

## **BIBLE WOMEN - LESSON 2**

### **Job's Wife – Lot's Wife and Daughters**

#### **I. JOB'S WIFE - WHEN DID THE ACCOUNT OF JOB TAKE PLACE?**

A. This lesson may seem to be out of order, according to its placement in the Old Testament, between Esther and Psalm.

1. There is scriptural evidence that the account in the Book of Job occurred much earlier in Hebrew history than its placement in the Old Testament reveals.
  - a. Job's friend, Eliphaz made mention of the flood: **Job 22:16** – "*Will you keep to the old way which wicked men have trod, <sup>16</sup> who were cut down before their time, whose foundations were swept away by a flood?*" Therefore, we can conclude that the account of Job took place after the flood.
  - b. Job was a Patriarch who lived prior to the time of Moses; probably closer to the time of Abraham.
    - 1) Like other Patriarchs in the Old Testament, Job, as the head of his family offered up sacrifices to God (**Job 1:5**)
    - 2) In the book of Job there is no mention of the Levitical Priesthood, the Tabernacle or Temple, nor the Law of Moses.
    - 3) Unlike the Israelite law, where the family inheritance was passed on to daughters only in the absence of sons, (**Numbers 27:1-11; 36:1-13**), Job gave his daughters "an inheritance among their brothers." (**Job 42:15**)
    - 4) Job's material wealth was measured, not in money, but in the amount of livestock he owned (**Job 1:3, 42:12**), which is more characteristic of patriarchal times.
    - 5) Finally, Job's long life was more comparable to the long lives of the Patriarchs who lived around 2200 BC. Job lived long enough to:
      - i.* Marry a wife
      - ii.* Become the greatest of all the men in the east (**Job 1:3**)
      - iii.* Amass great wealth (**Job 1:3**)
      - iv.* See his first ten children reach adulthood (**Job 1:4**)
      - v.* To see ten more children grow to adulthood (**Job 42:10-13**)
      - vi.* AFTER all of his suffering, Job lived 140 years more and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations.
      - vii.* Job probably lived into his 200's, an age comparable to the ancestors of Abraham, whose great-grandfather lived to be 230 years old (**Genesis 11:22-23**)

- B. Surprisingly, for many the question is whether the book of Job is an account of a real person or is it simply an allegory (a story of fiction or a parable) that reveals a hidden meaning or moral.
1. Over twenty years ago, our son had a friend who was attending Abilene Christian University on a missionary scholarship. When he was home during the holidays he revealed that he was taught that the book of Job was a “fable” (or allegory or parable). Unfortunately, he accepted that view as truth.
  2. How can we be sure whether this book details the true events of a man’s life or is it simply a parable to teach faithfulness in the face of extreme suffering?
    - a. Apparently, the Catholic church teaches that many accounts in the Bible which we accept as true events are in reality simply “allegories”, according to Bill O’Reilly (Fox News), who professes to be a practicing Catholic.
      - 1) The creation – including Adam and Eve
      - 2) The flood
      - 3) Job, and many others.
    - b. When we examine the parables about people that Jesus used to teach spiritual lessons, we see that they have these things in common:
      - 1) Jesus never used a person’s name in any of his parables
        - i. *“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner...” (Matt. 20:1)*
        - ii. *“Behold, a sower went out to sow.” (Matt 13:3)*
        - iii. *“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.” (Matt 13:24)*
        - iv. *“But what do you think? A man had two sons,...” (Matt. 21:28)*
        - v. *“A man planted a vineyard..”(Mark 12:1)*
        - vi. *“The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.” (Luke 12:16)*
        - vii. *“There was a certain rich man who had a steward...” (Luke 16:1)*
      - 2) Parables used in the Bible are very short stories that are intended to convey a spiritual lesson by using a simple story of common things and events in the experience of the people spoken to.
      - 3) When the spiritual meaning of the parable was not obvious, the parables are explained to clarify the lesson to be learned by the hearers.
        - i. **Matthew 13:18-23** – The parable of the Sower is explained.
        - ii. **Matthew 13:36:43** – The parable of the Tares is explained
        - iii. **Matthew 15:15-20** - Peter requests an explanation of a parable about what defiles a person.

- 4) In most of His parables, Jesus indicates that He is speaking in parables:
  - i. Jesus said, "*Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner...*" (**Matt. 21:33**)
  - ii. Jesus said, "*And He said to them, Do you not understand this parable?*" (**Mark 4:13**)
  - iii. "*To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it?*<sup>31</sup> *It is like a mustard seed....*" (**Mark 4:30**)
  - iv. Jesus said, "*Now learn this **parable** from the fig tree:...*" (**Mark 13:28**)
- c. There are even parables used in the Old Testament to emphasize a lesson to the Israelites:
  - 1) **Judges 9:7** – the parable of the Trees – when Abimelech wanted to become king.
  - 2) **2 Samuel 12:1-10** – Nathan, the Prophet, tells a parable of a Little Pet Lamb to David to describe David's sin when he arranged for Uriah, his neighbor to be killed in battle so David could have his wife, Bathsheba.
  - 3) **Ezekiel 24:14** – the parable of the cooking pot
- d. The book of Job does not fit the pattern of parables spoken by Jesus nor of others in the Old Testament.
  - 1) Not only is the main character specifically named, but his four friends are also named, including Elihu's father's name. (**Job 32:6**) Also in **Job 42:14**, the names of his three daughters are given (the second group of ten children).
  - 2) Nowhere in the book of Job is there any indication that this story was intended to be a parable or fable.
  - 3) IF Job was written as a parable or allegory, it is many times longer than the longest parable written and it is an extremely complicated story. It certainly was not a simple story about common things.
  - 4) IF Job is a parable or fable, nowhere is its meaning explained.
  - 5) We can safely conclude that Job is NOT a parable. It is the record of events that occurred in the life of a faithful servant of God who also serves as an example for us to consider when we face devastating events in our own lives.
3. Those who attempt to discount certain "miraculous" events in the Bible by classifying them as allegories or fables, are minimizing God's power in these events.
  - a. They deny God's power by insisting that the creation details given in Genesis are allegories or fables. Their minds cannot conceive of such power therefore, they have invented the theory of evolution and denies that God created something from nothing. Yet they

have no facts to prove that an accidental cataclysmic event occurred in space which resulted in the creation of the earth and the rest of the universe.

- b. They deny God's power demonstrated in cleansing the earth during the flood when they call it an allegory.
  - c. Science explains that rock formations are the result of billions of years of water erosion or ice formation or earthquake when the flood is more likely the cause OR perhaps God simply formed them from the beginning.
  - d. How can anyone take religion seriously when they believe that their God has only limited power?
- C. Why is it important to discuss these things, when we are studying WOMEN in the Bible?
1. As dedicated Christians, we must accept the Bible (both testaments) as the inspired word of God and that it is all true. There are no conflicting teachings when all scripture is understood properly.
    - a. **2 Timothy 3:16** – *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,"*
    - b. **2 Peter 1:20-21** - <sup>20</sup> *knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God<sup>f</sup> spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*
    - c. **1 Thessalonians 2:13** – *"For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."*
    - d. **Psalms 119:160** - *"The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever."*
    - e. Jesus declared that God's word is truth: **John 17:17** – *"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."*
  2. One of the women we plan to study is Job's wife. IF the book of Job is fiction, we have no need to consider her in our study. However, we can safely conclude that the book of Job is indeed a true account of a man severely persecuted by Satan because of his strong faith in God.
- D. Although Job is the main subject of the book of Job, there seems to be a gap in our understanding of the story of Job's wife.
1. Her name is never used, yet she is one of the most infamous women of the Bible.
  2. She has been accused of being "the Devil's accomplice" because of a very harsh statement she made to Job. **Job 2:9** – *"Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"*

- E. The story of Job begins by describing Job as “blameless, upright and one who feared God and shunned evil.” (**Job 1:1-3**)
1. His wealth was enormous
  2. He was the “greatest of all the people of the East”.
  3. He had seven sons and three daughters. At least all of his sons had their own homes where they feasted together often, including their three sisters.
  4. Job made special sacrifices for his children after each period of feasting just in case they had accidentally “cursed God in their hearts” (**Job 1:5**)
- F. At this point Satan enters the picture as he presented himself to God along with the other “sons of God” (angelic beings).
1. Here we learn that Satan is still subservient to God.
  2. His usual activity is “going to and fro on the earth and walking back and forth on it” (looking for those he can influence for evil).
  3. God pointed out Job as a perfect example of a servant of God.
  4. Satan remarks that Job is only faithful because God has erected a protective hedge around him and everything he has prospers.
  5. Satan believes that if Job’s faith were tested, he would be as weak as others Satan has influenced.
  6. However, Satan had to get permission from God to afflict Job with tragedy
  7. God trusted Job’s faith so much that he permitted Satan limited power over Job’s property, but not on his body.
- G. Satan called all of his power into effect to destroy all that Job possessed in one day
1. Job lost everything he owned and all of his children in one day. (Job 1:15-22), yet he did not make a charge against God.
  2. Having lost the first challenge with Job, Satan returns another day to God, where God reminded Satan that Job held on to his integrity.
    - a. Satan agreed that losing his possessions wasn’t enough – so he wanted to afflict his body as well
    - b. God permitted this, but not to the point of death
  3. Job was struck with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. He sat on an ash heap and scraped his wounds with broken shards of pottery. Some say this was like lancing boils to drain the poisons as is done by doctors today.
- H. Through all of this disaster there was another person whose grief was just as deep as Job’s – his wife.
1. We have a lot of information about how Job handled these tragedies, but how did Job’s wife handle it?

2. Imagine what kind of woman Job's wife might have been, considering that her husband was so faithful that God declared that there were "none like him on earth."
    - a. It is logical to believe that she was also a godly woman who was greatly influenced by the faithfulness of her husband.
    - b. She also enjoyed the great wealth that Job had amassed through the blessings of God.
    - c. She gave birth to ten healthy children who were no doubt the delight of her life.
    - d. She was the wife of the most respected man in the east.
  3. Can you imagine how she felt when the deluge of tragedy struck? Can you imagine that she might say something in reaction to the shock of the disasters that she would later regret? Have you ever done that?
    - a. There was not even time between the tragedies to react to one before news of another came.
    - b. She must have been overwhelmed with fear and grief.
    - c. She was caught in the crossfire of Satan's attack on her husband. She was an innocent bystander or perhaps "collateral damage" which affects those in the wake of a tragedy.
    - d. If we can identify with the horror she faced, perhaps we can give her the benefit of the doubt before judging her an unworthy wife for such a righteous man.
  4. Even Job's reaction to her statement was not to condemn her, but to help her to hold on to her faith.
    - a. Job said, "*You speak as one of the foolish women speaks.*" (**Job 1:10**)
      - 1) He did not accuse her of being foolish, but as sounding like the foolish women.
      - 2) Perhaps he meant, "*I know you very well, and this does not sound like you at all.*" Perhaps he understood that her words were just an immediate, thoughtless reaction to grief too great to bear.
      - 3) Job also said in verse 10, "*Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?*" to remind her that all of the blessings they had enjoyed came from God originally and they had no right to complain if God also took them away.
- I. While Job's wife shared equally in his abundance, she also shared equally in his losses.
1. When his land was raided, all of their cattle and livestock were stolen and their servants were killed, she felt that loss as much as Job did.
  2. When their ten children were killed in what seemed to be a freak accident, her grief was at least as devastating as was Job's, and perhaps even stronger since women are very sensitive concerning their children.

3. Job's wife even experienced the torment of watching her beloved husband suffer constantly from an excruciatingly painful illness that came on so quickly .
    - a. There was nothing she could do to relieve his suffering.
    - b. She watched in anguish as he cursed the day he was born. (Job chapter 3)
    - c. She watched as his "friends" accused him of sin, when Job insisted that he had not sinned. It is indeed very difficult to watch those you love be criticized by everyone.
      - 1) Eliphaz, in **Job 4:7-9**, described perfectly the beliefs of Job's three friends:
 

*Vs 7 – "Remember now, whoever perished being innocent? Or where were the upright ever cut off?"*

*Vs 8 – "Even as I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same."*

*Vs 9 – "By the blast of God they perish and by the breath of His anger they are consumed."*
      - 2) She heard Elihu accuse Job of being "self-righteous". How painful that must have been to the woman who watched him live righteously day after day, year after year as his wife.
    - d. Job's wife watched while Job begged God for understanding as to why he was a "target" of God's wrath. **Job 7:17-21 & Job 10:1-7**
    - e. She watch as her upright, blameless husband begged God for death. (**Job 14:13**)
  4. Job's wife, having lost all of their worldly possessions, had to find a way to get food for herself and her husband while he was too ill to help. We have no idea as to the length of his illness, likely months.
    - a. Her financial resources had all been eliminated.
    - b. Her husband was incapable of working to help provide a living.
    - c. There were few resources for women to earn a living in those times.
    - d. Since we have no evidence that her home was destroyed, perhaps she was left with a house and its furnishings . She may have had to sell much of that property to be able to take care of herself and Job.
  5. There is no mention at all of "friends" or "relatives" giving aid or comfort to Job's wife.
- J. Job's wife was still there when Job repented of his attitude and when God's wrath was voiced against Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar, the accusing friends.
1. God stated that they had not spoken correctly to Job about God.
  2. God also stated that Job was in the right. (**Job 42:7**)
  3. God commanded the three friends to sacrifice seven bulls and seven rams.
  4. God told them to go to Job so he could pray for them. (**Job 42:8**)

- K. Job's wife was with him when the Lord blessed their latter days more than their beginning.
1. All of their animals were numbered twice as many as he had at first. (**Job 42:12**)
  2. They had ten more children, again seven sons and three daughters. (**Job 42:13**)
  3. All three of his daughters are named, and they were given an inheritance along with their brothers. (**Job 42:15**)
  4. Their daughters were the most beautiful women in the land. (**Job 42:15**)
- L. We don't know how long Job's wife lived after their life was restored.
1. She lived long enough to see her husband vindicated in the eyes of those who had tormented him throughout his suffering.
  2. She lived long enough to have ten more children to fill her life with joy and activity.
  3. She lived long enough to see Job's wealth not only restored but doubled.
- M. Job's wife may have learned some very important life lessons through this terrible time.
1. She may have learned to treasure her righteous husband even more than she had before.
  2. She may have learned that worldly wealth cannot be trusted for true happiness.
    - a. Money cannot prevent loved ones from dying
    - b. Money cannot heal the sick
    - c. Money cannot comfort a grieving heart.
- N. How very much more she must have appreciated all of the blessings, knowing that circumstances in life can change so very quickly and it could all disappear in the blink of an eye.

## II. LOT'S WIFE and DAUGHTERS

- A. Jesus handed down immortality of fame to two women:
1. One anointed his head with costly oil (**Mark 14:1-9**)
  2. She loved Jesus so much that she gladly used her very expensive oil on his head.
    - a. She and Jesus were criticized by the Pharisees because they thought that as a "prophet" He should have known that the one touching him was a known sinner.
    - b. Jesus reminded the Pharisees that she had offered him the hospitality that they had neglected to do: she washed his feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair – the Pharisees did not greet him properly nor offer these common courtesies for a visitor.

c. **Mark 14:9** – Jesus said, “*Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.*”

- B. The second was Lot’s wife, (**Luke 17:28-37**)
1. Unfortunately, Jesus did not compliment Lot’s wife when He said, “*Remember Lot’s wife*” (**Luke 17:32**). The second shortest verse in the Bible.
  2. Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees about the coming of the Kingdom.
  3. He said that just as in the days of Noah and Lot, people continued their daily routines (eating, drinking, marrying, buying, selling, planting, building, etc).
  4. They ignored the warnings of the destruction that was to swiftly come upon them.
  5. In like manner, Jesus will come again to collect those who remain faithful, while those who love the material things of the world will be destroyed, like Lot’s wife.
- C. Lot’s wife is symbolic of Christians who have difficulty laying aside their love of worldly things.
1. Partial obedience to God is equal to total disobedience.
  2. Example: A mother once left her child alone with the following instructions: (1) straighten your room THEN (2) go next door to play with your friends.
    - a. Upon the mother’s return she found her son next door playing with his friends.
    - b. When she looked in his room, she found that his room had not been straightened.
    - c. Did her child obey her instructions? NO
    - d. Partial obedience is in fact, total disobedience.
    - e. Choosing the part of the commandment that is pleasing and ignoring that which is disagreeable is not obedience.
  3. Let’s review the account of what happened to Lot’s family (**Genesis 19**) and see if there is a comparison to be made to the story of the mother and child.
    - a. Two men (angels of the Lord) went to Sodom to carry out the destruction of the city because of the great evil there.
    - b. Lot took them into his home to protect them from the vile men of the city who wanted to assault them. (**Genesis 19:5**)
    - c. The first clue we have that living in this sinful environment had negatively affected Lot and his family was Lot’s solution to the problem.
      - 1.) People from all over the city surrounded Lot’s house and called for the men to be sent out to them.

- 2.) Lot went out to the crowd and begged them not to do this evil thing.
  - 3.) When they continued their demands and knowing their evil intentions, Lot offered to give them his two maiden daughters that still lived in his house.
  - 4.) Lot's solution was just as evil and sinful as what the depraved mob wanted, yet the mob refused his offer and insisted on having the MEN.
- d. Why didn't Lot trust God for protection and a way of escape?
- 1.) **I Corinthians 10:13** – *"<sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."*
  - 2.) **II Peter 2:9** – *"...the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,"*
  - 3.) Had living in this sinful city dulled Lot's senses toward sin?
- e. The crowd was made even angrier and accused Lot of "judging them" by pointing out their wickedness. Does that sound familiar today?
- 1.) The crowd then turned their anger on Lot and were about to break down his door when the angels reached out the door and pulled Lot inside and shut the door.
  - 2.) Then the angels struck the crowd outside with blindness until they grew weary trying to find Lot's door.
  - 3.) As we see, God did provide a way of escape that did not include throwing Lot's daughters to the wolves.
  - 4.) The angels told Lot to gather all of his family and take them out of Sodom quickly.
    - a.) Lot warned his sons-in-law, but they believed Lot was joking and did not get out of the city. Apparently Lot had lost some of his influence for good, since even his sons-in-law and daughters would not listen to his warning that destruction was imminent. (**Genesis 19:14**)
    - b.) Even Lot was hesitating about leaving Sodom, so the angels took the hands of Lot, his wife and their two single daughters and lead them outside the city saying, *"Escape for your life! **Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.**"* (**Gen. 19:17**)
    - c.) Again, Lot failed to trust God to protect him and his family when he said, (**Genesis 19:19b-20**) – *"I cannot*

*escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. <sup>20</sup> See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.*

- d.) The angels relented and allowed Lot and his family to go to the city of Zoar before the destruction of Sodom began.
  - e.) At sunrise, Lot's family arrived in Zoar and then fire and brimstone rained down on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah so that everyone and every growing plant was burned up.
  - f.) The smoke could be seen from the city of Zoar and Lot's wife looked back at the destruction and she became a pillar of salt.
- 5.) The instructions from the angels were: 1) get far away from Sodom and 2) don't look back.
- a.) Lot's wife partially obeyed: She got far away from Sodom
  - b.) Lot's wife looked back at Sodom, which was forbidden.
  - c.) Partial obedience is equal to total disobedience.
- D. The consequences of sin are often far reaching.
1. Lot and his daughters left Zoar and lived in a cave. Why they did this is unknown.
  2. Lot's daughters then determined that they would never have husbands living in this cave in the middle of nowhere, so they devised their own plot to preserve the lineage of their father.
  3. Unfortunately, their solution was not to pray to God for godly husbands to help them and their father. They did not put their trust in God at all.
  4. These daughters had grown up in the corrupt city of Sodom and had apparently been tainted by the evil they saw day after day.
  5. Their idea was to provide their father with strong wine and seduce him so that he would provide them with children. What a sick, evil idea!
    - a. The firstborn daughter bore a son named Moab, who became the father of the Moabites.
    - b. The younger daughter bore a son named Ben-Ammi who became the father of the Ammonites.
    - c. These nations were the source of many conflicts with Israel over the centuries. **(See maps of the land of Moab and Ammon)**
- E. When things go so wrong, we often pause to consider what "might have been."

1. What if Lot had been more outspoken about his faith in God so that he would have more influence over his sons-in-law and his own daughters (not to mention the community of Sodom)?
  2. What if Lot's wife had been less interested in the material things she left behind and more interested in doing the will of God?
  3. What if Lot's wife had been more influential upon her own daughters and trained them to love God more than material things?
  4. What if Lot's wife had not looked back toward Sodom and instead remained with her family in Zoar?
    - a. Might Lot never have been put in such a sinful position with his daughters if his wife had been by his side?
    - b. Might Lot's daughters never have considered such a sinful solution if their mother had been there to guide them?
  5. What if Lot's daughters had married men who were also faithful to God and their children had been a blessing to the world instead of the source of conflict?
- F. Unfortunately, we will never know how much of a difference Lot's wife might have made if she had not looked back.
1. The beauty of the Bible as God's inspired word is that we have been given examples of great faith to follow AND examples of those who failed in their obedience to God. These are also for our learning that we may avoid such situations ourselves.
  2. The most valuable lesson from this account of Lot's wife is: Partial obedience is equal to TOTAL DISOBEDIENCE.

## BIBLE WOMEN – Lesson 4

### MOABITES and AMMONITES



Moab and Ammon bordered Israel and Judah on the EAST

#### Genesis 19:30-38

Lot's two daughters were influenced by the evil in the city, Sodom, where they grew up. They took it upon themselves to protect the lineage of Lot by providing him with strong wine until he was too drunk to object to their evil plan. They seduced their father in order to produce children to continue Lot's heritage. Apparently, they never considered asking God for help or trusting God to protect Lot's heritage.

Their two sons, Moab and Ben-Ammi became the father of the Moabites and the Ammonites. These people were idolaters and the cause of many conflicts with the nation of Israel.

Their descendants live currently in the country of JORDAN. As an Arab nation, they, like their Arab brothers are followers of Mohammed (Muslim).



The Moabites and the Ammonites descendants are now in the Country we know as Jordan, or they migrated to other Arab nations