

## COME FORTH AS GOLD

**TEXT:**     *Job 23:10: But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.*

### WHO SPOKE THESE WORDS?

*A man who lived in the land of Uz — probably in the time of the Hebrew patriarchs. The date is not known for certain, but many scholars place it sometime between the time the Israelites went into captivity and the time of the Exodus.*

*Job 1:1a: There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job;*

### What was Job like?

#### Perfect and upright (like Noah)

*Job 1:1b: and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.*



#### Greatly afflicted by Satan

**Job 1:6-12:**

***6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.***

***7 And the LORD said unto satan, Whence comest thou? Then satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.***

***8 And the LORD said unto satan, Hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?***

***9 Then satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?***

***10 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 is increased in the land.***

***11 But put forth Thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse Thee to Thy face.***

***12 And the LORD said unto satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So satan went forth from the Presence of the LORD.***

### **Satan ruthlessly sets out to destroy Job**

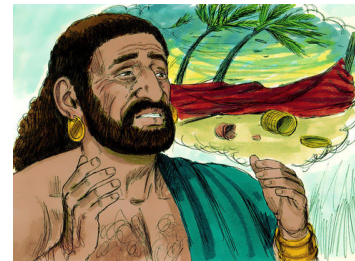
***Job 1:13-22:***

***13 And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:***

***14 And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them:***

***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.***

***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.***



***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.***

***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:***

***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.***



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

***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.***

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

### **Satan destroys Job's health.**

When satan saw that Job would not curse God despite all the cruel

afflictions he brought upon him, he petitions God to allow him to afflict Job further, this time in his health.

**Job 2:3-7:**

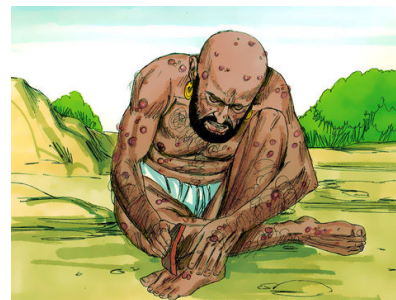
***3 And the LORD said unto satan, Hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst Me against him, to destroy him without cause.***

***4 And satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.***

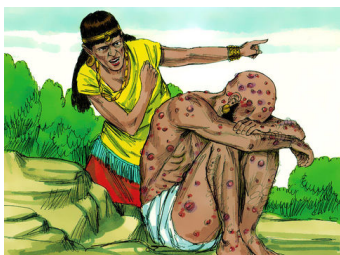
***5 But put forth Thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse Thee to Thy face.***

***6 And the LORD said unto satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.***

***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's wife tried to undermine his faith in God.**



**Job 2:9-10:**

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

***10 But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.***

**He is Surrounded by false 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.***

As the account of this meeting continues in the book of **Job**, we learn that Job's "friends" are: "know it alls", unsympathetic, irreverent, religious, and dogmatic. They accuse Job of being a liar and a hypocrite. (With friends like these, who needs enemies!!)



## Job Remains Confident in God's Goodness and Mercy

He knew the friends were wrong, and he said:

***Job 16:3: Shall vain words have an end? or what emboldeneth thee that thou answerest?***

He knew they could not accuse him falsely forever, and said:

***Job 19:2: How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words?***

### How Job looked at trials

He had an unshakable faith in God.

He was able to live in hope of good finally triumphing over evil.

He understood a principle of God that was not revealed until centuries later:

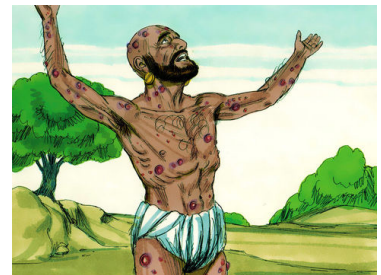
***Romans 8:18: For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.***

He was looking for a God-given glory.

He was going to be like gold! In the midst of trials, he praises God for the victory he does not yet see.

***Job 23:10b: ... when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.***

Saints down through the years have experienced this. Have you?



### ILLUSTRATION

Amy Carmichael puts it this way:

***“Before the winds that blow do cease,  
Teach me to dwell within Thy calm;  
Before this pain has changed to peace,  
Grant me, my Lord, to sing a Psalm.***

*Let me not lose the chance to prove,  
The fullness of enabling love.  
Oh, love of God, do this for me —  
Maintain a constant victory.”*

## **JOB’S VICTORY**

A constant spiritual victory in the midst of trial.

A rewarding experience at the end of the trial - - he became as gold!

## **ILLUSTRATION**

Gold’s value throughout the ages has been in large part because it is scarce.

Men like Job are scarce!

Gold has resistance to rust and other chemicals, and thus resists tarnishing. The cynicism of Job’s wife and his friends did not change him.

Gold has a softness that makes it easy to work with; it can be shaped into any form the designer selects as best. Job, a good man, became a finer man, hammered and shaped into a better man by his Creator.



## **EVIDENCE OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

In his earlier years Job was a man of prayer, but we read that his prayers were just for his family.

***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.***

In his later years, after the bitter trial, we read that Job learned to pray for others.

***Job 42:10: 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.***



In his earlier years, he saw himself as a good man with great faith.

**Job 29: 1-25:**

**1 Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,**

**2 Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when God preserved me;**

**3 When His candle shined upon my head, and when by His light I walked through darkness;**

**4 As I was in the days of my youth, when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle;**

**5 When the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were about me;**

**6 When I washed my steps with butter, and the rock poured me out rivers of oil;**

**7 When I went out to the gate through the city, when I prepared my seat in the street!**

**8 The young men saw me, and hid themselves: and the aged arose, and stood up.**

**9 The princes refrained talking, and laid their hand on their mouth.**

**10 The nobles held their peace, and their tongue cleaved to the roof of their mouth.**

**11 When the ear heard me, then it blessed me; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me:**

**12 Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.**

**13 The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.**

**14 I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem.**

**15 I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame.**

**16 I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out.**

**17 And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth.**

**18 Then I said, I shall die in my nest, and I shall multiply my days as the sand.**

**19 My root was spread out by the waters, and the dew lay all night upon my branch.**

**20 My glory was fresh in me, and my bow was renewed in my hand.**

**21 Unto me men gave ear, and waited, and kept silence at my counsel.**

**22 After my words they spake not again; and my speech dropped upon them.**

**23 And they waited for me as for the rain; and they opened their mouth wide as for the latter rain.**



***24 If I laughed on them, they believed it not; and the light of my countenance they cast not down.***

***25 I chose out their way, and sat chief, and dwelt as a king in the army, as one that comforteth the mourners.***

In his later years, Job agreed with the Apostle Paul's attitude about not trusting in things he had done to merit his righteousness. Paul said:

***Philippians 3:9: And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:***

Job said:

***Job 42:6: Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.***

In his earlier years, Job talked about God. In his later years, he talked with God.



In affliction, he sought what God would teach him.

Compassion and humility were increased in him. Also, he had a closer fellowship with God.

As gold articles have a lasting beauty, the truth of the Book of Job is as beautiful now as when it was written.

## ILLUSTRATION

A science called alchemy grew up around efforts to make gold artificially. It was not successful. Gold is created by God. Most of our gold comes from the earth – a treasure of the darkness.

Mankind has devised ways to develop better personalities and character, but current statistics from law enforcement agencies cry out that these efforts have not been successful.

Just as gold is created only by God, the perfect man is a new creation only in Christ Jesus.

No alchemy of personality development can do it. Only the Creator can do it. And often, the means He uses in the Refiner's Fire.



## CONCLUSION

If you are going through trials:

1. Learn what God is trying to tell you.
2. Yield to His leading.
3. Come forth as gold!

### ***THE REFINER'S FIRE***

**Rev. Arthur F. Ingler**

**He sat by a furnace of seven-fold heat,  
As He watched by the precious ore.  
And closer He bent with a searching gaze,  
As He heated it more and more.**

**He knew He had ore that could stand the test  
And He wanted the finest gold,  
To mold as a crown, for the king to wear,  
Set with gems of price untold.**

**So He laid our gold in the burning fire,  
Tho' we fain would say Him "nay."  
And watched the dross that we had not seen  
As it melted and passed away.**

**And the gold grew brighter and got more bright,  
But our eyes were dim with tears,  
We saw but the fire, not the Master's hand,  
And questioned with anxious fears.**

**Yet our gold shone out with a richer glow  
As it mirrored a form above,  
That bent o'er the fire, though unseen by us  
With a look of ineffable love.**

**Can we think it pleases His loving heart  
To cause us moments of pain?  
Ah, no! But He sees through the present cross  
The bliss of eternal gain.**

**So He waited there with a watchful eye,  
With a love that is strong and sure.  
And His gold did not suffer a bit more heat  
Than was needed to make it pure.**

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