

The Book of Job
Part 5
The Eternal Perspective

Job 42:10–17 (NKJV)

¹⁰And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

¹¹Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the LORD had brought upon him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and each a ring of gold.

¹²Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys.

¹³He also had seven sons and three daughters.

¹⁴And he called the name of the first Jemimah, the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-Happuch.

¹⁵In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers.

¹⁶After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations.

¹⁷So Job died, old and full of days.

- *If we fail to see the Book of Job from the eternal perspective we will have a distorted view of God and how He operates.*
- *Unless we see our lives from the eternal perspective, we will be unable to evaluate our lives from the correct perspective, which will lead to needless disappointments and perhaps even despair.*
- *If we only see the Book of Job in the light of this life it will still leave us somewhat dissatisfied with the answers it provides, because we have to face the reality of the collateral damage—the death of Job's children and his servants.*
- *Certainly, Job was blessed and restored, but what about those who died as a result of Satan's attacks and what about the ongoing sorrow that Job faced as a result of the death of his children and servants?*
- *At the end of the Book of Job we saw that the Lord blessed him with greater revelations of God's glory and ways and Job acknowledged, "I have heard of*

You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You” (Job 42:5). God also restored double everything he had lost.

- *However, the last statement found in Job 42:10, “indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before” does not seem to hold true when it comes to the loss of his seven sons and three daughters.*
- *While it is true that the Lord doubled the number of his sheep, camels, oxen, and donkeys, God only had Job’s wife bear another seven sons and three daughters in place of the seven sons and three daughters he lost in the tragic events that had taken place previously.*
- *The question about Job’s sons and daughters raises an important point if we are to fully understand the Book of Job properly.*
- *The reason God only gave Job another seven sons and three daughters was because he still had seven sons and three daughters in Heaven.*
- *So Job actually ended up with fourteen sons and six daughters.*
- *If God had given Job an addition fourteen sons and six daughters it would have meant that his original children had perished, but in fact they were very much alive, in Heaven, and waiting for Job.*
- *God only gave Job seven more sons and three more daughters. This was God’s way of showing him that his children were safe and sound in Heaven with God.*
- *Job had raised up his children to be godly children and I believe they followed his footsteps of faith and when they died they were in Heaven enjoying unbroken fellowship with God.*
- *If we only look at the story of Job from the temporal perspective we will ask, “It turned out well for Job in that God blessed him double, but what about his poor children who died?”*
- *Although Job suffered the temporary sorrow of the loss of his first set of children, he had the comfort and joy knowing that they were with the Lord in Heaven and one day he would be eternally reunited with them.*

- *However, another point that one may bring up about Job’s sons and daughters who died is that even though they are in Heaven it is a shame that they died young and didn’t live out a full life on this earth.*
- *When we think that this temporal life is better than being in Heaven it really shows that we have misconceptions and perhaps uncertainties about Heaven.*
- *As Christians, the important thing about this life is not how long we live, but how well we live.*

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

¹⁷For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

¹⁸while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

- *“Therefore we do not lose heart” – In this life we will sometimes encounter sorrow, loss, and pain, but in the midst of those experiences we are not to be discouraged knowing that this life is not our final destination.*
- *“Even though our outward man is perishing” – The reality of this life is that our bodies all age and grow weaker, frailer, and deteriorate as we grow older.*
- *“yet the inward man is being renewed day by day” –This life has a wonderful purpose, because it is meant to prepare us for eternity. Once we have received Christ we can begin to grow inwardly into the beauty and character of God.*
- *Our outward man fades in beauty and strength, but as Believers when we walk with Christ our inward man grows with a beauty and strength that will last for all eternity.*
- *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment” – When Apostle Paul wrote these words, he had already suffered much more than most of us will ever suffer in terms of persecution, beatings, imprisonments, deprivation, and poverty—and all for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*
- *Paul refers to all the sufferings of this life as light and momentary—suffering that is easy to bear and that lasts only for a moment.*

- “while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen” - *How could Paul say that all the hardships and heartbreak he experienced was light and momentary? Because he kept his eyes fixed on Heaven—on eternity.*
- *Paul was looking not at the visible, but the invisible—the spiritual.*
- “For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal” – *When we begin to realize that everything in this life is fleeting and trying to hold on to it would be as futile as trying to grasp smoke with our hands, it just floats away, we can focus our hope toward Heaven.*
- *However, the spiritual things, the things that are not seen with our natural eyes but with our eyes of faith, are eternal and are never lost.*

1 Peter 1:24 (NKJV)

²⁴because “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,

- *The beauty, strength, and riches of this life are as substantial and enduring as grass that springs up quickly and as quickly fades away.*
- *That is why Paul could say his afflictions were light and momentary. He realized the brevity of life and his eyes were fixed on the ultimate goal—Heaven.*

1 Corinthians 7:29–31 (ESV)

²⁹This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none,

³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods,

³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

- “This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short” – *The time on this earth is so fleeting and our times of joy and sorrow are but for a moment.*
- *Apostle Paul is saying that we should not get side tracked by either very joyful experiences or very sorrowful experiences, but to remember that our earthly successes and sorrows are very short lived. Our ultimate goal is not earthly success, but to please the Lord Jesus Christ in everything.*

- *As Christians, if we fail to cultivate an eternal perspective, we will live lives that are emotionally and spiritually inconsistent and unstable and which will ebb and flow with each passing circumstance.*
- *In this life we will experience times of suffering and sorrow because we live in a fallen world.*
- *Sorrow in itself is not good and does not produce anything good. It is only when we invite God into those times of sorrow that God redeems our losses, sorrows, and pain and He brings good from those things. (Romans 8:28)*
- *Many people suffer terrible things in this life. Without God, their lives are not improved by those events, and they grow more bitter, angry, fearful, and wounded.*
- *Suffering in itself does not produce anything good. It's our response to the suffering that determines the end result. If we invite God into it, He is able to produce something good.*
- *It is only when we go through those experiences with God, that He redeems them and brings forth much fruitfulness.*

Romans 8:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

- *“if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together” – The key that produces fruitfulness and glory is not the suffering, but the “with Him.”*
- *Unless we invite God into each situation and learn to abide in Him and walk with Him, nothing good or useful will come out of those experiences.*
- *The reality is that even pleasant and joyful experiences have no true and lasting value unless we invite God into those experiences.*

Ecclesiastes 1:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

- *King Solomon was the greatest and richest king of Israel. He built great cities and enjoyed great wealth and glory. However, he ended his life writing Ecclesiastes, realizing that all he had done was worthless, because he had done it without inviting God to be Lord of his life.*
- *George Bernard Shaw the famous Irish playwright, an avowed atheist, was the only person to win both the Nobel Prize in Literature (1925) and an Oscar (1938) and lived to the ripe old age of 94 once said, “There are two tragedies in life: one is not getting your heart’s desires. The other is to get it.”*
- *He had great fame and success, but he never invited God into his life. The result was the same as if he had accomplished nothing—a life that ended in eternal purposelessness—the tragedy of a wasted life.*
- *God makes everything in this life meaningful and fruitful, while a life without Christ is meaningless and in the end concludes in futility no matter what a person may appear to have accomplished.*

Hebrews 12:15–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

¹⁶lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

¹⁷For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

- *“who for one morsel of food sold his birthright” - The Greek word for fornication mainly refers to sexual immorality, but the New Testament expands that definition to encompass anything which sacrifices the precious for that which is worthless, and sacrifices the eternal for the temporal.*
- *Esau’s birthright represented more than just receiving an earthly inheritance from his father Isaac. It really represented God’s eternal purposes for his life and the spiritual dimension that would provide him with true satisfaction.*
- *Esau was so focused on satisfying his immediate wants that he sold his birthright to his brother Jacob because he was hungry. He gave Jacob his birthright in exchange for a bowl of stew.*

Hebrews 11:13 (NKJV)

¹³These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

- *“Having seen them afar off” – The Greek words “afar off” do not only refer to distance, but can also refer to time. The key for those that were able to embrace and confess the promises of God and be assured of them were those who could look past this temporal life into eternity.*
- *“They confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth” – When we have the eternal perspective and our hearts are set on Heaven, then we will realize we are just passing through this life and what is of true value is what is laid up for us in Heaven.*
- *This attitude will help to free us from covetousness and selfish ambition that seeks to be successful in the eyes of men. We will then be free to pursue God’s will and be successful in His eyes.*

2 Peter 1:5–9 (NKJV)

⁵But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

⁶to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

⁸For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

- *The things we are to pursue that have true value now and in eternity are: faith, virtue, true knowledge of God, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly love, and ultimately the pure and unconditional love that originates only from God.*
- *These virtues of godly character will cause us to “abound and will ensure that we are neither barren nor unfruitful in our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- *The thing that hinders believers from pursuing godly virtues is being “shortsighted to the point of blindness and forgetting that Jesus has saved us.”*
- *When we fail to see everything in this life in the light of eternity, we become overburdened by the problems of this life. We forget that we are just passing through and our ultimate destination is Heaven.*

Romans 8:6 (NKJV)

⁶For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

- *To be carnally minded means, among other things, to be shortsighted and blind to the eternal perspective.*
- *To be carnally minded is death, because it causes a person to make impulsive and rash decisions that lead to more impulsive and rash decisions, which cause us to become more anxious, discontent, and unhappy.*
- *When we are carnally minded we evaluate everything from the short-term perspective:*
 - *If it is easy it must be good.*
 - *If it is hard it must be bad.*
- *Short-term thinking is the mindset of addicts and each one of us starts off being addicted to sin whether it is drugs, alcohol, lust, pride, selfishness, or bitterness to name just a few.*

John 8:32 (NKJV)

³²And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

- *Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life and it is through Him we find freedom.*
- *Jesus died and rose again so that we could be freed from the penalty of sin, which is eternity in Hell, and so we could be with Him forever in Heaven.*
- *The truth “that if we have received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour and are born again then our final destination is Heaven” is what will free us from short-term thinking.*
- *As we begin to perceive and evaluate things in the light of eternity and Heaven, it will empower us to experience the next aspect of salvation – sanctification – freedom from the power of sin.*
- *Impulse management – For the greater good I will forego the immediate or momentary pleasures of sin.*
- *Willingness to experience short-term pain for long-term gain is key for us to break the cycle of sin in our lives.*

- *Having the eternal perspective breaks addictions.*

2 Timothy 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica

- *Demas who had been a co-worker of Apostle Paul abandoned Paul in his time of great persecution because Demas lost sight of the eternal perspective and fled to spare himself hardship.*
- *What we can learn from the example of Demas is that we must constantly cultivate a consciousness that Heaven is our real destination.*
- *Some people think that if we are too heavenly minded we are of no earthly good. C.S. Lewis concluded the opposite, “If you read history, you will find that Christians who did the most for the present world were those who thought most of the next.”*

1 John 3:1–3 (NKJV)

¹Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

²Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

³And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- *“but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” – When Christ appears in His resurrected body we will have a similar kind of resurrected body.*
- *“And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” – As we dwell upon this hope of Heaven and the resurrection it results in our souls becoming purified. We are no longer driven by fleshly impulses, but by an eternal perspective.*

Luke 24:38–43 (NKJV)

³⁸And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?

³⁹Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”

⁴⁰When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

⁴¹But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?”

⁴²So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.

⁴³And He took it and ate in their presence.

- *Jesus’ resurrected body was a physical body and a body that enabled Him to even enjoy a meal with His disciples.*
- *The resurrection is a physical reality and Heaven is a physical place where we will enjoy unbroken fellowship with God and one another forever.*
- *Some ask if we will recognize one another in Heaven and the answer is absolutely.*

1 Corinthians 15:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

²⁰But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- *If there is no resurrection and no Heaven then everything we believe is completely worthless and hopeless. But Christ IS risen from the dead and therefore we will also experience a resurrection with incorruptible and perfect bodies.*
- *Atheism would like to destroy our hope in Heaven, because it is one of the foundations of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*
- *Stephen Hawking, a world famous cosmologist and atheist once said, “Heaven is a ‘fairy tale’ for people who are afraid of the dark.”*
- *John Lennox, a British mathematician, a philosopher of science, a professor at the University of Oxford, and a strong Christian responded, “Atheism is a fairy tale for people afraid of the light.”*

John 3:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

- *While followers of Christ have great joy in looking forward to the realities of Heaven, the atheists have a great dread of such a thought. They would rather believe that their existence terminates at death rather than have to face God and give an account for their lives.*

1 Corinthians 2:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

¹⁰But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

- *The things that God has prepared for those who love Him, the natural mind cannot fathom, but through the Spirit we can glimpse into eternity and see what God is preparing for us.*
- *Job’s life ended with great joy, not because his earthly possession were doubled, which were only a token of God’s blessings and were only a temporal benefit, but because he looked forward to spending eternity with His Saviour and God.*
- *The blessings that God pours out on us in this life are a token of what awaits us in eternity.*
- *When the Word of God says that by the stripes of Jesus Christ we have been healed (1 Peter 2:24), the manifestation of that in our mortal bodies is a sign of what God is going to completely fulfill in our resurrected, incorruptible bodies.*
- *These mortal bodies eventually will age and die, but we know that because of Jesus Christ’s redemption for us, spirit, soul, and body, our resurrected bodies will be perfect and will never be subject to aging, pain, disease, or any type of weakness.*
- *However, just like Heaven is a physical experience, so is Hell and the Lake of Fire.*
- *Unbelievers and those who have rejected Jesus Christ will also have a physical resurrection, but their physical bodies will be very much different to those who have put their faith in Christ. (Revelation 20:13-15).*
- *Neither their souls nor bodies have been redeemed and so in Hell not only will their souls be subject to torment, but their physical bodies will experience pain, sickness, and disease forever.*

Philippians 1:23–25 (NKJV)

²³For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

²⁴Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

²⁵And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,

- **“having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better” - *The same anticipation that Paul expresses we should all have – looking forward to Heaven.***