

Job's Test

Chapters 1-2

The Theme of The Book of Job

A How is a man just before the Lord?-Job 9:1-3

B What is the role of suffering in revealing the purpose of the Lord?

Chapters 1-2 Chapters 3-31 Chapters Chapters Chapter 42
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Job's Test

Historical

Job's Three Friends

Elihu Speaks

God Speaks

Job Restored Historical

Dialogue and Speeches

Job 1:1-5

“There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east.

His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually.”

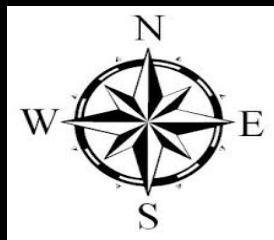
Job's Resume

- The Book of Job begins by introducing us to its central figure and to his character.
- Job 1:1-5, reveals seven things about Job:
 1. Job was “blameless” meaning he had moral integrity. He was the same inside as he was outside.
- “Job was ‘blameless.’ This does not mean Job was sinless, but blameless. There is a huge difference. Sin is vertical, blameless is horizontal... as Job lived before the watchful eye of his peers, no one could justly charge Job with moral failure. His reputation was impeccable.”-Lawson

- Job admits to “the iniquities of my youth” and “my sin”.
(13:26;14:16)
 2. Job was “upright” meaning he was honest and straightforward.
 3. Job “feared God” meaning he had reverence for Who God is. Job was devoted to God first and foremost in his life.
 4. Job “turned away from evil” meaning he departed from anything that was detrimental to his walk with God. He stayed on the straight and narrow.

5. Job was wealthy. We are told later in chapters 29 and 31 what Job did with his wealth. He took care of the needy, brought orphans into his home, took care of the handicapped and the dying, and advocated for the underprivileged.
6. Job was a religious man offering sacrifices for his children.
7. Job was a family man concerned about his children's relationship with the Lord.

- All of these characteristics earned Job the reputation as, "...**the greatest of all the people of the east.**" (vs. 3) Which in this case describes anyone east of the Jordan river.



- Job is a real and genuine believer. His life is marked by genuine integrity, upright in his relationship with others, devout in his worship of God, and repentant for his behavior.
- Job's life was marked by repentance and faith which are the same marks of believers today.
- Job's character is important as a testimony to all man that our relationship with God is based upon His grace and our response of trust and obedience to that grace.

- If Job suffered, being righteous, then righteousness must not prevent suffering or guarantee God's protection from the events of a Fallen World.
- Job was an extremely righteous man that God chose to put through difficult trials as a witness to all of us that although a righteous man may suffer yet by God's grace and compassion will always be restored.

- “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.”-**Psalm 34:19-22**

Job's Concern

- It appears Job was very concerned about his children in that they might have sinned during their festival celebrations.
- It seems that Job's children would gather at each other's home to celebrate "each one on his day" which is probably a birthday celebration.
- He rose early in the morning to offer burnt offerings "according to the number of them all".
- Job had anxiety about the possibility that his children had, "sinned, and cursed God in their hearts".
- Job acted as the priest for his family by making burnt offerings for their sin.

Job 1:6-12

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. The LORD said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?”

Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side?

You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.” And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went from the presence of the Lord ”

Test Of Possessions

- The first test of Job was against his property and possessions including his children.
- Satan comes before God accusing Him of being too gracious to Job.
- Satan accuses Job of following God for what He provides.
- “Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.”-Job 1:9-10

- At the heart of Satan's accusations against God and Job is trust.
- Satan was essentially saying that Job only trusted God because of the protection and the provision He was giving to Job.
- Satan blames God for making life easy for Job implying that he had bribed Job into trusting Him .
- Satan believes, if God takes away the provision and protection Job will lose his trust in God and follow the dictates of his own heart.

- “Ignorance or disregard of God's Word makes one very vulnerable to temptation (Ps. 119:11). These conditions produce distrust, dissatisfaction, and finally disobedience. Failure to appreciate God's goodness leads to distrust of His goodness. God's prohibitions as well as His provisions are for our good.”-Constable
- Satan truly believed that Job would quit trusting in God if God quit being good to Job.
- God believed in Job because God was sustaining and advocating on Job's behalf.
- “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”- **Luke 22:31-32**

Sons Of God

- “Sons of God”-*b’nai ha elohim* ; this term is uniquely used of angels in the Old Testament . (Genesis 6:1-4;Job 1:6; Job 2:1; Job 38:7)
- The translators of the Septuagint translated every time "sons of god" as “angels”.
- Included with these angelic beings was “**Satan among them**”.
- Angelic beings, as well as, fallen angelic beings have access to the presence of God (1 Kings 22:21 , Zechariah 3:1) but one day they will be restricted to the earth (Revelation 12:9).

Lake of Fire

- Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire at the end of the Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 20:10).
- Satan's corrupted angels will be imprisoned in the scorched regions of Babylon and Edom during the Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 18:2).
- All fallen angels will be cast into the Lake of Fire at the end of the Millennial reign of Jesus (Matt. 25:41).

Satan Roams The Earth

- When the sons of God came before God Satan was among them which shows that Satan is an angelic being and is no way an equal with God.
- “The Satan may be the chief mischief-maker of the universe, but he is a mere creature, puny compared with the Lord.”-Anderson

- In some cultures Satan is the opposite of God as if God is light and Satan is darkness.
- In the Judeo-Christian view Satan is subject to and limited to the authority of God.
- Here in this dialogue with God Satan is a vagabond upon the earth, “...going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it”, yet his wanderings are not aimless, he “...prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”-1 Peter 5:8

Satan Blind

- Satan was blinded to a few things:
 1. Satan is not all knowing so he was blinded to the end that the Lord intended for Job.
 2. Satan being self absorbed was blinded to the sustaining love that the Lord had for Job.
 3. Satan being angelic was blinded to the forgiveness and redemption of the Lord for Job.
 4. Satan was blinded to the character and the perseverance of Job.

- “Satan may intend one thing, but God uses him for another. In all these things he is a minister – used for the ultimate blessing, comfort, and help of the people of God, and for their present spiritual profit... He was allowed to be the author of Job’s trials and losses: but all his labor was wasted; for it ended in Job’s receiving a double blessing for time, and for earth, and ‘the righteousness of God’ for ever and ever.”-Bullinger
- “for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.”-**Proverbs 24:16**

My Servant

- It was God who brought up Job as a subject for discussion.
- It was God who initiated Job's trials not Satan.
- In the Garden of Eden Satan ridiculed God to Eve. In the Book of Job he ridiculed Job to God.
- Satan was doing then what he did in the Garden of Eden and still does today, "seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8).
- God affirms the description of Job about Job's godliness and character (1:1).
- God asks Satan to take account of His servant Job that, "there is none like him on the earth".

- The fact that Job stated to being self-righteous does not prevent nor establish proper standing with God. Many people proclaim themselves to being good and righteous.
- It doesn't matter what Job said about himself, nor what Satan said about him, the only opinion that matters is God.
- If at any point during Job's suffering and trials we begin to question the validity of Job's faith and righteousness, as his friends do, it will not really be Job we are questioning but the Lord and what He Says about Job.

- “Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?”-Isaiah 2:22
- “But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”-1 Samuel 16:7
- “For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.”-Galatians 1:10

God's Proclamation

- It doesn't matter what Job said about himself, nor what Satan said about him, the only opinion that matters is God.
- God proclaimed Job to be “a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil.”
- As Paul says, “Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.”-**Romans 8:33**
- “It means that no matter how horrible his offenses may have been, all the charges against him have been dropped. Absolutely no blame attaches to him, because the very one he offended has exonerated him.”- Mason
- We know that Job was not living in sinless perfection; yet God proclaimed Job as being blameless and upright. **The believer today is in the same position being proclaimed by God to be completely justified in Jesus Christ.**

Our Suffering Savior

- God's remedy for the sinful condition of the human race is the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all sin.
- It is not a sin that has failed to be confessed, or a hidden sin but it is all sin: Past, present and future.
- “Come now, and let us reason together,” says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”-Isaiah 1:18

- “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”-**Isaiah 53:5-6**
- “**He was wounded for our transgressions**.”-If there had only been one sinner in the world and it was you, He still would have gone to the cross on your behalf.
- “**He was bruised for our iniquities**”-Think about what Jesus endured on our behalf. He took the pounding that was meant for us.

- “The chastisement for our peace was upon Him”-Jesus we are told in Hebrews learned obedience through the things He suffered. But His obedience resulted in our peace between God and man mad possible through the cross.
- “By His stripes we are healed”-Through the work of Jesus and His shed blood, though we deserve judgment, we instead are healed by the whipping He endured.
- “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way”-The first statement reflects the account of the Fall of the race from Adam. The second statement indicates each one of us at one time or another have gone our way willfully sinning in our own way. We are sinners by nature, but we are also sinners in practice.

- “The LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all”-The troubled soul can now be at rest because God is wholly and 100 percent satisfied with what His Son did on the cross. The accounts have been settled once and for all time.
- “ Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”-Romans 6:11
- The word for “reckon” is “logizomai” and it means to count, calculate, compute or balance.
- Jesus balanced the books of our sinful lives to His glory and by His grace.
- “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions **for My own sake**; and I will not remember your sins.”-**Isaiah 43:25**

Our Righteousness

- “The work of righteousness will be peace, and **the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.**”-Isaiah 32:17
- “ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; **for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,** as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”- Isaiah 61:10
- When Jesus died on the cross He bore all of our sins past, present, and future that we through faith would forever be clothed in righteousness.

Jesus is Our Righteousness

- "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."-Romans 10:4
- "But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption"-1 Corinthians 1:30
- "He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."-2 Corinthians 5:21

Job 1:13-22

“Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, and there came a messenger to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped.

And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.”

The Worst Day Ever

- The text seems to indicate that in one day Job lost his **oxen**, his **servants**, his **sheep**, his **camels**, and his **sons and daughters**.
- Everything that Job had possessed and what the Lord had provided was taken from Job.
- From this text we can begin to understand the different forces of evil that operate within and upon this world.

Sources of Evil

- Under the authority of God, Satan is the driving force behind the calamity that comes on Job's household.
- Natural Disasters: Nature, which is groaning under the weight of sin, can bring tragedy to us in the form of tornados and lightening as in Job's case.

- **Human Wickedness**: Evil men give Satan another foothold for him to use to kill, steal, and destroy.
- Satan accomplishes his evil purpose by using the fallen character of man. In this case the Sabeans and Chaldeans.
- **Human Sickness**: In chapter 2, Job's health is attacked by Satan and his body becomes afflicted with sores all over.
- All of these evils seem to be on the surface of no value or good. Especially, the death of Job's children which seems to be senseless from a temporal view point.

- Each of Job's Children were human and subject to death as it is appointed for all men to be born and to die.
- The only surprise in their death was that they died sooner than expected not that they died at all.
- Our expectations of the way we believe things ought to be and our lack of comprehension of the ways of the Lord is what causes our confusion about evil.
- “If an all-powerful and all-wise God were directing all of history with its infinite number of interactive events toward good ends, it would be folly to think we could look at any particular occurrence and understand a millionth of what it will bring about.”-Keller

- “Certainly many evils seem pointless and unnecessary to us but we are simply not in a position to judge.”-Craig and Moreland
- Our expectations of what God either permits or actively does can only be judged through the lens of His eternal purpose not through the standard of this life or our human reason.
- The false belief that because man cannot think of a reason for something, God must not have a reason for it, is a mark of pride and faith in human reason.
- In the mean time we trust in the goodness of God and believe with Abraham, “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”-**Genesis 18:25**

Job's Reaction

- Job first mourned symbolized by his tearing of his robe and the shaving of his head.
- The ripping of the robe is a gesture of grief immediately upon hearing bad news (**Gen. 37:29; Lev. 10:6; Josh. 7:6; 2 Sam. 13:19**).
- The shaving of the head or the cutting of the hair was a common mourning ritual for the people of the Mesopotamian and Canaanite regions during the time of Job.
- The shaving of the head mentioned frequently in the Old Testament eventually became forbidden by the Law to set Israel apart from their neighbors.

- “They shall not make bald patches on their heads, nor shave off the edges of their beards, nor make any cuts on their body. ”-**Leviticus 21:5**
- Job stopped short of cutting his body.
- Job did not complain, he did not blame God, he did not get all angry and upset and say, "Why should this happen to me? What have I done that all these things should suddenly come upon me?"
- What Job did was to fall to the ground and worship!

- Often during a testing period we have a tendency to blame God.
- We can get angry at God for the trial when in reality we should be praising Him for His grace and mercy.
- “The foolishness of man ruins his way, and his heart rages against the Lord.” –**Proverbs 19:3**
- God tests our faith to demonstrate man’s short comings but never beyond what we can bear and He provides a way out.
- The way out is to live in recognition of His grace.
- “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for **it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace**...”.-**Hebrews 13:9**

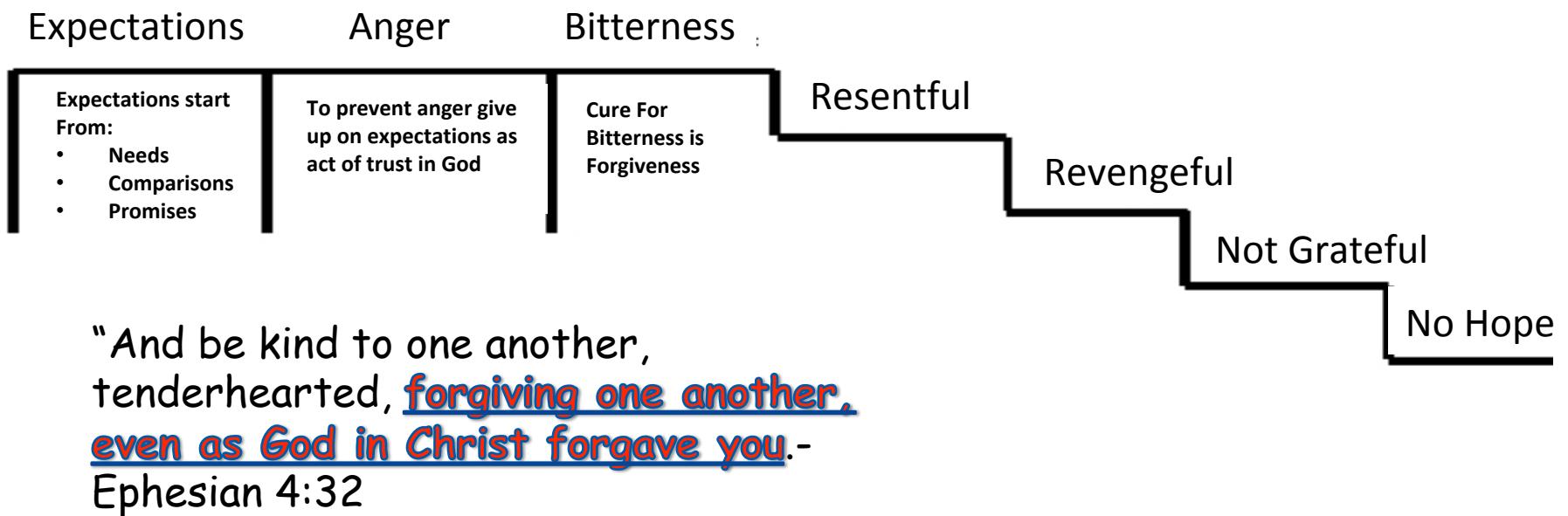
Example of Jonah

- “But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the LORD said, “Do you do well to be angry?”-**Jonah 4:1-4**

Angry Response To Trials

- When we allow anger to get the best of us during trials it does not produce the righteousness within us that God is seeking to build in the believer's life.
- James instructs us to “count it all joy when we fall into various trials” knowing the working of the trials make us mature in Him.
- If we become angry during trials the result will be a root of bitterness taking hold of our heart resulting in relationship, health, and spiritual issues saturating our every day lives.
- “If religion does nothing for your temper it has done nothing for your soul.”-Clayton

Expectations Verses Trust In God



Job Worshipped

- Job did the opposite of becoming angry and bitter. He chose to worship God despite his circumstances and feelings.
- Job grieved but he worshipped and these two activities should not be contrary to one another.
- "Job's exclamation is the noblest expression to be found anywhere of a man's joyful acceptance of the will of God as his only good. A man may stand before God stripped of everything that life has given him, and still lack nothing." - Anderson

The Lord Gave

- Job understood that everything in his life that he possessed were gifts from God and he had a proper perspective that these gifts were **undeserved** blessings.
- “Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth...”-**Deuteronomy 8:17-18**
- It becomes easier to give back to God when we realize that everything we have comes from the hand of a loving Father.
- We must always worship the giver not the gifts themselves.
- If we worship the gifts it becomes very difficult to give back to God.

The Lord Takes Away

- “Job sees only the hand of God in these events. It never occurs to him to curse the desert brigands, to curse the frontier guards, to curse his own stupid servants, now lying dead for their watchlessness. All secondary causes vanish. It was the Lord who gave; it was the Lord who removed; and in the Lord alone must the explanation of these strange happenings be sought.”-Andersen
- “But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.”-1 Timothy 6:6-8

- Job seems to have the proper attitude about his wealth and possessions realizing that there is a danger in thinking, **“I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing”**, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.”-**Revelation 3:17**
- “For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and **the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD**. In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, “There is no God.” His ways prosper at all times; your judgments are on high, out of his sight; as for all his foes, he puffs at them. He says in his heart, “I shall not be moved; throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity.”-**Psalm 10:3-6**

- It's not natural of mankind to be content. It is a learned behavior.
- This is not something that is learned in the classroom Paul emphasizes that he was financially well-off and had learned the secret of being content even when he was financially needy.
- “Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be a content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”-**Philippians 4:11-13**

- “ ...give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?” or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.”-**Proverbs 30:8-9**
- Job did not seem to complain against God but he recognized God's sovereign right to do as He wills.
- It is comforting to know that God is in control of our life and no matter what the temporary source of adversity or tragedy may be He is a loving and a gracious Father Who is for us and not against us.

Job Is Victorious

- Job has won the first round of his testing.
- Satan loses round one because of Job's faith and perseverance. Satan will be ultimately defeated by Job's redemption.
- "In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong." -**Job 1:22**
- Satan can take away Job's possessions and his children but he still will not curse God.
- Satan's accusation against Job was a lie and God was proved true by His advocating for Job.
- Job still loved and trusted God.

Jesus Is Our Advocate

- Jesus is now interceding on behalf of the believer in the presence of the Father.
- “Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised— who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”-**Romans 8:33-34**
- “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”-**Hebrews 7:25**
- “**Intercession is the act of pleading** on the behalf of someone as a friend”.-Webster.

Jesus Prays For The Believer

- This passage in Hebrews 7:25, says that Jesus always lives to make intercession for the believer.
- This should be a huge encouragement to know that Jesus is always praying for us.
- "Our blessed Lord is interceding for us, but He is in no sense appeasing God. All that God's holy Being and righteous government could demand was once for all, completely and forever, satisfied at the Cross." (Newell)

- His intercession is to support us by providing mercy and grace all the way to our ultimate reward.
- What a comfort and assurance it is to realize that Jesus Christ Himself is praying for us constantly!
- Job will need all of God's help for things are about to get much worse for Job in round two.

Job 2:1-8

“Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. And the LORD said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”

And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason.” Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life.

But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.”

Test Of Health

- The second test of Job was against his health
- Satan accuses Job of following God for the health plan God provides for Job.
- Job still had his own life. Satan suggested that Job had been willing to part with his own children and his wealth since he still had his health.
- “...stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.”-Job 2:5

Job Holds On

- God repeats what He said about Job in the first chapter but here in chapter 2 He adds: “He still holds fast his integrity...”-Job 2:3
- This was to impress upon Satan the futility of his first attack against Job.
- The idea “indicates a strengthening of the grip he [Job] already had.”-Smick
- Satan’s attempt to discredit Job had failed and now Job was stronger having gone through the fire.

When God Is Silent

- The circumstance and calamity that was brought upon Job was brought about through the hand of God.
- God said to Satan, “...you incited me against him to destroy him without reason”-**Job 2:3**
- The word “destroy” means “to scrape away”.
- God made it plain that neither He nor Satan had any just reason to destroy Job.
- God expressly acknowledged that Job did not deserve what he suffered. Yet Job is suffering and God is silent.

Habakkuk Struggled With God's Silence

- “O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.”...You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?”-**Habakkuk 1:2-4;2:13**

Habakkuk

- Habakkuk had a problem because he didn't understand the silence, inactivity, and apparent unconcern of God.
- Habakkuk complains to God, why would God use a people more wicked to destroy his own nation for its wickedness?
- God's answer is that He has a purpose in using the Babylonians
- Habakkuk resolves himself to faith.
- "But the just shall live by his faith." (Hab. 2:4)

- “Habakkuk then said in effect: This is worse than ever. It seemed bad enough if God were doing nothing; but now He tells me that He is using these people, [Babylonians] the terror of the nation, for His own purpose....The man of faith has often been perplexed, overwhelmed with the difficulties of the situation, and the hour in which he lives; and more troubled about this than anything else, that God seems to be doing nothing! We have often heard in recent times. What is God doing? Why doesn’t God do something? God is still saying the same thing: I am at work, though if I told you, you would not believe, or understand....”- G. Campbell Morgan

"Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was..... Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." -John 11:5-6;20-21

Why Did Jesus Stay Two More Days?

- For a bigger revelation of Himself to His disciples.
- Chambers: “Because Jesus Christ keeps silence it does not mean that He is displeased, but exactly the opposite, He is bringing us into the great run of His purpose, and the answer will be an amazing revelation.”
- God can trust you with His silence because He knows it will drive you deeper into Him.

- The truth is God is not silent but we may not be listening.
- Sometimes we may not want to hear what God is saying through His silence.
- Sometimes we may be looking for a big lightening bolt to hit us.
- It may never have occurred to us that He is speaking to us at all through silence.

Two World Views

- “Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.”- **Habakkuk 2:4**
- In opposition to a life of faith is a puffed-up world view that is filled with pride and self assurance.
- The other is a life of dependence upon God. A sense of certainty in spite of appearances and circumstances we can trust in God to do what He has promised.

Skin For Skin

- “In Job’s ancient culture, ‘skin for skin’ was a bartering term meaning to trade one skin for another. The Devil is accusing Job of being willing to risk the skin of his children and livestock in order to protect his own skin.”-Lawson
- Satan argues with God about the preservation of life.
- If Job would not curse God after losing everything that he owned in this world, then he would certainly curse God if his health was ruined.
- Abraham betrayed his wife to save his life. Peter denied Jesus to save his own life. There is certainly some truth to the statement, **all that a man has he will give for his life.**

Summary Of Job's Health Symptoms

Painful Boils	Job 2:7
Itching	Job 2:8
Disfigurement	Job 2:12
Loss of Appetite	Job 3:24
Fear and Depression	Job 3:25
Sleeplessness	Job 7:4
Worms In his Sores	Job 7:5
Difficulty Breathing	Job 9:18
Foul Breath	Job 19:17
Weight Loss	Job 19:20

Summary Of Job's Health Symptoms

Failing Vision	Job 9:18
Rotting Teeth	Job 19:20
Insides in Turmoil, Diarrhea	Job 30:27
Intense Pain	Job 30:17
Peeling Darkened Skin	Job 30:30
Bone Pain	Job 30:30
Fever	Job 30:30

- Whatever is Job's exact illness is not known but his physical ailment was painful and massive "from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head". **-Job 2:7**
- Maintaining faith in God during this time would be very difficult for Job as his physical, mental and emotional well-being is being attacked.
- "Physical, mental, and spiritual well-being are often closely intertwined. Add this to the deep grief and emotional distress Job had already experienced from the loss of his possessions and his children, and we can hardly imagine the depth of his suffering."-Platt

Job 2:9-10

“Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.” But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.”

Job's Wife

- “Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.”-**Job 2:9**
- Job’s wife enters the scene and prompts Job to give up his integrity and curse God so that he could die.
- Job’s wife may have come to her own conclusion that God was not being fair with Job.
- He had lived a godly life but God had afflicted rather than rewarded him for having integrity.

- God boasted about Job and his integrity in Job 2:3, God said, “He still holds fast his integrity..”
- She reasoned that Job’s suffering would end if he would simply curse God.
- Satan declared if God brought affliction to Job’s life Job would curse God to His face.-**Job 1:5**
- Job’s wife tempts him to curse God in order to end his suffering.

- Job's wife had lost her children and her possessions so she was suffering along with Job.
- Job's wife had enjoyed being the wife of "the greatest of all men of the east"-Job 1:3. There is honor with that status which she no longer enjoys.
- Job's wife has also lost her husband who is living in the dump because of his illness.
- The Septuagint gives a little more insight into the mentality of Job's wife.

- “And when much time had passed, his wife said to him, How long wilt thou hold out, saying, Behold, I wait yet a little while, expecting the hope of my deliverance? for, behold, thy memorial is abolished from the earth, sons and daughters, the pangs and pains of my womb which I bore in vain with sorrows; and thou thyself sittest down to spend the nights in the open air among the corruption of worms, and I am a wanderer and a servant from place to place and house to house, waiting for the setting of the sun, that I may rest from my labours and my pangs which now beset me: but say some word against the Lord, and die.”-Job 2:9 (Septuagint)
- “She can’t bear to see her husband suffer like this. Her heart, already crushed by the loss of her ten children, is now without hope. She is saying, ‘Curse God and He’ll strike you dead too. Then you can escape this pain. Death would be better than this.’”-Lawson

Job's Response To His Wife

- Job does not call his wife “foolish” but that she was “speaking” like the foolish women speak.
- Job seems to be saying that his wife is acting out-of-character.
- “He does not call her ‘wicked’, merely foolish, that is, lacking in discernment. She thinks God has treated Job badly, and deserves a curse; Job finds nothing wrong with what has happened to him.”-Andersen

Good And Bad

- Job says that God is the cause of all things both good things as well as bad things that happen to us.
- God has the ultimate right to give good gifts and to retrieve those same gifts which happened in round one.
- God also has the right to bring good and evil.
- “There are those who sense the ultimate question in moments of wonder, in moments of joy; there are those who sense the ultimate question in moments of horror, in moments of despair. It is both the grandeur and the misery of living that makes man sensitive to the ultimate question.”-Heschel

- For the Lord will not cast off forever, but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; **for he does not afflict from his heart** or grieve the children of men. To crush underfoot all the prisoners of the earth, to deny a man justice in the presence of the Most High, to subvert a man in his lawsuit, the Lord does not approve. Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come? Why should a living man complain, a man, about the punishment of his sins?"-**Lamentations 3:31-39**

- “Receive is a good active word, implying co-operation with Providence, not mere submission. Such positive faith is the magic stone that transmutes all to gold; for when the bad as well as the good is received at the hand of God, every experience of life becomes an occasion of blessing. But the cost is high. It is easier to lower your view of God than raise your faith to such a height. We shall watch the struggle as Job’s faith is strained every way by temptations to see the cause of his misfortunes in something less than God.”-Anderson

The Test Of Faith

- God will test our faith but not beyond what we can bear.
- “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.-**1 Corinthians 10:13**
- Tempted comes from the same Greek word for “trial” used in and James 1:2;12-15
- “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing (proving) of your faith produces steadfastness.”

- Blessed is the man who endures **temptation**; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is **tempted**, "I am **tempted** by God"; for God cannot be **tempted** by evil, nor does He Himself **tempt** anyone. But each one is **tempted** when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. -**James 1:12-15**
- God tests us and every testing is potentially a **temptation** if we yield to our lusts.
- Temptation does not come from God but from our sinful lusts.
- **If we sin under testing we cannot blame God because He provides the way of escape for us in every testing.**
- He knows how much we can handle.

The Response Of Temptation

- The same word or noun “*peirasmos*” is used for both ideas of “temptation” in verse 2, as it is in verses 12-13.
- All of us go through various trials as a testing of our faith.
- The primary difference is not in the temptation but in the person’s response to it.
- **If a believer responds in faithful obedience to God’s word and seeks Him the temptation or trial can be endured with wisdom.**

- **If the person during a trial or temptation yields to the flesh doubting God and His goodness and becoming angry with God to the point of questioning His Goodness the temptation has given way to a seed of sin in the believer's life.**
- **If the seed of sin matures and grows in the believer's life it can eventually lead to being at odds with only One Who can help during the trial.**
- James says, “ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God....” (vs. 3)
- The temptation has moved from being a trial that needs be endured in relationship with God to a separation from God.
- A person who is going through financial difficulty blames God and steals believing himself to be justified because it is God's fault he is not able to meet his financial obligations.

1 John 1:5-10

“This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

<u>Truth</u>	<u>False Claim</u>
<p>God is light (v.5)</p> <p>Results in fellowship with God.</p>	<p>Walk in darkness and claim to have fellowship with God (v.6)</p> <p>Results in not practicing truthfulness.</p>
<p>Walking in the light is required for fellowship with God (v.7)</p> <p>Results in the blood of Jesus cleansing from all sin.</p>	<p>Claim to be without sin(v.8)</p> <p>Results in self-deception</p>
<p>God will forgive our sins if we are confessing our sins (v.9)</p> <p>Results in right standing with God.</p>	<p>Claim that we have not sinned (v.10)</p> <p>Results in calling God a liar.</p>

Job's Words

- In everything that Job had endured up to this point the text says that, “Job did not sin with his lips.”
- “You have tried my heart, you have visited me by night, you have tested me, and you will find nothing; I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress.”-**Psalm 17:3**

Job 2:11-13

“Now when Job’s three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him. And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him.

And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven. And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.”

Job's Friends

- This passage introduces us to Job's three friends who in the dialogue that follows will attempt to explain the reasons that Job is suffering.
- Four men actually came to visit Job but Elihu is not mentioned until chapter 32.
- Their intended goal was, “..to come to show him sympathy and comfort...” (Job 2:11)
- Job was unrecognizable to his friends because of the disease that was disfiguring his face and body.

- When they saw the condition of their friend and how much he was suffering, they yelled and wept for Job.
- They tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads both of which are common in Middle eastern cultures at the time as symbols for mourning.
- They sat on the ground with Job for seven days and seven nights not speaking a word to him for, "...they saw that his suffering was very great." (Job 2:13)

- As Job's friends are sitting their in silence they begin to process in their minds the reason their friend is suffering.
- Their experience, traditions, and reason told them that Job must have sinned in order for this kind of suffering to be taking place.
- Job's friends fail to make the distinction between suffering and sin. What a person does is different from what happens to him. Sins are bad things a person does. Suffering is the result of bad things happening to the person.

- In the dialogue that follows Job talks to God and his friends talk about God.
- “Job is not arguing a point; he is trying to understand his experience. Hence, he often talks to himself, struggling in his own mind. He is trying to retain (or recover) his lost friendship with God.”-Anderson
- Job is the first to break the silence.