

## Man That Is Born of a Woman

Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1991

### Job 14:1-10

*Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. And dost thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee? Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one. Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass; Turn from him, that he may rest, till he shall accomplish, as an hireling, his day. For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant. But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?*

I'm reading from the Book of Job, if you want to follow along in your Bible. I wish you would. I will be using several verses of scripture from Job, Chapter 14. We will begin our reading with verse 1. I'm going to be reading the first two verses.

I'm sure you are familiar with this scripture and you have heard it read many, many times, mostly at funeral services. Sometimes, the most familiar scriptures are read too hastily and too carelessly. We sometimes miss the truth of that particular scripture because of our familiarity with it. After I read this scripture, you will immediately know that you have heard it dozens of times before. Listen to it again, would you listen to it again, just one more time? Let's see if the Spirit of God will reveal some things from this scripture that we need to hear and we need to know.

The title of this message is, "Man That Is Born of a Woman," Get your Bible and let's read. "*Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down. He fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not.*"

Now, I want to look at this passage very carefully today. I want to look at it with a careful eye, with a hearing ear and an open heart. The reason is; Job was a believer; He knew God. The Lord called him, "*My servant.*" I am listening to God's servant speaking here. God said that Job was not only a man who feared the Lord, but he was a man who avoided and hated evil.

I will tell you something else about Job. He was not only the servant of the Lord and a man who feared God, but Job was a man that was acquainted with trials. I don't suppose

any man suffered any more than this man Job. He was a man who endured many hardships and many trials. He was under the hand of God.

Another thing about Job is that he spoke for God. How do you know that preacher? Well, God said this about Job at the end of this book when God rebuked his friends. He said to these men; *“You haven’t spoken of me that which is right.”* He told these men and these fellows that were sitting around and talking to Job, He said, *“You haven’t spoken of me the thing that is right, but Job has. Job has spoken of Me, the thing that is right.”* Wouldn’t it be wise to listen to a man of God and to a servant of God? Wouldn’t it be wise to listen to a man that has learned His theology in the school of affliction and in the furnace of God? Wouldn’t it be wise to listen to a man, whom God Himself said, *“He speaks for Me.”*

The key to this passage of scripture in Job 14 is five questions asked by Job in these verses. Job asks five questions about life and death. Job asks five questions about man’s relationship with God and his relationship with eternity. So, let’s take the time today, to look at these five questions asked by Job in Job Chapter 14.

He said, *“Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down. He fleeth also, as a shadow and continueth not.”* Here is the first question: *“O Lord, dost Thou open Thine eyes upon such a one as this?”* That is the first question. Does the eternal, Almighty God of heaven and earth, the God of Holiness and purity and truth, does He care about such a creature as this? *“He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down. He is of few days and full of trouble. He fleeth as a shadow, a thing of darkness.”*

Does God regard such a creature? Does the Holy God actually look upon such a frail, corrupt, decaying creature? David asked this same question. David said; *“O Lord, when I consider the heavens, the sun, the moon, the stars, and the things which Thou hast made, what is man that Thou art mindful of him?”* Job said, *“Man is born of woman and God is Spirit.”* Job said, *“Man is of few days and God is eternal.”* Job said, *“Man is full of trouble.”* Man invites trouble; he produces trouble and makes trouble.

Why? The reason is because he is a sinner. He’s full of trouble. He is full to overflowing with trouble and sin. God is Holy. He is immaculately, infinitely, eternally Holy. Man is frail. He comes forth like a flower. James says, *“He’s like a vapor,”* (just a puff of smoke). Job said; *“He is like a weaver’s shuttle, (his days move so rapidly). He comes forth as a flower and is cut down. Man fleeth as a shadow.”*

*“Every imagination of his heart is evil. There is none good, no not one. There’s none that understands. There’s none that seeketh after God. They are a shadow.”* A shadow has no substance at all. A shadow that is nothing is fleeting and empty and is nothing as a shadow. That is the way we are described. This is what Job is saying; “God dwelleth in the heaven of heavens, and it won’t contain Him. The earth is His footstool. Does God look upon such a one as this?” Does God care about something like this? Does God have anything for men?

We sure don’t deserve it. We don’t earn it. If God did choose to look in our direction or glance in our direction, it would be by a mighty work of grace. It would be mercy on the part of God. Well, let’s answer the question. You have a man born of woman, few days and full of trouble. *“He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down. He fleeth as a shadow and continueth not. Does God open His eyes upon such a one as this?”*

The greatest proof that He does, the greatest proof of His love and mercy towards creatures like you and me, is the fact that God became a man. He opened His eyes upon such a one. He looked upon and regarded and showed His care and concern for such a one. He actually came to this earth in the form of such a one. God became a man. He was born of a woman. That’s right!

Man that is born of woman is exactly how you describe our Lord Jesus Christ. *“He was born and made of a woman, made under the law.”* He came into this world and took upon Himself the likeness of our sinful flesh. He who made the world was in the world. *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was made flesh. The Word was with God and He dwelt among us. The Word was God and we beheld His glory. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

In Philippians 2:5 it says, *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus who thought it not robbery to be equal with God. And yet, made Himself of no reputation. Took upon Himself the likeness of sinful flesh. Was made in the form of a servant and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Dost Thou open Thine eyes upon such a one?”* The answer is yes and He opens more than just His eyes and carries them, *“He actually was numbered with the transgressors.”* He came down here Himself and became a man.

Here is the second question: I want you to look at it in Job 14: *“Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down. He fleeth also as shadow and continueth not. Dost Thou open Thine eyes upon such a one?”* Here is the second question: *“And will you bring me into judgment with You?”*

*Will this Holy God bring me into His presence?*” This is what David asked in Psalm 24; *“Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Who shall stand in His Holy place?”* In Psalm 1 it says; *“The ungodly cannot stand in the judgment.”* Sinners cannot stand in the congregation of the righteous.

Is it possible that such a creature that *“cometh forth like a flower, that is born of a woman, that fleeth like a shadow,”* shall actually stand in the presence of the Lord and in the hill of the Lord and in the judgment of the Lord? Shall I dwell in the presence of Holiness? Can sons of Adam really be called sons of God? Job asked first; *“Do you look upon such a one?”* Now, he asks, *“Will you actually bring such a one unto Yourself?”* Not only look upon such a one but will I stand with you in the judgment?

Listen to what God says because I have the answer to that too. Turn to Revelation 21: 3 through 5: *“I heard a great voice out of heaven saying; behold the tabernacle of God is with men. He will dwell with them and they shall be His people and God Himself will be with them and will be their God. God will wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, (no more cutting down, and no more fleeing as a shadow). There will be no more passing away, no more sorrow, and no more crying. Neither shall there be any more pain for the former things are taken away. Bringest Thou me into judgment with Thee?”* That is the second question. Oh, Lord God, is it possible?

That leads to the third question. Job recognizes when he asks these first two questions that if the answer is yes, then he has a third question that poses a major problem. This is going to be a major obstacle. He says, first of all, what we are by nature and who God is. He asks, *“Dost Thou look upon such a one, and even regard such a one? Will you actually bring me into your presence?”* Now, he asks the third question, look in verse 4; But, I am a sinner, I’m unclean. *“Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one”* There’s none.

God is Holy. Job knew that. *“Who shall stand in His presence? Who shall ascend unto the hill of the Lord? He that hath clean hands.”* But, I am unclean. *“He that hath a pure heart.”* I don’t have a pure heart. *“He that hath not lifted up his soul to vanity.”* That is not me. *“He who has never spoken deceitfully.”* Well, that is not us. We are unclean. *“All have sinned and come short of God’s glory. All we like sheep have gone astray; we’ve turned everyone to his own way. We all do fade as the leaf. Even our righteousness is filthy rags.”*

I have to be clean to stand in God’s presence. I have to be pure, holy and perfect as God. So, if you look upon such a one, and even decree that such a one should stand in your presence, who is going to bring a clean thing out of that unclean thing? He has to be

clean to stand in God's presence. Who can do it? We can't do it. Who can make us clean? Who can make the unholy, holy? Who can make the unrighteous, righteous? Who can make the ungodly, godly? There is not one in heaven, on the earth or under the earth, not one!

Oh yes, there is one! The Lord Jesus Christ can make the unclean clean and the unholy, holy. The scripture says that this is why He came to the earth. This is why He took upon Himself our nature. The scripture says; *"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief."* He said, *"I've come to seek and to save the lost. He said that He died the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God."*

In Second Corinthians 5:21: *"He was made sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."* I can't bring a clean thing out of an unclean thing. He can! I can't establish a perfect righteousness before God's law but He can. I can't please a Holy God, but He did. The scripture says in First Corinthians 1:30; *"Of God are you in Christ who of God is made unto us, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption."*

This is the gospel message. *"This is the record; that God hath given to us eternal life and this life is in Jesus Christ our Lord. He that hath the Son of God hath life. He that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God that you may know you have eternal life."* Now, if you can believe, like Abraham of old, then you can stand in the presence of God. You won't be standing in your strength, your holiness, or your righteousness; you will be standing in His.

Here is the fourth question: Job goes on talking that *"Man is born of woman and is few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth as a flower and is cut down. He fleeth as a shadow and continueth not. Dost Thou look upon such a one? Wilt Thou bring men to judgment with Thee? Lord, who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean thing?"* That has been established. Christ is our righteousness. Christ is our Holiness. Here is the fourth question: Look down at verse 10; but Job said, *"Man dies. The flesh dies and wasteth away."* Man dies and decays. He gives up the ghost. Here is the question; *"Where is he?"*

You say Lord, *"That you do look upon such a one."* You say Lord, *"You will bring such a one into Thy presence."* You do make us clean and after all that is done, we still die! The old flesh dies and we are placed in the grave. When we are placed in the grave, we decay and there is nothing left.

You can go back and dig someone up that has been buried two or three years in a foreign country where they don't have vaults and metal caskets. They put them in a box and put them in the ground. There is nothing left. Our bodies have just all gone back to the soil. How can man dwell with God and live in a grave? How can man decay and rot and return to the dust? Yet, You say that he will stand in judgment with You and stand in Your presence?

The body returns to the dirt, to the earth and to ashes. Yes, man is not a body. I hear people say; "A man has a soul." You are wrong! Man doesn't have a soul; man has a body. Man is a soul. *"God created Adam from the dust and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and Adam became a living soul."* This earthly tabernacle, this frail, perishable tent, is not me and it is not you. That is where you live. You are looking out of those windows. You are hearing with these receivers. You are speaking with this tongue.

When you leave this body there won't be a thing changed as far as the body is concerned accept life is gone. You are gone and you have moved out. The old house is empty. *"The body returns to the dirt from which it came and the soul returns to God who gave it."* Job says; *"But, man dies and man wasteth away. He gives up the ghost. Where is he?"* He is not in that body, he is not in that casket, and he is not in the ground.

In Second Corinthians 5:1 it says; *"If our earthly house of this tabernacle, (this tent), be dissolved, we have a building of God, a house made with hands, eternal in the heavens."* In places where they don't embalm the body, you have to get them into the ground within 24 hours. Martha said to the Lord; *"He's been dead four days, He stinketh."* He is rotten, decayed and He is wasting away. *"If our earthly house of this tent be dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. To be absent from this fleshly tabernacle is to be present with the Lord."*

That is what our Master said to the thief on the cross. He said, *"Today, you will be with me in Paradise."* His body was not in Paradise. His body was taken down. They came by and broke both of his legs to make sure he was dead. They took the thief down from the cross, wrapped him in a sheet and stuck him in the ground. Christ said; *"Today, you will be with me in Paradise."*

This had Job confused. He said, *"How can I go to the grave and go to be with God?"* How can I dwell with God and lie in the tomb? My old house is buried. No man has the answers. Somebody said; "When we die quickly and our bodies start decaying and the

soul goes to be with God, what kind of covering or what kind of body do we have in heaven while we are waiting the resurrection?" I don't know and nobody else does.

I do know this; *"I know that it is a building of God, a house not made with hands and it is eternal in the Heavens."* I do know this, Christ said; *"I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth on Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."*

You see; Moses died and he came back from heaven and he talked to the Lord Jesus Christ. There were Moses and Elijah on the mount of Transfiguration talking with the Lord. They stood on this earth. Do you remember Lazarus the beggar? He dwelt in Abraham's bosom. Lazarus was dead and his body was in the tomb. Lazarus was in Abraham's bosom. Abraham had died. His body was buried but he was talking to this rich man in hell. You see; there is no soul sleep. This is not taught in God's Word. There is no purgatory taught in God's Word. *"To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."*

Paul said, *"I'm in a straight betwixt the two. I have a desire to depart and be with Christ which is far better."* Job, the answer to your question, *"But man dies and wasteth away, he gives up the ghost, where is he?"* The ghost (the spirit and soul) that you are talking about is the man goes to be with the Lord. However, his earthly tabernacle (body) goes back to the dust.

Now, the last question in verse 14: *"If a man die, shall he live again?"* Shall that man or any other man live again after death? Well, my friends, the answer to this question is found in Job 19. He answered it himself. He said, *"I know that my redeemer liveth and shall stand on this earth in the latter day and though after my skin, worms shall destroy this body, yet in my flesh I shall see God whom I shall see for myself and not another."*

Oh yes, this man will live again and that man will live again. Every man who is in Christ will live again. We'll know each other in heaven. We'll be ourselves in heaven. When Moses came back and spoke to the Lord Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, he was Moses. He lived on this earth as Moses. He died as Moses and went to heaven as Moses. He is still Moses now.

Elijah didn't die; he was translated to heaven. He was Elijah when he walked this earth. He was Elijah when he went to heaven and he was Elijah when he came back. King Saul, even by God's permission, brought Samuel back to this earth. He was Samuel when he lived here and he was Samuel when he died and he was Samuel when he came back. When you die, you will be yourself when you die. You will be yourself wherever you go. You'll be yourself throughout eternity.

Well, shall that man live again when he dies? Shall he live in flesh and bones? Oh yes! That is what Christ said in Luke 24. When He died on the cross and was buried and rose again, he appeared again to His disciples. He said; *“Reach hither, your hand and touch my hand. A spirit doesn’t have flesh and bones as you see Me have. Touch my hand, touch my feet, it is I, be not afraid.”* He was real flesh and bones in His resurrection body.

Then, Christ asked them for something to eat. You see; in First Corinthians 15, it says; *“We’ll have glorified flesh.”* There are different kinds of flesh. This is not the only flesh in the world. There is flesh of fish, flesh of birds, flesh of beasts and flesh of men. There is glorified flesh. Glorified flesh is as far above the flesh of men now as the flesh of men is above the flesh of fish. You don’t compare your flesh to fish flesh do you? You don’t have much passion for a fish. You take a knife and scrape its skin off. *“Shall that man live again?”* Yes, that man shall live again. Christ said; *“He will never perish. I give him eternal life and he will never perish.”*