

YOUTH



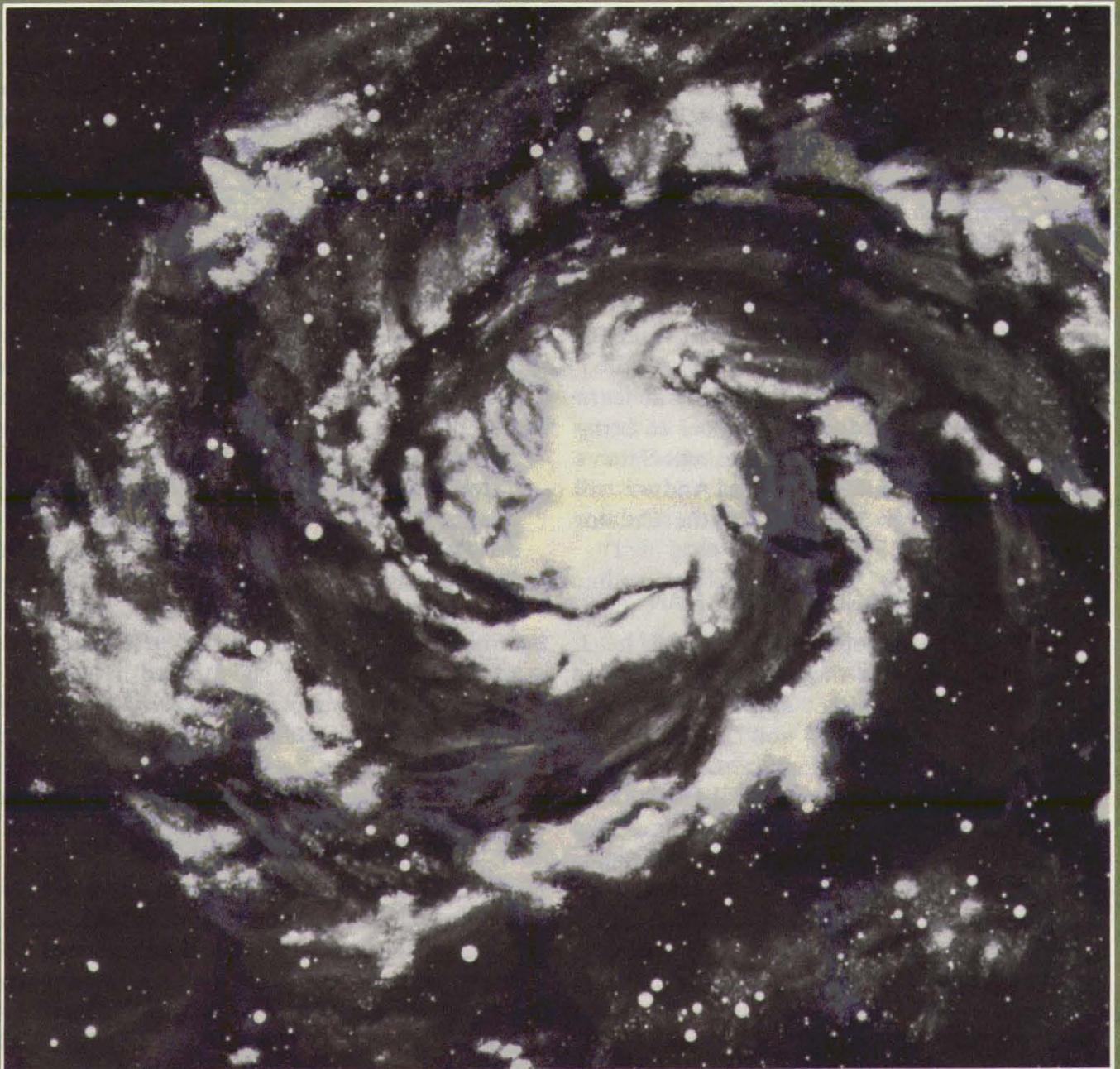
LEVEL 7

BIBLE

LESSONS



LESSON 6



Job Learns True Righteousness

JOB LEARNS TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS

What if you went home from school one day and found your house missing? Everything—your family and possessions—was gone! You couldn't even find your dog or cat!

You would probably be surprised and very unhappy. No one likes to think about such catastrophes happening to themselves or to anyone else.

In the Bible, God records for us a dramatic story full of catastrophes. But as we shall see, this story has a happy ending! It is the story of Job. It contains many lessons of great value for us today.

In studying the book of Job, we will learn how God can use bad circumstances to bring about good results. We will learn about Satan's involvement in the affairs of man. And we will learn of the power and glory of the Creator God!

A PERFECT AND UPRIGHT MAN

The thrilling story of Job begins in Job 1:1-3. "There was a man in the land of _____, whose name was _____; and that man was _____ [blameless] and _____, and one that _____ God, and _____ [shunned] evil. And there were born unto him _____ sons and _____ daughters. His substance [livestock] also was seven thousand

ABOUT OUR COVER . . .

One of the many spiral galaxies. Job came to understand his own insignificance in comparison to God, the creator of the universe!

Artwork by Sarilka Solomon

_____, and three thousand _____, and five hundred yoke of _____, and five hundred _____, and a _____ household; so that this man was the _____ of all the men of the east."

When God described Job, He praised his character and behavior. He even said there was not a person like Job on the entire earth! (Job 1:8.)

Job was a very concerned father. When the story takes place, Job's children were grown and living in houses of their own. Job did not want any of his children to curse or offend God. But in case they did, he offered burnt offerings to God on their behalf.

Job was a hard worker. He was a very wealthy man who had many servants. Job was a very generous man who gave of his wealth and his time to help people in his community who were in need (Job 31:16-21). Job went out of his way to help other people. He tried to do what he thought was right. Read in Job 4:3-4 how Job helped people. Summarize these verses on the following lines. _____

ONLY GOD REALLY KNEW JOB

Job's life, family and wealth impressed the people who knew him. He was well-known for his good deeds and for his righteousness. Job knew he was righteous, too. Job even asked that he be weighed in a balance so that God would find out just how good he was! (Job

31:6.) Satan was also well aware of Job's righteousness.

But God sees more than humans see, and God knows more about people than Satan knows. Even though Job was righteous, God saw that he still had an important lesson to learn.

God wanted His servant Job to become an even better servant. God wanted him to be developing the special kind of character that He wants His people today to be striving to develop—perfect, holy and righteous character!

In studying the book of Job, keep several important points in mind. First, remember that God is *always* in *charge*. He rules over everything. From the very first verse until the last verse, God is in charge of Job's situation.

The second point to remember is that God has a *purpose* for whatever He does. God's purpose was to teach Job a valuable lesson—to point out a character flaw that not even Satan could recognize. Third, God is *love* and whatever He does is based on His character of love and giving. And fourth, God is always *right*.

SATAN RULES THE WORLD

The world today is made up of many nations. Some nations have presidents, some have prime ministers and others have monarchs (kings and queens) ruling over them. What kind of ruler heads your country? _____

Over all the world is a ruler who is not a person. Long before the creation of Adam and Eve, God put a very special angel in charge of the earth. His name was Lucifer. He was to rule the earth under God's overall authority. God gave him specific instructions about how to rule and govern according to God's laws.

God rules by the law of love. He gives, not takes. But Lucifer rebelled against God and decided to rule a different way. In time, Lucifer changed so much that he became Satan the Devil. He is now the invisible ruler of the nations of the world.

Even though you may know the awesome story of Lucifer's rebellion against God and His government, be sure to take the time to review Lesson One. Doing so will help you to remember any details you may have forgotten.

When Christ returns to set up the Kingdom of God on earth, Satan will be removed from ruling the earth. He will be stopped from accusing God's people and doing evil on earth. Read Revelation 12:10 and 20:1-3, and then summarize on the following lines what God will do with Satan at that time. _____

Satan is busy causing as much trouble as possible on the earth. But because God is the Creator and Ruler over all, Satan can do only what God allows. And God often uses these bad situations to create much good in the end.

GOD CALLS A MEETING

Returning to the story of Job, there was a day when Satan and other angels came to report to God about their activities. God asked Satan some important questions during this meeting. "Where have you been and what have you been doing?" God asked.

"I've been going to and fro in the earth, and . . . walking up and down in it!" was Satan's reply.

God knew what Satan had been doing. He also knew how Satan would answer if questioned about Job. God knows Satan is an accuser. He tells God many bad things about people. In Revelation 12:9-10 Satan is called by many names. One of his names is the *accuser*. Write down here what Satan does day and night. _____

In the meeting in heaven, how did God describe Job's character to Satan? In Job 1:8 God said, "Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is _____ like him in the earth, a _____ [blameless] and an _____ man, one that

_____ God, and _____ [shuns] evil?"

Satan knew this was true. He is a spirit being who knows a lot about people—including the good things as well as the bad things they do.



Bolts of lightning wiped out all of Job's seven thousand sheep and all of his shepherds except one.

Had Satan known of any particular sins that Job was guilty of such as lying, stealing or coveting, Satan would have no doubt criticized Job of such sins. But since he could not, Satan accused Job of serving God because He protected Job from harm and blessed him.

"Doth Job fear God for nought [nothing]?" Satan answered. "Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance [livestock] is increased in the land" (Job 1:9-10). Notice how Satan admitted God is all-powerful and fully able to protect Job.

"Take away all Job has and watch him turn on you!" Satan hurled his words at God in a challenge. "Job will curse you to your face!"

"All that Job has is in your power," God told Satan, "but you may not harm Job himself."

Satan departed to begin his evil work, not knowing that God was actually using him to chasten Job for a good reason—to further improve Job's character by teaching him an important lesson.

SATAN ATTACKS JOB

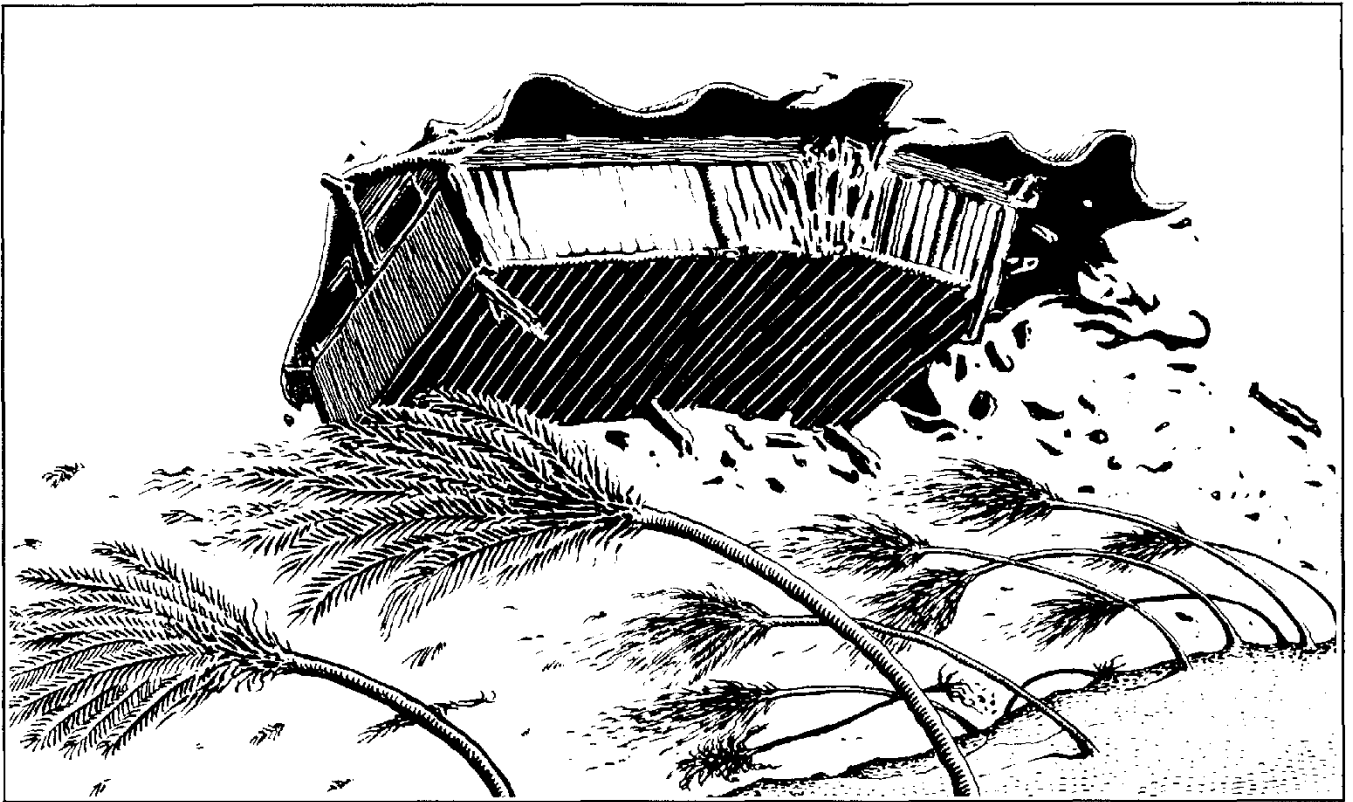
One day, Job noticed a servant running towards him. Others were not far behind. Little did he know of the terrifying messages they had for him!

The first servant rushed to Job and said, "Your oxen and donkeys are gone, stolen by the Sabeans. The Sabeans killed the servants working there. I am the only one who escaped."

While the first servant was still speaking, another servant arrived with further bad news. "Fire from heaven," he cried, "has burned up your sheep and your servants, except for me."

Still another servant rushed in with more catastrophic news for Job. "The Chaldeans stole your camels and slaughtered your servants except me, who escaped to tell you."

Can you imagine what Job must have been thinking and feeling as he heard his frightened servants? In a short period of time, Job learned



Job's children were killed when Satan caused a whirlwind to destroy the house where they were dining.

of the loss of practically everything he owned.

Satan had caused each succeeding catastrophe to be greater than the one before. Now, hoping to make sure Job would curse God, Satan had one more blow for Job—the most powerful one yet!

While the servant was still speaking, another loyal servant rushed to Job with the most horrible news of all. “A great wind from the wilderness hit your eldest son’s house where your children were feasting together. The house collapsed on them and all are dead. I alone escaped to tell you!”

JOB'S REACTION TO TRAGEDY

Upon hearing this news, Job stood up in great anguish. He tore his robe as a sign of grief and mourning. Then he shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground and *worshipped* God.

Did Satan’s attack succeed? He said that Job would curse God if he lost all he had.

But what was Job’s attitude, as shown in Job 1:21-22? _____

Did Job sin in all this? _____

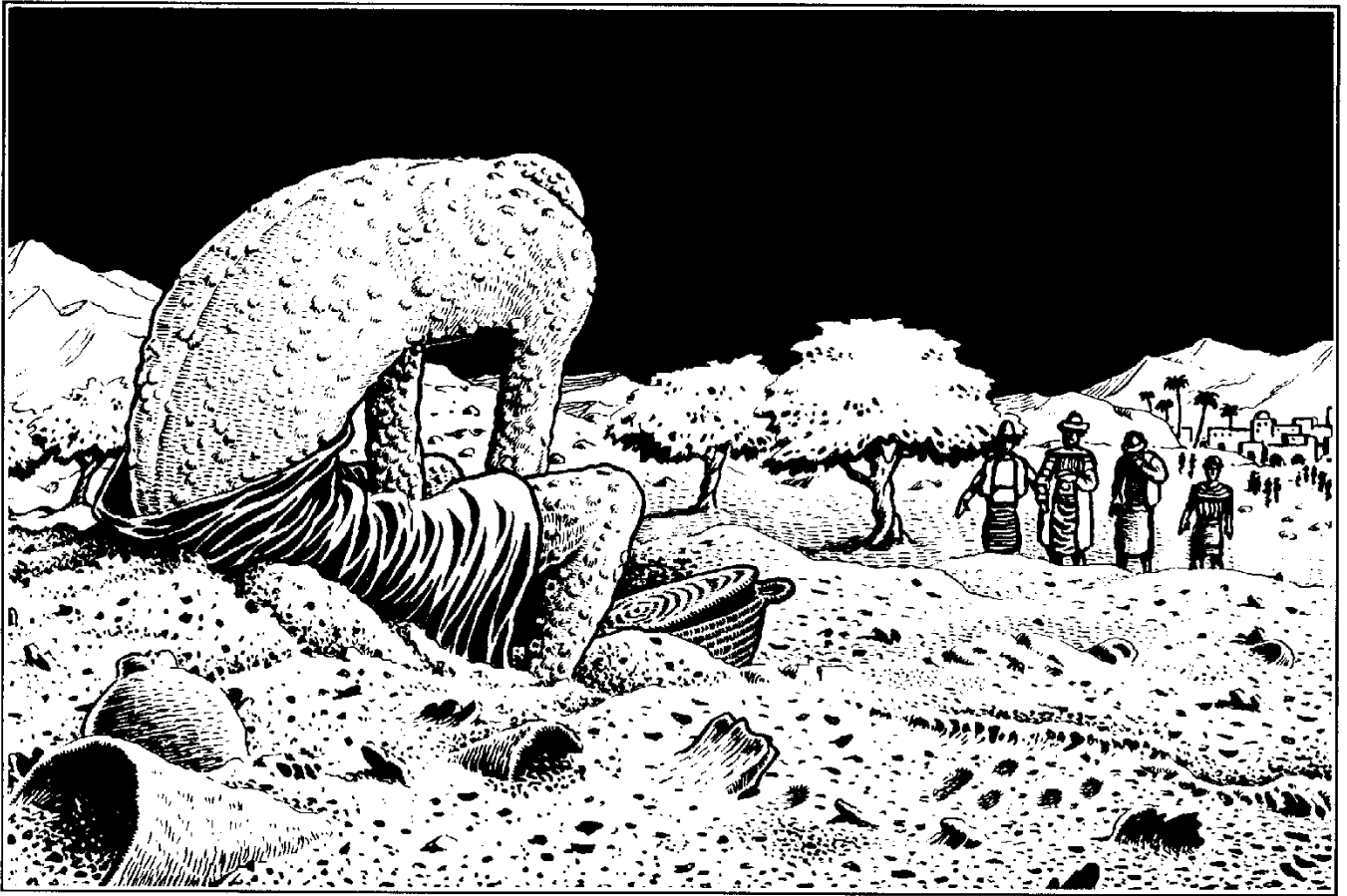
ANOTHER MEETING IN HEAVEN

Sometime later, there was another meeting in heaven. The angels again came before God to report their activities. God questioned Satan as He had before.

“Have you thought about my servant Job?” God asked. “There is no one in the earth like him. Although you moved me against him to destroy him without cause, he hasn’t changed. He still fears God and shuns evil” (Job 2:3).

But Satan replied, “Skin for skin, all that a man has will he give for his life. Just touch his bone and flesh, and he will curse you to your face” (verses 4-5).

In order to help Job learn an important lesson, God allowed Satan to return and strike



Job sought relief from the painful boils by sitting on a pile of ashes.

Job's very body, but to refrain from taking his life.

SATAN ATTACKS JOB'S HEALTH

Satan seized the opportunity to plague Job. He inflicted Job with boils from the top of his head to the soles of his feet.

Anyone who has ever had a boil knows how painful it can be. Job was really in pain. He could not stand because of the boils on his feet. Neither could he get relief by lying down because boils covered his back. Boils covered his entire body!

Job found the softest place around—a pile of ashes. He sat down in the ashes and scraped his boils with a piece of broken pottery called a potsherd.

Job's wife began to chide him. "Do you still retain your integrity?" she said. "Curse God, and die!" To her, death seemed more pleasant

than the suffering and agony that Job was going through. At least he would be out of his misery.

But what was Job's reply? Read it in Job 2:10. "Thou speakest as one of the _____ women speaketh. What? shall we receive _____ at the hand of God, and shall we not receive _____ [adversity]?" In all this did _____ Job _____ with his lips.

Was God punishing Job for some terrible, secret sins he had committed? Some people think that catastrophes and suffering happen *only* to terrible sinners—to really *bad* people. But those who think this way are mistaken. Read in Luke 13:1-5 what Jesus said about two catastrophes that occurred during His life-time on earth. Did the Galileans die because they were the worst sinners in the land? _____

JOB'S THREE FRIENDS

Word of Job's tragedies and suffering quickly spread. Three of Job's friends heard of his suffering. They decided to visit Job, to mourn with him and to comfort him.

As Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar approached Job, they could not believe their eyes. Job looked so pathetic. He was unrecognizable. The men cried aloud, tore their robes and sat down with Job in silence for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw his grief was very great.

JOB REVEALS HIS THOUGHTS

Finally Job spoke. He condemned the day of his birth, saying if he had never been born—or had died at birth—at least he would now have rest.

Job thought dying would be better than living in his miserable condition, but still he did not curse God.

Job wondered why he was suffering, for he was doing nothing differently now than what he had been doing before. He had continually obeyed God's laws.

In the book of Job are 42 chapters. Many of them are filled with Job's words. He complained. He was filled with self-pity. He was very unhappy. In Job 7:11 he said, "Therefore I _____ not _____ my _____; I will _____ in the _____ of my _____; I will _____ in the _____ of my soul."

ADVICE FROM FRIENDS

Job's three friends wanted very much to help, but none of their words comforted him (Job 2:11; 19:2-3). Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar talked as if they were very wise. They gave Job much advice. They even *accused* him of sinning and hiding it. The long conversation that took place between Job and his three friends is recorded in chapters 4 through 31 of the book of Job.

Eliphaz, the first speaker, implied Job was guilty of some horrible sin by pointing to the catastrophes he suffered as evidence. In Job 4:7-8 he tells Job, "Remember, I pray thee, who ever _____, being _____? or where were the _____ cut off? . . . they that _____, and _____, reap the same."

Later, in another speech, Eliphaz accused Job of mistreating widows and orphans and other terrible evils. List some of his accusations, found in Job 22:6-9, on the following lines.

Eliphaz told Job to repent, to acknowledge his calamity as correction for his sin, and he



Eliphaz, one of Job's three friends, accused him of sinning.

would again be blessed (Job 5:17-27).

But Job maintained his innocence before his friends and God. He challenged his friends to show him his sin—if they could find an error!

The two other friends spoke, but they also accused Job of doing wrong and now suffering the consequences. In Job 11:6, Zophar told Job his punishment was less than he deserved. “Know therefore that God _____ of _____ less than thine _____.”

But Job maintained God had a right to do whatever He wanted to do, and He had evidently chosen to afflict Job without a cause. Job implied he was perfect, but openly saying so would be an improper thing to do (Job 9:20-22). Later, Job went so far as to accuse God of injustice, as is shown in Job 19:7. “Behold, I cry out of _____, but I am _____: I cry aloud, but there is _____.”

Job went on to show his great knowledge about God’s spiritual and physical laws. He reminded his three friends about how great he had been before his troubles—highly respected for his wisdom, righteousness and wealth. He was righteous then and righteous now! (Job 27:6.)

The three men talked about God and what He was doing as if they understood Him. The truth is, however, these men were filled with *their own opinions* about God and what is right and wrong. But these three men knew even less about God than Job did. Finally, they gave up answering Job because he was righteous in his own eyes (Job 32:1).

After Job and his three friends ended their discussion, a young man named Elihu spoke to Job. He respectfully waited until Job and the others had finished speaking because they were older than he (Job 32:4).

Elihu spoke out in defense of God, showing that God is *always* right. He showed the three men that Job’s error was not in some secret sin he was hiding—as they supposed—but in giving credit to himself, instead of God, for the righteous deeds he had done. Be sure to read

Elihu’s speech, which is found in chapters 32 through 37.

GOD HIMSELF SPEAKS

After the men had spoken, a whirlwind suddenly appeared. The great Creator God began to speak out of the whirlwind! On the following lines, write out God’s first words to Job, which are found in Job 38:1-3. _____

God told Job to start acting like a man, for He had some questions to ask him!

Through a series of wonderful questions impossible for Job to answer, God showed the great gulf between puny man and the awesome mind of the Creator God. He challenged Job to answer the unsearchable questions of the universe!

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?” God asked. “Have you seen the treasures of the snow and hail? Do you know how to make it rain? Can you control the constellations and the heavens? Do you provide food for the animals in the wilderness?”

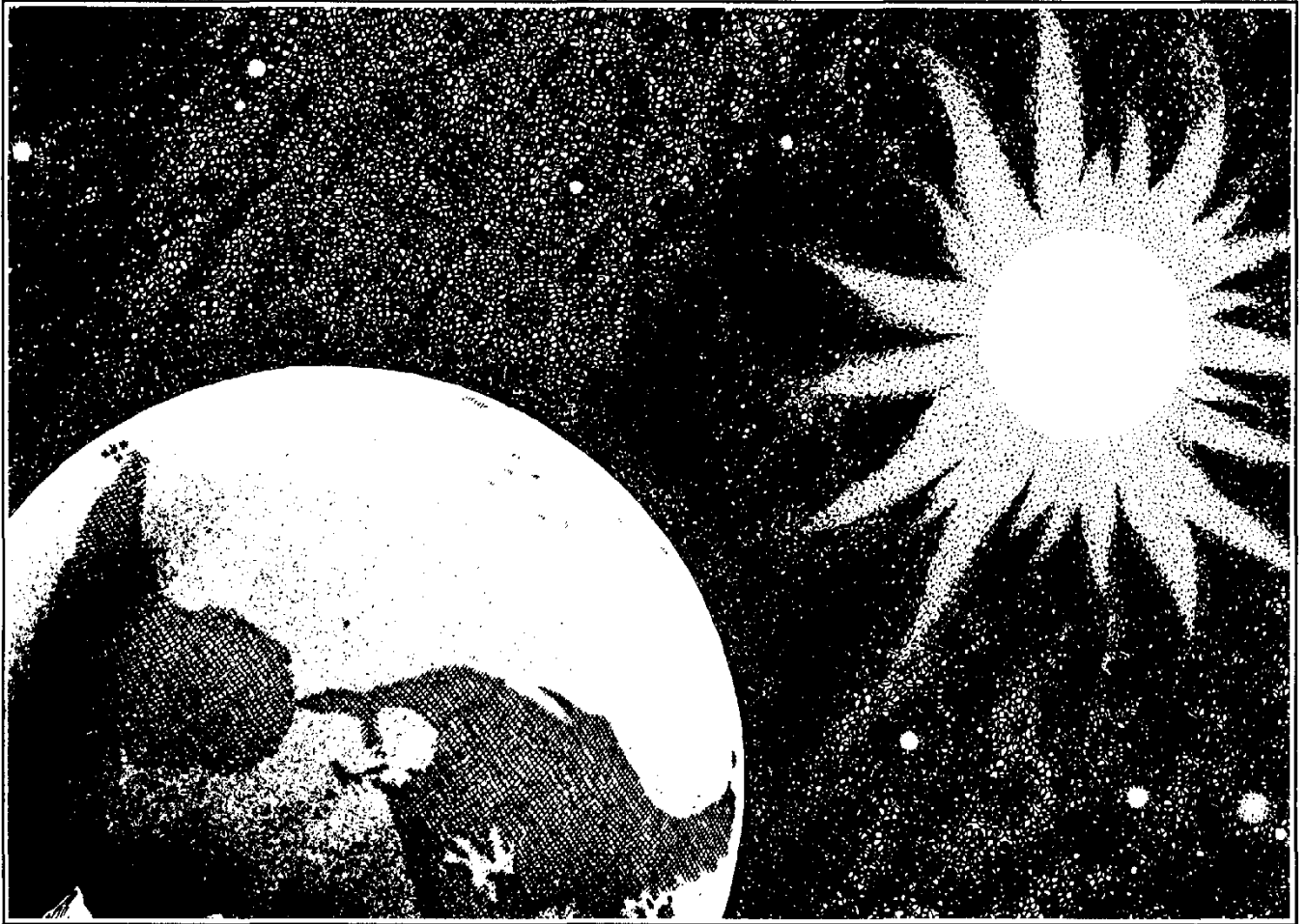
After just a few questions like these, Job began to realize how little he really knew about God and His creation. Although man has the ability to discover many things about the physical universe, he still knows only a very small amount.

Job could not answer even one of God’s simplest questions. How would Job have felt if God asked him something really difficult?

God wanted Job and *all* mankind to realize the great difference between man, who has a temporary physio-chemical existence, and the everliving Creator God.

God asked Job, “Shall he [Job] that _____ with the _____ instruct him? he that _____ God, let him answer it” (Job 40:2).

And what did Job say, “Behold, I am _____; what shall I _____”



The earth and sun are only part of God's awesome creation. God challenged Job to answer the unsearchable questions about the vast universe.

thee? I will lay mine _____ upon my _____" (Job 40:4).

BEHEMOTH AND LEVIATHAN

God continued describing the greatness of His creation to Job. He talked about two creatures of the earth. One creature, the behemoth, was a powerful land animal. Perhaps the behemoth is what is called an elephant today. It is possible that Job had never seen an elephant. He certainly didn't know how to create one!

The other creature that God described to Job was a leviathan, which lived in the water. Read chapter 41 and then, on a separate piece of paper, draw a picture of what you think this terrifying creature might have looked like.

It is not known whether or not the leviathan is still alive today. It could be extinct. But it is also possible that it does exist somewhere in the ocean's depths.

The sight of leviathan frightened all men. God knew Job would be terrified to see such a creature. Imagine how scared you would be to face something as well-known as a great white shark!

God was asking why Job would fear the animals but not the Being who made them. Did Job actually dare to stand before the Creator and accuse Him?

GOD'S GREATNESS AND POWER

If you are ever tempted to think that God has made a mistake about something—STOP!

Think about the creation for just a moment. God does not make mistakes. He designs and perfects His plans. Then He carries them out. He created the entire universe and all the laws in it, such as the laws of gravity, inertia, time, space and energy.

God is far wiser and much more powerful than anything we can imagine!

To learn more of the wisdom and knowledge God used in creating all things, why not find an encyclopedia or other good reference source and do a short report on one aspect of the creation that is of interest. You might like to learn about the laws of aerodynamics, about light or about the size of the universe. Maybe you would like to learn about the more than 250,000 varieties of beetles God designed and created!

God's creation really does show how infinite He is in ability. It also shows how very little man knows in comparison to God.

Through asking Job many questions about the creation, God showed how mighty He was and is! And how *little*, how *weak*, how *insignificant* man is—yes, even the most righteous man, Job!

"Who then," God continued, "is able to stand before me? Who hath prevented me, that I should repay him? Whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine" (Job 41:10-11). And so God continued to bring down Job's self-righteous importance—and to show the unmatched, awesome magnitude of God.

By the time God finished, Job's estimation of himself was reduced to nothing. All through his conversation with his three friends, Job firmly maintained *his own righteousness*—his self-importance! Even though Satan had taken away his wealth, his children—even though reduced to a pitiful sight, covered with nauseating boils—Job's *own righteousness* he firmly maintained!

Job was able to maintain his case against Satan—against his friends. But now he could not answer God.

JOB REPENTS OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

When God finished speaking, Job realized his own foolishness. He now admitted, "I know that thou canst do _____, and that _____ can be _____ from thee. . . . therefore have I uttered that I _____ not; things too _____ for me, which I knew not" (Job 42:2-3).

Job continued, "I have _____ of _____ by the _____ of the _____: but now mine _____ Wherefore I _____ [hate] myself, and _____ in dust and ashes" (verses 5-6).

Job repented of his self-righteousness and for not having really understood God before.

Just human goodness, as Job came to understand, is not enough. Job had been very proud of his many good deeds. In fact, he had thought very highly of his *own* righteousness! He had consistently maintained his integrity (Job 27:5-6).

But the only righteousness that is really good comes from God. Any *self*-righteousness is like a filthy rag in God's sight (Isaiah 64:6).

Job discovered that God allowed him to suffer, not because of what he had done, but because of what he was—self-righteous!

Count the number of times Job used the words *I*, *my* and *me* in Job 27:2-6. In Job 29, he referred to himself fifty times! Job had been well aware of his own importance and thought very highly of himself.

But at last, Job finally came to understand God's great power and glory. Job now understood how small and insignificant he was in comparison to God.

After Job repented, God then corrected his three friends. In Job 42:7, God said to Eliphaz, "My _____ is _____ against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have _____ of _____"

the thing that is _____, as _____
_____.”

God corrected Job's three friends, for they had pictured Him as a harsh God, without mercy and compassion. And they had foolishly pretended to understand the mind of God better than Job had.

God told Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar to sacrifice seven bullocks and seven rams for a burnt offering, and to ask Job to pray for them. God said He would accept Job's prayer.

The three men obeyed. The burnt offerings were made, Job prayed for his friends and God accepted all that was done (Job 42:9). As for Elihu, he had neither falsely accused Job nor misrepresented God's justice. He had spoken well, so God didn't require an offering from him.

GOD DOUBLES JOB'S WEALTH

Job had now repented and learned a lesson about how God mercifully works with men to bring them to repentance, as well as the true meaning of righteousness and humility.

God restored Job's health and wealth, giving him twice as much as he had before. The respect of his relatives and friends was restored also.

Job lived 140 years after learning this powerful lesson. God blessed him with seven more sons and three of the most beautiful daughters in all the land. Job lived to see even his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Because Job learned this lesson well, God gave him a long, full and happy life!

Do You Remember?

1. Job lived in the land of _____ (Job 1:1).
2. Satan told God he had been _____ to and fro in the earth (Job 1:7).
3. God told Satan there was _____ like Job in the earth (Job 1:8).
4. God put an _____ about Job to protect him (Job 1:10).

5. Sabceans stole Job's _____ and _____ (Job 1:14-15).
6. Chaldeans stole Job's _____ (Job 1:17).
7. Satan could only do to Job what God _____ (Job 2:6).
8. Satan smote Job with _____ from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet (Job 2:7).
9. Job scraped his boils with a _____ (Job 2:8).
10. Job sat in _____ for comfort from the boils (Job 2:8).
11. Job's _____ told him to curse God (Job 2:9).
12. Job asked, "Shall we _____ good at the hand of God... and not receive evil?" (Job 2:10.)
13. When Job's three friends saw him, they lifted up their _____ and wept (Job 2:12).
14. Job cursed the _____ he was born (Job 3:1-3).
15. _____ was the first of Job's friends to speak (Job 4:1).
16. Eliphaz was a _____ (Job 4:1).
17. One of Job's friends was Bildad, the _____ (Job 8:1).
18. Job had constantly maintained his _____ (Job 27:6).
19. God asked Job, "Where were you when I laid the _____ of the earth?" (Job 38:4.)
20. _____ is the mysterious sea creature (Job 41:1).
21. No _____ can be withheld from God (Job 42:2).
22. God was angry with Job's three _____ (Job 42:7).
23. God blessed Job in the end, _____ than his beginning (Job 42:12).
24. Job had _____ more sons and _____ of the most beautiful daughters in the land (Job 42:13-15).
25. Job lived 140 more _____ (Job 42:16).

BIBLE MEMORY

Image of
Daniel 2

The head of gold represents the Chaldean Empire.
The breast and arms of silver represent the Persian Empire.
The belly and thighs of brass represent the Greco-Macedonian Empire.
The legs of iron represent the Roman Empire.
The feet and toes of iron mixed with clay represent the final revival of the Roman Empire.



HIDDEN ASSIGNMENT

Complete the statements below by filling in the blanks. Then match the numbered letters with the numbered blanks at the bottom of the page, to reveal your hidden assignment.

1. The 46 15 21 of Job shows how God can use bad 3 2 58 7 4 6 19 38 39 to bring about 9 18 results.

2. Satan 25 5 Job of serving God because He 12 57 17 13 34 63 Job from harm and 60 52 40 him.

3. God allowed Satan to take away practically 36 50 56 20 61 28 Job 22 55, including his 54 47 48.

4. Instead of 26 16 God, Job fell down and 1 45 10 35 14 30 Him.

5. Job's three 62 59 51 43, Eliphaz, 37 29 53 and 24 31 8 49 accused Job of sinning and hiding it.

6. God wanted 44 and all mankind to realize the great difference between 11 41 27 23, 33 human beings and the 32 42 Creator God.

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56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63																					