

1. Job 1:1-12: The Book of Job opens with an immediate commendation of Job's testimony before God; what type of man and father he was.

- a. After being introduced to Job, we are told of a meeting; the sons of God presented themselves before the LORD, I believe these are the angels of God who constantly do His bidding, wait for God's commands. Satan was also permitted to come among them and stand before the LORD.
- b. In 1 Kings, we are told of a lying spirit that came forth and stood before the LORD. This was in the days when Ahab asked Jehoshaphat to go to war with him to recover Ramoth-gilead. In the time of Micaiah, was a true prophet of the LORD in Israel, whom Ahab hated. 1 Kings 22:15-23
- c. Back to Job 1, Satan, that lying spirit, was before the LORD, he had been watching Job. Where have you come from, said the LORD to Satan. Oh, just walking around in the earth! 1 Peter 5:8.
 - i. "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."
- d. BE COMFORTED, child of God, when Satan sets his sights on you, God already knows it, and that is because God's eyes are always upon you, for your good! Psalms 34:15-19
- e. And then, there was the LORD's question to Satan: Job 1:8: Read. You've been considering my servant Job, haven't you? I know you've been watching him. Have you also considered that He is perfect and upright, he reveres and fears me, and he shuns sin and wickedness?

2. Satan's reply and challenge....

- a. Job worships and fears you because you've blessed him and his family, you've made him rich, he's a great man... because you've made him so, and you've placed YOUR hedge of protection around him and all that he has, but let me at him, and he'll curse you to your face!
- b. Learn here that Satan doesn't have free reign to attack any of God's servants without God's permission. If you are being tempted or attacked by Satan, God's has allowed him to do so. Luke 22:31-32
 - i. WHY... you ask, would God allow me to be tempted or sifted like Peter or like Job? This is a hard pill to swallow!
- c. BUT the chief reason for all what God permits Satan to do to us is to glorify Him! And, to strengthen you child of God, to drive you further from Satan and his kingdom, and closer to God, and to His Kingdom!
- d. In this exchange, Satan challenged God with this question, (V9), "Doth Job fear God for naught"? Will he worship and fear you for nothing! Let me take everything that he has, and he will curse thee to thy face!

- e. So... God permitted Satan to take everything from Job:
"Behold, ALL THAT HE HAS is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand."
 - i. You can have his stuff, but you cannot have his soul!

3. We know what happened next....

- a. Job lost all his flocks, most of his servants, and worst of all, his (10) children. What could be more difficult to bear than this?
- b. I have been asking the LORD to help me understand, that He would help us...and as I thought/mused upon this great trial in Job's life, and of ALL that he lost, I was led back to what God said about Job...to Satan!
 - i. "There is none like him in the earth, he is perfect and upright, he fears God and eschews evil." Yes, all of that is true enough, saith Satan! But "does Job fear you for naught?" For nothing in return?
- c. Satan was accusing Job of serving God for His blessings and benefits! Job serves You because of what You give him, and for what he gets from you in return! But let me take "all that he has", and he will curse you to your face.
- d. But AFTER Satan was allowed to take all that Job had, God proved Satan wrong, Job DID NOT curse God, instead, after ALL OF IT, he worshiped and blessed God! Job 1:20-22

4. Job didn't become a lover and worshiper of God when Satan attacked him. this trial reveals that he was ALREADY a lover and worshiper of God!

- a. Think about how you react when a sore trial suddenly falls upon you. Yes, there is grief and sadness, but will it also be worship, prayer, thankfulness to God, and blessing His Name? 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- b. Job walked with God; his heart was knit and united with His God! What you see in his reaction is ... his faith was rooted and settled in his God!
- c. I came into this world with nothing, and I will leave this world with nothing. Everything that I HAD in this life, all my possessions, saith Job, were given to me by God, He gave it all to me, and He can take it all away, all at once if that is His sovereign will and pleasure, that includes all my children. Ruth 1:19-21
- d. Job's worship and his heart confession shows us that HE DID (IN FACT) SERVE GOD FOR NOTHING in return! Job worshiped and served God because of WHO God WAS, not because of what he could get, or for what he hath gotten from God. God was his all in all. God was his greatest possession... not his stuff, and not even his children.
 - i. Psalms 63:1-7, 104:33-34, 145:1-3, 146:1-2, Revelation 4:11. Job lost everything, he lost all his children, and STILL he feared, served, and worshiped God! Job truly did serve God for naught!
- e. Do you serve God because He is God, for nothing in return? Is God your all in all? Not everyone will go through a Job type trial... but if you or I do, it sure is a searching test

for where your heart is... Where your underpinning is... what or who you're resting upon.

i. There's more to this... next week.

Sometime after that, we don't know how long, God permitted Satan to take Job's health...

And if that wasn't bad enough, Job's wife turned against him. Job 2:1-10

The questions still swirl in my mind... Why did God allow this happen to Job? Was there something sinful and wrong in Job's life?

Isn't that how we think? Something is wrong.....something's got to be wrong for all of this to happen to Job! God cannot be pleased with him.

That's what Job's (3) friends told Job in all their interactions with him, if you were right with God, this wouldn't be happening to you.

You've sinned against God! God is judging you!
You're a sinner and a hypocrite! This doesn't happen to the righteous!

This is what Job's (3) friends keep telling him. Job keeps replying, tell me what I have done? Tell me how I have

sinned, and I'll repent! I haven't sinned in such ways as you accuse me! YOU HAVE! NO, I HAVEN'T!
Job's (3) friends seem to be Satan's messengers! WELL, then what's going on? Why are all these bad things happening to Job? Job 2:3.

"Without Cause" means the same thing as "Naught" in (1:9). Job was a perfect and upright man in the sight of God, yet God permitted Satan to take everything that he had, to include his children, turned his wife against him, and then allowed Satan to take his health!

NOW, in God's Determinate counsel and sovereign will, He had His reasons as to why He allowed Satan to afflict Job... ultimately, it was for God's own glory, which would be seen in Job's life!

But the main thing I wanted you to see is... sore trials don't mean that you've done something terribly wrong. There was "nothing", "no cause" in Job's life, O God had a sovereign reason for allowing such a trial in Job.

This is what we must learn for our Christian lives!
Job 42:5-17

Job 2:3: Satan's desire was that God would "destroy" or as it means devour Job without cause.

Satan wanted all of Job, he wanted his life and his soul, he wanted God to deliver him up completely to him. Let me at him! This God would not do!

In fact, I must wonder as to whether Peter had this passage in mind when he wrote what he did about Satan...

1 Peter 5:8: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

God allowed Satan to destroy his living, strip him of all his earthly substance and wealth, his children died, his wife turned against him... but God would not allow Satan to destroy his soul.