

May 6

G. *Holy Righteous Job the Much Suffering*

Job lived in northern Arabia, in the country of Ausitis, in the land of Uz, from about 2000 to 1500 years before Christ, "and was true, righteous, pious, blameless and abstained from evil". He was the father of a large family and the owner of numerous flocks and servants. Satan envied this happiness, and began to affirm before God that Job was holy and god-fearing only due to his terrestrial happiness, with the loss of which all his piety would disappear. To expose this lie and to strengthen the faith and patience of his righteous man, God tested Job with all the afflictions of mortal life.

When he was 79, St. Job lost all his wealth, all his children and became ill with the severe disease of leprosy. All these and other misfortunes had fallen upon him suddenly, without the least respite and with great power. The test was very heavy, but St. Job like a lamb to the slaughter endured it, obeying the will of God.

Although the true reason why the afflictions seized Job remained incomprehensible to him, he believed in the truth of God and, feeling his own righteousness before God, he conquered the difficult temptations by his own unlimited faith and submissiveness to the will of God. For this God again fervently rewarded His righteous man with abundant wealth and family for the long years of his remaining life.

In the person of Job all sufferers of the world have a living example of being "strong as adamant, adorned with the crown of patience", "unconquered in temptation, unshaken pillar, bulwark of courage, one having broken the sting of the devil".

"Originally", says St. John Chrysostom, "there was no human misfortune, which this man would not endure, steadfast as all adamant, tested suddenly by famine, and poverty, and illness, and the loss of children, and deprivation of much wealth; and then, being tested by the cunning of his wife, reviling of friends, attacks from servants, he was more firm than any stone in all this, and a refuge for law and grace".

According to church teaching, St. Job is a prototype of the suffering Redeemer of the world.

Troparion, tone 1

**Having beheld the riches of the virtues of Job,
The enemy waited in ambush to rob the righteous one,
And having attacked the pillar of the body,
Could not steal the treasures of the spirit:
For they discovered his soul armed and undefiled.
They stripped and chained me:**

**As You have warned me before the end,
Deliver me from the seducer, O Savior, and save me.**

Kontakion, tone 8

**You were revealed as true and righteous, pious and blameless, sanctified, O
All-glorious One,
Being truly pleasing to God, you enlightened the world by your patience, O
Most Patient and Valiant One:
Therefore all of us hymn your memory, O Divinely-wise One.**

Epistle: Gal. 5:22-26, 6:1-2; sel. 213. **Gospel:** see May 3.

Martyrs Barbarus the Warrior and Bacchus, Callimachus and Dionysius with him

St. Barbarus, a secret Christian, served in the army under the command of Bacchus. During the war between the Greeks and the Franks, he won a single battle against a certain enemy giant that facilitated victory for his compatriots. After victory, commander Bacchus, offering thanksgiving to the idols, offered the honor of the first sacrifice to St. Barbarus. The holy warrior refused and for this he was sentenced to terrible torture by an order of Julian. Seeing the wonderful signs accompanying this torture, both Bacchus and two warriors, Callimachus and Dionysius converted to Christ and were also beheaded for this. After this St. Barbarus was beaten with ox-hide straps, thrown into a fiery furnace, thrown into a dungeon for poisonous reptiles, but everywhere he remained unharmed. Finally he was beheaded by the sword in 362.

Ven. Barbarus, Former Robber

He lived in Northern Greece and was engaged in robbery and plunder. Once, having retired in a cave, he looked over the stolen treasures. Conscience began strongly to speak to him during his remembering the inhumanity with which he obtained his wealth. Having felt a deep repentance, he went to the priest and confessed his sins. The pastor took him in and he spent 3 years in his home, living with cattle, without shelter and clothes, creeping on his knees and elbows. After this, receiving absolution from his sins from the priest, St. Barbarus departed to the forest where he continued to lead a strict way of life, not having clothing and eating only grass. Finally, the voluntary sufferer, while yet on earth having heard the forgiveness of his sins by the Lord, was shot by itinerant merchants, who took him for a beast. The relics of St. Barbarus, glorified by incorruptibility and with healing power, repose in the Kellios Monastery, in Thessaly near Larissa.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0161-0162.
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