

ENGAGING GOSPEL DOCTRINE 109.2

Lesson 32 (Study Notes): “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth”

Class Member Reading: Job 1; 2; 13; 19; 23:10; 27; 42; James 5:11; 3 Nephi 15:9

Job 1-2

1 There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. ²There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. ³He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred donkeys, and very many servants; so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. (The very large even numbers and absolutes should tip us off that we are reading a legend)

⁴His sons used to go and hold feasts in one another's houses in turn; and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵And when the feast days had run their course, Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, “It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.” This is what Job always did.

⁶One day the heavenly beings (Divine Council) came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ⁷The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the LORD, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” ⁸The LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil.” ⁹Then Satan answered the LORD, “Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰Have you not put a fence around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹But stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.” ¹²The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, all that he has is in your power; only do not stretch out your hand against him!” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. It is worth asking ourselves and those in our classes and conversations whether anyone else finds this bet scenario between God

and Satan strange.

¹³One day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the eldest brother's house, ¹⁴a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were feeding beside them, ¹⁵and the Sabeans fell on them and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁶While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The fire of God (!) fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁷While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three columns, made a raid on the camels and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁸While he was still speaking, another came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house, ¹⁹and suddenly a great wind came across the desert, struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; I alone have escaped to tell you."

²⁰Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshiped. ²¹He said, "**Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.**" ²²**In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong-doing.**

2One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. ²The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." ³The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still **persists in his integrity**, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." ⁴Then Satan answered the LORD, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. ⁵But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." ⁶The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life."

⁷So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. ⁹Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? **Curse God, and die.**" ¹⁰But he said to her, "You

speak as any foolish woman would speak. **Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?**” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

¹¹Now when Job’s three friends heard of all these troubles that had come upon him, each of them set out from his home—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They met together to go and console and comfort him. ¹²When they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him, and they raised their voices and wept aloud; they tore their robes and threw dust in the air upon their heads. ¹³**They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.** (This very well may be one of the most important verses in all of Job)

job 13 (Job is replying to his “friend” Zophar)

13“Look, my eye has seen all this, my ear has heard and understood it. ²What you know, I also know; I am not inferior to you. ³**But I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to argue my case with God** (Key theme of the book: Job basically takes God to court—he doesn’t get the answer to the question why, but he does gain a personal relationship with God). ⁴As for you, you whitewash with lies; all of you are worthless physicians. ⁵If you would only **keep silent, that would be your wisdom!** ⁶Hear now my reasoning, and listen to the pleadings of my lips. ⁷Will you speak falsely for God, and speak deceitfully for him? ⁸Will you show partiality toward him, will you plead the case for God? ⁹Will it be well with you when he searches you out? Or can you deceive him, as one person deceives another? ¹⁰He will surely rebuke you if in secret you show partiality. ¹¹Will not his majesty terrify you, and the dread of him fall upon you? ¹²Your maxims are proverbs of ashes, your defenses are defenses of clay.

¹³“Let me have silence, and I will speak, and let come on me what may. ¹⁴I will take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in my hand. ¹⁵See, he will kill me; I have no hope; but **I will defend my ways to his face.**(**Bold prayers**) ¹⁶This will be my salvation, that the godless shall not come before him. ¹⁷Listen carefully to my words, and let my declaration be in your ears. ¹⁸**I have indeed prepared my case; I know that I shall be vindicated.** ¹⁹Who is there that will contend with me? For then I would be silent and die. ²⁰Only grant two things to me, then I will not hide myself from your face: ²¹withdraw your hand far from me, and do not let dread of you terrify me. ²²Then call, and I will answer; or let me speak, and you reply to me.

²³How many are my iniquities and my sins? Make me know my transgression and my sin. ²⁴Why do you hide your face, and count me as your enemy? ²⁵Will you frighten a windblown leaf and pursue dry chaff? ²⁶For you write bitter things against me, and make me reap the iniquities of my youth. ²⁷You put my feet in the stocks, and watch all my paths; you set a bound to the soles of my feet. ²⁸One wastes away like a rotten thing, like a garment that is moth-eaten.

job 19

19 Then Job answered: ²“How long will you torment me, and break me in pieces with words? ³These ten times you have cast reproach upon me; are you not ashamed to wrong me? ⁴And even if it is true that I have erred, my error remains with me. ⁵If indeed you magnify yourselves against me, and make my humiliation an argument against me, ⁶know then that God has put me in the wrong, and closed his net around me. ⁷Even when I cry out, ‘Violence!’ I am not answered; I call aloud, but there is no justice.

⁸He has walled up my way so that I cannot pass, and he has set darkness upon my paths. ⁹He has stripped my glory from me, and taken the crown from my head. ¹⁰He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone, he has uprooted my hope like a tree. ¹¹He has kindled his wrath against me, and counts me as his adversary. (Again bold words, honest expression of his grief) ¹²His troops come on together; they have thrown up siegeworks against me, and encamp around my tent. ¹³“He has put my family far from me, and my acquaintances are wholly estranged from me. ¹⁴My relatives and my close friends have failed me; ¹⁵the guests in my house have forgotten me; my serving girls count me as a stranger; I have become an alien in their eyes. ¹⁶I call to my servant, but he gives me no answer; I must myself plead with him. ¹⁷My breath is repulsive to my wife; I am loathsome to my own family. (this is a “literary seam” demonstrating the independence of the poetic and prose sections, because according to chapter 1 all of Job’s servants are dead!) ¹⁸Even young children despise me; when I rise, they talk against me. ¹⁹All my intimate friends abhor me, and those whom I loved have turned against me. ²⁰My bones cling to my skin and to my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth. ²¹Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! ²²Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh?

²³“O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! ²⁴O

that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! ²⁵ **For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;** Holy plot twist! Not only does "I know my Redeemer lives" in Job 19:25 not mean God, it refers to Job's "avenging kinsman" (the member of the family responsible for setting right wrongs), who will GO AND BEAT UP GOD for what God has done to Job. "The word for *Vindicator* is "go'el," "redeemer," the legal term for the person in the family responsible for avenging the murder of other members (Num. 35:19; Deut. 19:6). While the term "go'el" is sometimes applied to God, who is the "redeemer" of Israel, Job is not speaking about God but rather about a future kinsman who will vindicate him, who will take revenge on God for what God has done to Job" (Jewish Study Bible, 1529). ²⁶ **and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God,** (Jewish Study Bible puts the clause into the conditional "But I would behold God while still in my flesh") Though most translations give the sense of "in my flesh I shall see God", the Oxford Study Bible notes that the word translated "in" can also mean "without"!! (Explain the Hebrew) ²⁷ whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me! ²⁸ If you say, 'How we will persecute him!' and, 'The root of the matter is found in him'; ²⁹ be afraid of the sword, for wrath brings the punishment of the sword, so that you may know there is a judgment."

job 23:10

But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, **I shall come out like gold.**

job 27

27 Job again took up his discourse and said: ² "As God lives, who has taken away my right, and the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter, ³ as long as my breath is in me and the spirit of God is in my nostrils, ⁴ my lips will not speak falsehood, and my tongue will not utter deceit. ⁵ Far be it from me to say that you are right; until I die I will not put away my integrity from me. ⁶ I hold fast my righteousness, and will not let it go; my heart does not reproach me for any of my days.

⁷ "May my enemy be like the wicked, and may my opponent be like the unrighteous. ⁸ For what is the hope of the godless when God cuts them off, when God takes away their lives? ⁹ Will God hear their cry when trouble comes upon

them? ¹⁰Will they take delight in the Almighty? Will they call upon God at all times?

¹¹I will teach you concerning the hand of God; that which is with the Almighty I will not conceal. ¹²All of you have seen it yourselves; why then have you become altogether vain? ¹³“This is the portion of the wicked with God, and the heritage that oppressors receive from the Almighty: ¹⁴If their children are multiplied, it is for the sword; and their offspring have not enough to eat. ¹⁵Those who survive them the pestilence buries, and their widows make no lamentation. ¹⁶Though they heap up silver like dust, and pile up clothing like clay— ¹⁷they may pile it up, but the just will wear it, and the innocent will divide the silver. ¹⁸They build their houses like nests, like booths made by sentinels of the vineyard. ¹⁹They go to bed with wealth, but will do so no more; they open their eyes, and it is gone. ²⁰Terrors overtake them like a flood; in the night a whirlwind carries them off. ²¹The east wind lifts them up and they are gone; it sweeps them out of their place. ²²It hurls at them without pity; they flee from its power in headlong flight. ²³It claps its hands at them, and hisses at them from its place.

job 42

42 Then Job answered the LORD: ²“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.’ ⁵I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

⁷After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: “My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends; for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. ⁸Now therefore take seven bulls 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 I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly; for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has done.” ⁹So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did what the LORD had told them; and the LORD accepted Job’s prayer.

¹⁰And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and

the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.¹¹ Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring.¹² The LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys.¹³ He also had seven sons and three daughters.¹⁴ He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch.¹⁵ In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers.¹⁶ After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations.¹⁷ And Job died, old and full of days.

james 5:11

Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

3 Nephi 15:9

9 Behold, I am the law, and the light. Look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live; for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life.

I would add Helaman 3:34-35

34 And they were lifted up in pride, even to the persecution of many of their brethren. Now this was a great evil, which did cause the more humble part of the people to suffer great persecutions, and to wade through much affliction.

35 Nevertheless they did fast and pray oft, and did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ, unto the filling their souls with joy and consolation, yea, even to the purifying and the sanctification of their hearts, which sanctification cometh because of their yielding their hearts unto God.

Additional Reading: D&C 121:1-10 (I am surprised Job 38 wasn't assigned...)

1 O God, where art thou? And where is the pavilion that covereth thy hiding place?

2 How long shall thy hand be stayed, and thine eye, yea thy pure eye, behold from the eternal heavens the wrongs of thy people and of thy servants, and thine ear be penetrated with their cries?

3 Yea, O Lord, how long shall they suffer these wrongs and unlawful oppressions, before thine heart shall be softened toward them, and thy bowels be moved with compassion toward them?

4 O Lord God Almighty, maker of heaven, earth, and seas, and of all things that in them are, and who controllest and subjectest the devil, and the dark and benighted dominion of Sheol—stretch forth thy hand; let thine eye pierce; let thy pavilion be taken up; let thy hiding place no longer be covered; let thine ear be inclined; let thine heart be softened, and thy bowels moved with compassion toward us.

5 Let thine anger be kindled against our enemies; and, in the fury of thine heart, with thy sword avenge us of our wrongs.

6 Remember thy suffering saints, O our God; and thy servants will rejoice in thy name forever.

7 My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment;

8 And then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high; thou shalt triumph over all thy foes.

9 Thy friends do stand by thee, and they shall hail thee again with warm hearts and friendly hands.

10 Thou art not yet as Job; thy friends do not contend against thee, neither charge thee with transgression, as they did Job.

Other Reading: Look through the rest of Job (38 and 41 are especially important)