

Knowing Our Place

“Learning Humility on YAHUAH [God]’s Scale”

I. SCRIPTURE

“For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”¹ (Luke 14:11; [NKJV]).

II. YAHUAH [God] HUMBLER A “RIGHTEOUS” MAN

“Now there was a day when the sons of God [ELOHIYM] came to present themselves before the LORD (YAHUAH), and Satan also came among them. And the LORD [YAHUAH] said to Satan, ‘From where do you come?’ So Satan answered the LORD [YAHUAH] and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.’”

“Then the LORD [YAHUAH] said to Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God [ELOHIYM] and shuns evil?’”

“So Satan answered the LORD (YAHUAH) and said, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!’”

And the LORD [YAHUAH] said to Satan, ‘Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his *person*.’”

[And] so, Satan went out from the presence of the LORD [YAHUAH]” (Job 1:6-12) to do exactly what God [YAHUAH] allowed him to do. Later, as you know, Satan got further permission from God [YAHUAH] to “touch” Job’s “bone and flesh”. (Job 2:5); “and the LORD [YAHUAH] said to Satan, ‘Behold, he *is* in your hand, but [only] spare his life.’” (Job 2:6).

I don’t know about you, but I would hope that the LORD [YAHUAH], when sons of God [ELOHIYM], including my own guardian angel come to present themselves before

1. Luke 14:11; Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is from the NKJV.

Him, that He would say the same thing about me that He said of Job, “Have you considered My servant Rich, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God [ELOHIYM] and shuns evil?” But I know I fall way short of that, and like you, I am relying on the blood of YAHUSHA [Jesus] and the works of the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit], mixed together with the grace and mercy of YAHUAH [the LORD] for my salvation. Amen? To get an idea of just how righteous Job was, we only have to look at his own defense before YAHUAH [God].

He tells YAHUAH [God], “I don’t deserve this harsh treatment from You because I [was the person who] delivered the poor who cried out, the fatherless and the one who had no helper ... and I caused the widow’s heart to sing for joy. I was eyes to the blind, and I was feet to the lame. I was a father to the poor, and I searched out the case that I did not know. I broke the fangs of the wicked, and plucked the victim from his teeth. (Job 29:12-13,15-17). In Job chapter 31, he tells his accusing friends that he never even looked at a young woman, that he never walked in falsehood, nor did his foot hasten to deceit. “Yes,” He continues, “I was never enticed by a woman, or lurked at my neighbor’s door. I never even despised my servants when they complained against me. I have never kept the poor from their desire, or caused the eye of the widow to fail, or even eaten my own morsel when the orphan had nothing to eat. But from my youth I reared them as a father. In my sight,” he continues, “I have never allowed anyone to perish for lack of clothing, or any poor man without covering, but I have warmed them with the fleece of my sheep. I have never said to fine gold, ‘you are my confidence’.” And so, in chapter 31 Job continues to defend himself against God before his friends. And then in chapters 32 through 37, we have Eliyhu, another so-called friend talking and talking about how Job must be mistaken, and ELOHIYM [God] must be correct, because otherwise, why would ELOHIYM [God] allow Job’s to suffer this affliction? And it goes on... Job defending Himself.

And by now, as I’m reading Job, except for the first part where we have the dialog between YAHUAH [God] and Satan, I’ll be honest with you... I’m starting to get pretty tired hearing it. I’m thinking, “how many chapters did just have to read through, listening to Job and his friends pontificate. I mean... hey, I have some friends and family who are good at bloviating... who carry their self-righteousness attitude with them and are good at expressing their importance at every occasion possible... but that seems nothing now when compared to these guys. By the end of chapter 37, I yawn and think, “why don’t these guys just shut up already and accept God’s will?” And then, suddenly and finally after 37 chapters of reading, YAHUAH [God] Himself appears on the scene to contend with Job and Job’s friends.

III. LEARNING TO BE QUIET BEFORE YAHUAH [God]

And now, we're finally going to see Job begin to understand what the proverb "the fear YAHUAH [God] is the beginning of wisdom" means. (Prov. 9:10). And so, yes... Job finally learns to "shut up" before of the LORD [YAHUAH]. It's as if Job realizes now that YAHUAH [God] is telling him, "Just be still [Job], and know that I am God [ELOHIYM] (Ps. 46:10a) ... and not you!" "Moreover, the LORD [YAHUAH] answered Job, and said: 'shall the one who contends with the Almighty [EL SHADDAI] correct Him? [Hey Job,] He who rebukes God [ELOAH], let him answer it.'" (Job 40:1-2). And so now Job, finally with some real Godly wisdoms responds to God [YAHUAH]; "then Job answered the LORD [YAHUAH] and said: 'behold, I am vile; what shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth. [I will shut up now.] Once I have spoken, but I will not answer [now]; yes, twice, but I will proceed no further [with You now].'" (Job 40:3-5). And then, between Job chapter 40, verse 6 until the end of chapter 41, YAHUAH [God] schools Job and gives him a stunning picture of His magnificence, starting with these words "Now prepare yourself like a man [Job]; I will question you, and you shall answer Me: Would you indeed [even try to] annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me [so] that you may be justified?" (Job 40:7-8).

IV. LEARNING TO KNOW OUR PLACE BEFORE ELOHIYM [God]

And now, after about 50 verses where Job is finally quiet, and YAHUAH [the LORD] tells Job of His own might and beauty in comparison... then, Job in his new-found wisdom repents before the YAHUAH [the LORD], and responds: "Then Job answered the LORD [YAHUAH] and said: 'I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, "Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?" Therefore, I have uttered what I did not understand, (i.e. I was talking like a fool) things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. [So now] listen, please, and let me speak; You said, "I will question you, and you shall answer Me." [And so now,] I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore, [in comparison to You] I abhor [despise] myself, and repent in dust and ashes.'" (Job 42:1-6).

V. LEARNING TO BE HUMBLE, AND REPENT BEFORE YAHUAH [the LORD]

Brothers and sisters, do you have friends or family who are self-righteous, like Job and his friends were? Who knows? Maybe YAHUAH [God] is thinking of them as He was thinking of Job when Satan comes to Him, "have you considered My male

servants Tom, Dick, and Harry, and My female servants Geraldine, Jane, and Harriet?” That there are none like them on earth, blameless and upright men and women, people who fear GOD [ELOHIYM] and shun evil?” But probably not...

I don't know about you, but when I have friends or family tell me how right they always are or how smart... or how self-important they are... that truly believe that the universe revolves around them because they are so significant compared to me and everyone else, I admit that I get a little annoyed and self-defensive. But then I try to remember what Peter said and I begin to feel sorry for them instead. Peter said, “Likewise..., submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, *all of you* be submissive to one another (despite how arrogant they seem), and be clothed with humility, for YAHUAH [God] resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God [YAH], that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” [So instead of worrying about the self-righteous, consider Job and be sober [self-controlled], be vigilant [watchful]; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, [and be] steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brothers [sisters] in the world.” (1 Peter 5:5-9).

Peter learned this attitude, I'm sure, from YAHUSHA [Jesus] Himself. For YAHUSHA [Jesus] “told a parable to those who were invited [to the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath], when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: **‘When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; and he who invited you and him come and say to you, “Give place to this man,” and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes, he may say to you, “Friend, go up higher”.** Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled [put down], and he who humbles himself will be exalted.’” (Luke 14:7b-11).

Even Solomon in all his worldly wisdom knew and listed out for us seven (7) things that YAHUAH [the LORD] hates. What do you think is at the top of the list? “These six things the LORD [YAHUAH] hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look...” (Prov. 6:16-17a). Most other translations use the word “haughty” rather than proud. One who is haughty is one who believes that they are arrogantly superior and shows contempt or a lack of respect toward others.

VI. “LET ME BE WEIGHED ON HONEST SCALES”

While I was reading Job, one of the texts that popped out of the page was one that Job used to defend Himself before YAHUAH [God], saying to his so-called friend Bildad. Thinking of how righteous he had lived his life up until this time in his oppression. Defensively he says... “Let me be weighed on honest scales, that God [ELOAH] may know my integrity”. Little did he know himself what Satan knew. For when Satan appeared before YAHUAH [God], Satan rightly states to YAHUAH [God] about Job: He says, “Have You not made a hedge around him, [and] around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.” And so, we look now at today’s picture:



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It is a painting of a man who is standing on a golden scale. It could be Job; it could also be you or me. You will see that this person is standing. It appears that the scale is being held up in the air by three (3) wires. And yet, there is a finger, probably the finger of YAHUAH [God] that appears to be keeping the scale steady, from rocking back and forth, and keeping the person from falling into the depths below. Maybe YAHUAH [God] is even applying a little more pressure on the scale it to give the person on it a little more value than he or she is really worth. If that person were me, and if I understand the situation clearly, I'd be down on my knees at YAHUAH [God]'s finger, trying to kiss Him and thank Him for steadying out my life... keeping me in a spiritual balance... putting that hedge around me, and my household... and even for the material things that He has provided me. I'd want to thank Him for the added value that He has credited toward my life in Him, and advance payment on the good works that YAHUSHA [Jesus] has poured out for me and for my salvation. I realize now, whether YAHUAH [God] chooses to keep His finger on the scale or to remove it as He did for a while with Job, that it is His scale, and His scale is *always* honest, and His will for my life *always* perfect... regardless of what I think... and regardless of what my friends and family think. For, I know that "The LORD [YAHUAH] is my light and my salvation; [so] whom shall I fear? [Yes,] the LORD [YAHUAH] is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps. 27:1). And so now, as we close today, let's you and I both read some more of this beautiful Psalm (27) together:

VII. CLOSING PRAYER (from Psalm 27)

"When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident. One thing I have desired of the LORD [YAHUAH], that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD [YAHUAH] all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD [YAHUAH], and to inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle, He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. 'Wait on the LORD [YAHUAH] [we say]; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen [our] heart; 'Wait', [we] say, on the LORD [YAHUAH]!" (Ps. 27:2-5,14). Now...

May YAHUAH [God] richly bless you now, as you rest in Him for the remainder of this holy Shabbat [Sabbath], and as you go forth from this place. As you go forth, I pray that you will each not be found wanting when you are weighed on His scale, but will have YAHUAH [God] finger steadying your course, and adding a little more spiritual value to your life. Amen.