.  
Kerenhappuch. KEHR-ehn-HAP-ouk.

### Daily Bible Readings

**DAY 78**

Judges 16-18  
Psalm 35:7-10

**DAY 79**

Judges 19-21  
Psalm 35:11-16

**DAY 80**

Ruth  
Psalm 35:17-21

**DAY 81**

1 Samuel 1-3  
Psalm 35:22-28

**DAY 82**

1 Samuel 4-8  
Psalm 36:1-4

**DAY 83**

1 Samuel 9-12  
Psalm 36:7-12

**DAY 84**

1 Samuel 13-14  
Psalm 37:1-4

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