



DAY 19

Scriptural Background: Job 42

"...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."
Job 42:8

Job is the well-known story of a man who lost everything he had though he had done nothing wrong to deserve it. The crucial insight regarding the origin for Job's suffering is shared with the reader (Job 1–2), but not with Job or any of his friends. As such, for the rest of the book Job and his counselors debate the cause behind his trials. Even when God appears to Job, He challenges Job (38:1–41:34) but never gives Job the reason or explanation for what he has undergone. That alone is sufficient to lead Job into the total humility suitable to all God's creation (42:1–6). Still, an amazing thing happens in the final chapter of the book. Not just does God uphold Job before his friends, but He also indicates that when Job intercedes for his friends who have done him wrong, they will not be treated according to their folly (42:7–9). Now that should sound familiar to all Christian readers: the righteous, innocent sufferer, whose intercessory prayer pardons the very ones who have done him wrong, and who after that intercession is restored to the glory he had before (42:10–17). Oh, how the Old Testament prepares us to receive Christ!

Prayer:

LORD Jesus, as hard as this life can be at times, thank You that You have entered into it with us, and that ultimately You have borne the fullness of the brokenness of this world on Yourself. You were the true Righteous One who suffered though You were innocent. Thank You for doing so in order to make the sacrifice that would seal my pardon. Let Your appearance in the flesh to accomplish that purpose humble me before You. Teach me to look to Your reward in eternity and not to any lesser thing. In Your Name, Amen.