

# Central Pentecostal Ministries

From the Pulpit...

# Captivity Turned

Pastor Donald Shoots

“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

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 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.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.”

Job 1:1-3, 8; 2:3, 6

The beginning scriptures are highlighted for clarity, fact, and reality. We quickly note that if righteousness and clean-living before God could have kept back the works of Satan, he could have never attacked Job. Satan is still “*seeking whom he may devour*” (1 Peter 5:8). For those who may have questions regarding the validity of this book, I remind you that the book of Job is not poetical, nor is it imaginary. In fact, Job is mentioned in the book of Ezekiel with great men such as Noah and Daniel. “*There was a man in the land of Uz,*” a man of great faith in God.



In our searching, we as people want to know the answer to all things. We don't do well with the mysteries of God. Some people will die and go to hell because they became disappointed, discouraged, confused and defeated, knowing God did something and didn't tell them why He did it. We get so curious about "why" God does, what He does, and the way He does it that it becomes a hindrance and a distraction. **All of this is going on without Job knowing "why."** I believe had someone tapped Job on the shoulder while he was in ashes, scraping the infected boils on his body, and told him what was *really* going on, at least he could have known why. However, at that point, God's greater purpose would have been lost. God chose not to share what was going on in the spirit world. We don't do well when God is doing something in the spirit world that we can't see. That's when we must trust God's workings. Satan has an objective and desire; he is trying to figure out how to destroy men. God had said, 'Satan, you can't destroy Job!', but Job didn't hear that!

One day things are going well for Job, *really* well. He was the greatest man in the East. Job receives a report that the Sabeans slew his servants in the field. *Surely not*, he thought, *my goodness. That's odd. I've never had that happen before; that's a shocker. I've never bothered the Sabeans; I don't know what they would have against me. Well, that's sad, but everyone has a bad day sometimes.* Then, it wasn't too long after that, Job's sheep were burned up, and the Chaldeans fell upon the camels, took them away and slew the servants. Again, as a man he no doubt thought, *this is a lot. This can't be an accident.*

### ***Spiritual things are never an accident!***

To see God, to hear God, to discern the Works of God is a glorious thing. We have labeled a lot of spiritual things accidents, and because of that, we didn't see God. This CAN'T be an accident. The Sabeans have come, sheep have been burned, Chaldeans fell upon the camels and carried them away, and slew the servants. Job hasn't finished speaking before another man comes running in, *"thy sons and thy daughters are dead."* *"A great wind from the wilderness smote the house, and it fell upon [them]."* *My children? Did anyone else's house fall? Did anyone else's child die? My children are dead, my kids. No, please no.* Then from his heart he echoed these powerful words, *"Blessed be the name of the Lord. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away."* Job's wife then comes out of the kitchen and sees and observes Job is trying to get over it. He has sought to live as right as he knows to live. His wife says, 'Job, you see this God you have been serving, where has it gotten you? Why don't you just curse God and die!' We can see the demonic power of hell pushing him. *Yes, Job, do it! Curse God, just do it!* Job said, "No, I won't!" As a matter of fact, you *"speak as one of the foolish women"* (Job 2:10). I can see her slamming the kitchen door as Job utters 'naked came I into the world naked I shall return, blessed be the name of the Lord.' Satan runs back to God and reports, *"he's not breaking, I have not succeeded in breaking him, but let me just move in a little closer."* God says "alright, you can, but you can't take his life." Now boils start to break out over Job's body. Now remember, this is Job, the *righteous* man. Let me say right here that the devil is an accuser of the brethren; he is a liar and the father of all lies. Job has lost everything, but he is a very dedicated man to God. And something is happening in the spirit world that he doesn't know.

What is to be made from Job's point? The same thing you and I would make out of it. What in the world is happening? But he would not charge God; he would not sin with his lips, and now he has no outward sign of life around him because all of the outward blessings (those seen) have eroded away, and he can't point and say, 'I am blessed of God, look at my sheep.' He can't stand at the pulpit and say, 'I am blessed of God, and I will trust God, look at my camels.' He cannot say, 'I am blessed of God; I am anointed, look at my family.' All of that is gone except his trust in God because **something is happening in the spirit world that he doesn't know about between God and Satan.**

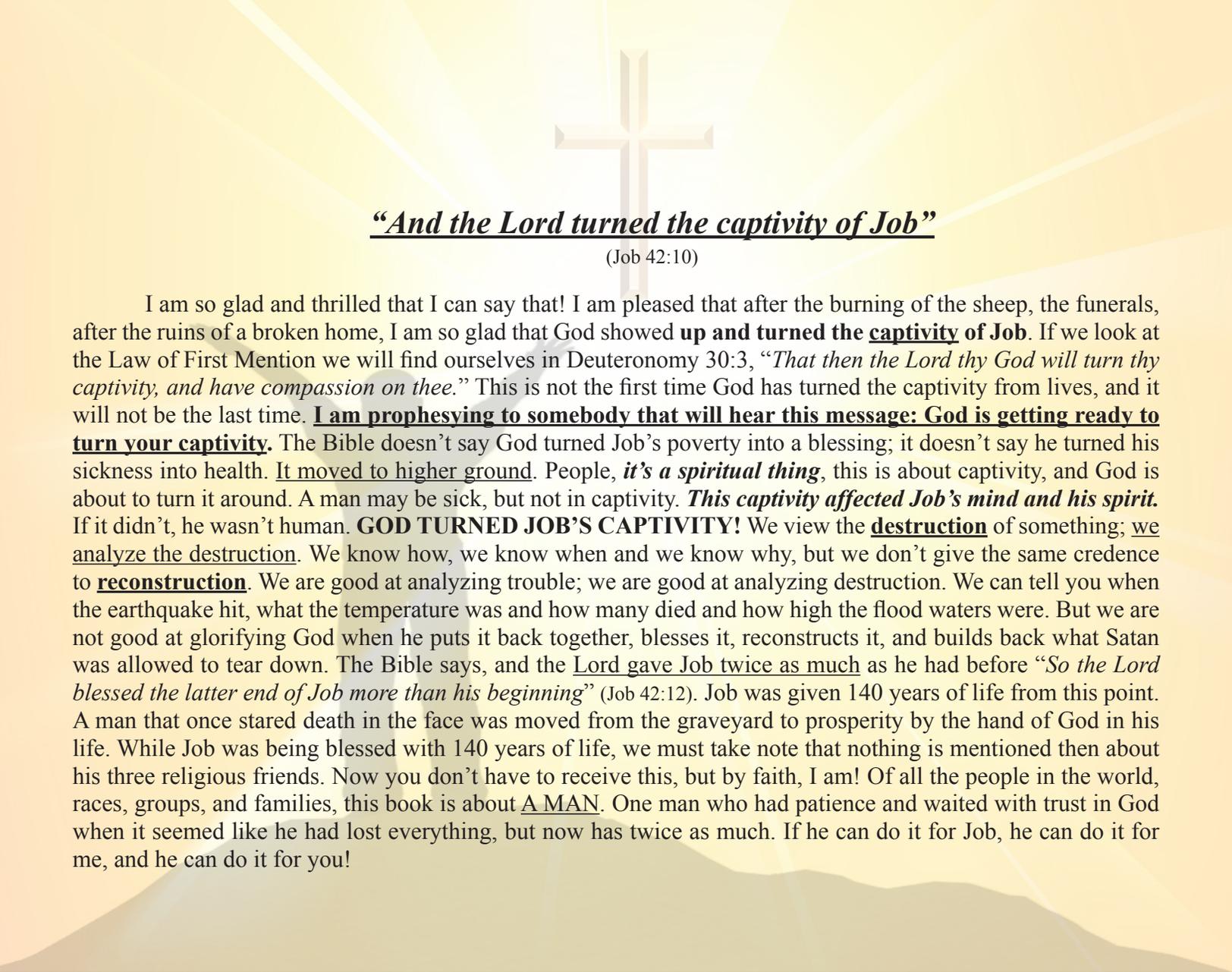
What is made of this from Satan's standpoint? Satan was given by God (though Job didn't know it) a blank check to do whatever he wants to do with the holy man Job, but he can't take his life. Now, right here I find it interesting to see what Satan does when he gets a blank check. **Satan carried Job into captivity.** "And the Lord turned the captivity of Job..." (Job 42:10). What does he do with you and me? He immediately carries us into captivity. In this one act of his evil heart, one word bursts through his being, the word captivity. 'I will carry him into captivity of his mind. Captivity of his spirit, the captivity of his emotions, the captivity of his vision, the captivity of his efforts, I will carry him into captivity.' **Captivity** in the Hebrew means, "to transport into captivity." God gave Satan a blank check, and he immediately picks up Job and carries him into captivity. Blessings can turn to poverty and sickness. What are we to learn from all of this? There will come a time that "in your patience possess ye your soul." Though we do not always know what is happening in the spirit realm, we are required to have patience and wait upon the Lord. We **MUST** see the virtue of patience. We **MUST** see its perfect work, because a man without patience in captivity is lost. Why should we pray one for another if we are supposed to be on cloud nine always? There comes a time I need prayer; I need the altar; I have a burden. But if we are always hiding behind a religious superiority that doesn't exist, we will never get help from God.

### **If we hide behind a superiority that doesn't exist, we will never get help.**

So without patience and faith in God, knowing that he is always just, and true, Job is in a mess. He has nothing to stand on. He has no sheep or camels, his family, for the most part, is dead. Things are not good at all. **BUT**, he has his patience and trust in God. There will come a time when you will have to exercise patience; it is a biblical and spiritual necessity. We must also see the providence of God. A blank check had been handed, a conversation between Satan and God had solidified itself. Satan moved towards Job and the activity started. At no time would Job's prayers have changed anything, because it was the providence of God. God and Satan were having it out with Job as the vessel. Yet Job was not going to bow, He was not going to bend, He was not going to burn. When they first got the report, many requests and prayers of deliverance could have been made with no result to silence the assault from Satan. Somewhere there is a providence of God Almighty, and we must trust God Almighty! Our religious efforts, at times, are futile, **we must trust our Creator!** The providence of God must be seen in that no prayer or religious act of Job could have changed the supreme law of God in His showdown with Satan.

There is a caution in this message, and that is we must all be very careful as we interpret the storms and difficulties of others. People with a Bible under each arm, who just stained the altar with tears, sung in the choir, taught the class, ushered, what do you think of this occasion with Job? Some would say, 'It looks like God is upset with him', 'He must have sinned', 'He just has no faith', or 'He must be out of the Will of God'. That observation would be an error of errors. It would have been a tragedy of misjudgment; it would have been a falsehood, a misrepresentation. It would have been seen totally wrong, and so **we have to use caution as we interpret the dark times of others.** This case was God parading a righteous man before Satan to prove devotion of both sides, Job's and God's. **God said, 'I can trust Job' and Job said, 'I can trust God.'** It was not a display of God's displeasure; it was not a display of God's anger with Job. He repeatedly said what He thought of him. Then Job's three religious friends came, I said, 'religious' people. Give a man a little religion, and if he mishandles it, he can cause you chaos. Here are his three friends who seemed to know everything about God, but still became another source of pressing on Job's mind and spirit. For the most part, these three religious friends never helped Job. These people made nothing better; not the church, the altar, the preaching nor the singing was better, *but* they seemed to know everything about God.





**“And the Lord turned the captivity of Job”**

(Job 42:10)

I am so glad and thrilled that I can say that! I am pleased that after the burning of the sheep, the funerals, after the ruins of a broken home, I am so glad that God showed **up and turned the captivity of Job**. If we look at the Law of First Mention we will find ourselves in Deuteronomy 30:3, “*That then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion on thee.*” This is not the first time God has turned the captivity from lives, and it will not be the last time. **I am prophesying to somebody that will hear this message: God is getting ready to turn your captivity.** The Bible doesn’t say God turned Job’s poverty into a blessing; it doesn’t say he turned his sickness into health. **It moved to higher ground.** People, ***it’s a spiritual thing***, this is about captivity, and God is about to turn it around. A man may be sick, but not in captivity. ***This captivity affected Job’s mind and his spirit.*** If it didn’t, he wasn’t human. **GOD TURNED JOB’S CAPTIVITY!** We view the **destruction** of something; **we analyze the destruction.** We know how, we know when and we know why, but we don’t give the same credence to **reconstruction.** We are good at analyzing trouble; we are good at analyzing destruction. We can tell you when the earthquake hit, what the temperature was and how many died and how high the flood waters were. But we are not good at glorifying God when he puts it back together, blesses it, reconstructs it, and builds back what Satan was allowed to tear down. The Bible says, and the **Lord gave Job twice as much** as he had before “*So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning*” (Job 42:12). Job was given 140 years of life from this point. A man that once stared death in the face was moved from the graveyard to prosperity by the hand of God in his life. While Job was being blessed with 140 years of life, we must take note that nothing is mentioned then about his three religious friends. Now you don’t have to receive this, but by faith, I am! Of all the people in the world, races, groups, and families, this book is about **A MAN**. One man who had patience and waited with trust in God when it seemed like he had lost everything, but now has twice as much. If he can do it for Job, he can do it for me, and he can do it for you!

# *Central Pentecostal Ministries*

*Worshipping God in the Spirit of Pentecost*

The purpose of this publication is to benefit those truly seeking to follow Jesus Christ. If you or someone you know would be encouraged and strengthened by receiving these Full-Gospel messages, please contact us at:

**Central Pentecostal Ministries**

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