

# Thus Saith God's Word

by Rev. Ted Brooks

"For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet, yet trouble came." (Job 3:25-26)

Things were looking good for Job until Satan looked through on Job. Job had just finished his prayers for the day saying, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts; thus Job did continually." (Job 1:5)

"There was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them." (Verse 6) Here we will see there was a meeting in heaven of which Job was unaware of. It was there that God said unto Satan, "Whence comest thou? Satan answered the Lord and said, from going to and fro in the earth and from walking up and down in it." (Job 1:6-7)

"God said unto Satan, hast thou considered my servant Job. And there is none like him in the earth, a perfect man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil." (Verse 8)

"Satan replied doth Job fear God for naught? Hast not thou made a hedge about him and about his house? And about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hand, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now and touch all that he hath and he will curse thee to thy face." (Job 1:9-11)

Notice Satan said, "Put forth thine hand now." Satan said do it now while all around him is blessed, while his prayers are being answered. Do it now while all around him is plentiful. The sun was shining, things were looking up for Job. With 7,000 sheep in the field, 3,000 camels on hoof, his sons and daughters were eating and living it up. And yet one day a servant came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the asses feeding beside them. The Sa'be'ans fell upon them and took them away. They have lain the servants with the edge of the sword and I only an escaped alone to tell thee." (Job 1:13-15)

"There came a neat wind from the wilderness and smote the four corners of the house and it fell upon the young men and they are dead." (Verse 19)

When Job finished burying his family.. livestock, see Job now standing on the graves of his loved ones, possibly Job turned and looked up into heaven and cried out "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... In all this, Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." (Verse 20-22)

God's word tells us that Satan does travel upon this earth, going to an fro, walking up and down in it looking for those whom God has built a fence around, those who feared God and eschewed evil. Satan spotted Job on his way back down, going up in his walk, Satan had been given permission to destroy Job's substances, now coming back. Satan found Job still trusting in God.

Job's wife said to Job, "Doth thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God and die." He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." (St. John 15:5-7) Job's wife could not understand Job. He had lost all his substance and family and Job is still abiding in God. "Curse God, Job, and die," she said.

Satan had come back by and Job was talking words like "Naked came I out of my mother's womb and naked shall I return." "So again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord and Satan came also among them."

"The Lord said unto Satan, from whence comest thou and Satan answered the Lord and said, from going to and fro in the earth and from walking up and down in it."

"And the Lord said unto Satan, hast thou considered my servant Job that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil? And still holdest fast his integrity." (Job was always abounding in the work of the Lord knowing his labor was not in vain. He was steadfast. Job was not slipping to and fro but he was stuck in the work of God.)

"Satan said to God, skin for skin, yea all that a man hath will be give for his life." (Job 2:4) "You put forth thine hand now, touch his bones and his flesh and he will curse thee to thy face." (Verse 5) So Job is smote with sore boils from the sole of his feet unto his crown. Now Job sat down among the ashes, being cursed by his wife and three friends who came to mourn with him and to comfort him. They looked upon him and failed to recognize Job. They all rent their mantles, sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven. (Job 2:12) The scripture said that "for seven days and seven nights and none spoke a word. Soon Job opened his mouth and cursed his day that he was born." Now it was skin for skin.

"Let the day perish wherein I was born and the night which it was said there is a man child conceived." (Job 3:1-2) "Let that day be darkness; let not God regard it from above, neither light shine upon it." (Verse 4) "Let no voice be joyful, let the stars of the twilight thereof be dark. For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet yet trouble came." (Job 3:25-26)

Job must have looked back and seen where he knew that his children were doing things which were not right and he prayed for them, in fear of death, "O God let my children live."

Job must have felt like Abraham when there seemed to be a failure on God's part to bring forth a seed from Sarai's womb. Abraham cried out "O that Ishmael might live before thee." (Genesis 17:18)

Sad to say, many people never bother with God so long as everything goes well. You and I cannot expect to have a vibrant relationship with God for nothing. There is a price which must be paid.

Job had many nights which were appointed to him. When I lie down I say when shall I arise and the night be gone? And I am free of tossing to and fro until the dawning of the day. (Job 7:3-4)

Job acknowledged God's justice. "If I had called and he had answered me; yet would I not believe that he had hearkened unto my voice." (Job 9:16) So now Job declared "My days are swifter than a pest, they flee away, they see no good." (Verse 25) "My good days are now behind me never to return."

But Job went on to trust God and to search for the ways of God. One day God appeared to Job and said "Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? Then Job answered the Lord, behold I am vile, what shall I thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken, but I will now answer yea twice, but I proceed no farther. Then the Lord answered unto Job out of the whirlwind and said, gird up thy loins now like a man and declare unto me. Hast thou an arm like God?" (Job 40:1-12)

"Then Job said, I know that thou canst do every thing and that no thought can be with holden from thee, wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes. And it was so that after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, my wrath is kindled against thee and against thy two friends for ye have not spoken of me the things that are right as my servant Job has. Take these things to Job and he shall pray for you; for him will I accept, lest I deal with you after your folly in that ye have not spoken of me the things which are right like my servant Job."

Now left me say to you who are experiencing those things which you greatly feared and that which has made you afraid and there seems to be no way out. Listen, when trouble comes there are those who will sit afar off and accuse you of sinning against God. Soon they will come to you in need of prayer. The Bible tells us to pray for our enemies, bless those who despitefully use you and say all manner of evil against you. Pray. When Job prayed the Lord also accepted Job 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. Then came there unto him all his brethren and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before and did eat bread with him in his house and they bemoaned him and comforted him over all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him, every man also gave him a piece of money and every one an earring of gold.

So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning. Listen my friend, it is a dark fog that slyly imprisons a soul and which allows no easy escape. It is a silent mist which will cover the sun and bring darkness. Friend, it is a heavy cloud that will not honor or hear or respect any person. The further you go, the more depression, discouragement and disappointment, doubt. Job's friends and Job were under this dreaded fog. This fog will cause broken hearts and will dis orient your life. My friend, when these things come upon us which we are afraid of and we know that we are not in safety and despite what you do, sickness makes it hard for us to see the right path, oh we can read a book, go see our doctor, take up exercise, jog, run, diet, nothing helps.

Friend, when it comes skin for skin, Satan said a man would give his life for life. When sickness encircles us our vision is blocked, and it seems tomorrow will not come. When this sickness of skin for skin comes, it is like a fog that envelops us with blackness. You can cry and yet no

help comes. Some of you know the feeling. You have been betrayed by your friend, pastor, some of you have been dumped by your spouse. Some of you like Job have prayed for your loved ones and stood over their graves. You have placed flowers on a friend's casket. Some of you have sit by the bedside of a sick friend. You know a little about Job's skin for skin. You know the cloud you have seen it make up before. Job said that he retained God. God in Job and Job in God. He could do nothing without God. My dear friend, you are not alone in this fog of skin for skin. You need to remember the very best warrior has been ahead of you. God is a very present help in times of trouble. If broken hearts were commercials, we could all be on television.

This past few weeks.. months and years I have witnessed many wounded spirits face this fog of skin for skin. My friend and neighbor, Tidy Dial passed away this week. There have been several car wrecks, many funerals. There's the attractive wife whose husband has walked out, a child who has died. O, my friend, these tragedies will blind our vision, destroy our dreams and the mountain is getting higher. There's here is that cry, "Oh God help me make it through the night."

Would you come with me for a moment. Let's go to the foggiest of nights, skin for skin in a garden of bricks, twisted trees, a little stone fence, a dark, dark night, now look closely through this fog. Can you see this person, a young man there he is flat on his face on the ground, his face stained with dirt and tears, his fists pounding the earth, his eyes filled with tears, his hair matted with tears and salt. Mark 14:32)

In those days of his flesh, he offered up strong crying and tears and it was heard he feared. (Hebrews 5:7) Have you ever said, "Stop the world and let me off. I am tired of going around and round." When it was skin for skin, Jesus cried, "O father, move this cup." The fog was sitting in the windshield cover and it was getting dark, Jesus do something. Blow your horn. Don't give up, keep moving, dim your light. "Abba father, take this cup from me, nevertheless, not my will be done but thine will be done." Praise God the fog lifted. My friend, Christ left us an example in three great areas: faith, hope and love. His was a path of faith, walked in obsolete dependence on the father, never exerting self will. He never once retaliated or threatened for any injustice done to him. His hope was in God alone. Let me close now, "I will say unto God, do not condemn me, shew me wherefore thou contendest with me." (Job 10:1-2)

It was when Job's friends went and sought forgiveness and it was when job prayed for them that the fog lifted up.

Many of you could escape this skin for skin "If ye forgive men their trespasses your heavenly father will also forgive you. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses neither will your father forgive your trespass." (Matthew 6:14-15)

## Gathering of the Eastern Indian Nations at Sunrise

The Indian Education Resource Center and the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center will sponsor the Gathering of the Eastern Indian Nations at Sunrise Festival on March 31, 2001. The Festival will begin at 6:30 a.m. with the Sacred Fire Ceremony. The Pow Wow will begin at 10 a.m. with the First Grand Entry at 11 a.m. at 6 p.m. will be the Second grand Entry.

An Art Auction will be held at 8 p.m. in the meeting center. There will be Native American art only. The event will beheld at the Southeastern Agricultural Center/Farmers Market.

## Support Groups to meet March 6th

Compassionate Friends, a support group for families who have experienced the death of a child, will meet Tuesday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Southeastern Regional Rehabilitation Center, located directly behind Cape Fear Valley Medical Center.

The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the same time and location. For more information please call Martha Lynch at 609-4481.

The Renal Support Group will meet Tuesday, March 6 at 6 p.m. in the Observation Waiting Room on the third floor of Cape Fear Valley Medical Center of Cape Fear Valley Health System.

Parents, family and friends of those with renal disorders as well as those interested are welcome to attend.

The Renal Support Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month. For more information, please contact Jeanne Canady at (910) 609-6713.

## Love Poems

If you have written a love poem, listen up! The New York Poetry Alliance is sponsoring Poetry 2001, a free contest open to everyone. A \$1000 cash prize will be awarded to the winner. There are 28 prizes in all. The deadline for entering is March 3, 2001.

"This is our most challenging contest to day," says Contest Director Dr. John Cusack. "With winter's bite still in the air we'd like to see what poets have to say about love, whether religious or romantic. We expect our contest to produce exciting new discoveries."

To enter, send poem 21 lines or less: New York Poetry Alliance, Box 1588, Ne York, NY 10116-1588. Or enter online at [www.freecontest.com](http://www.freecontest.com)

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**The Carolina Indian Voice**  
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The first issue of the weekly newspaper, The Carolina Indian Voice was published on January 17, 1973, by then editor, owner and founder, Bruce Barton with a \$500 personal loan. It has a proud history of continuous publication, having never missed an issue since its inception. Bruce's sister, Connee Brayboy, the current editor, is the only person to have enjoyed full-time employment since the newspaper's inception. A brother, Garry Lewis Barton came to work full-time in 1973 and ended his affiliation with the newspaper in 1985; its founder, Bruce Barton left to further his education shortly thereafter. Another brother, Ricky Barton, has been affiliated on a part-time basis with the newspaper since its inception. For the first time in years, the four siblings are reunited and dedicated to publishing the best newspaper humanly possible.

Connee Brayboy ..... Editor

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