



DISCIPLE

Desire Determination Discipline Diligence Delight Doer

Course: A Survey of the Bible: Genesis to Revelation

Lesson: 20_2 - God, Job, Satan - Why Suffering?

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

(Romans 15:4)

“The sons of God” (Job 1:6)

- Who are these “sons of God”?
 - ① Some say **angels** and use Job 38:7.
 - Also see 1 Kings 22:19
 - ② Other say **“son of God”** as standing for believers. (John 1:12)
 - ★ If this is true, notice that **SATAN** can be found among “saints” and not be known. See 2 Corinthians 11:13-14; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.
 - ★ If Satan was found in **“Paradise - the Garden of Eden”** then it should not surprise us to find him busy in **“the Church”**.
- We **do not know** where this gathering happened. Some say **heaven** and others say **somewhere on Earth**.
- We **do not know why** these “sons of God” gathered together.
 - Some say, to worship.
 - Some say, to report in and give a report.
 - Some say, to receive instructions from their Lord.
 - Some say, as regards to Satan, to get God’s permission. (Luke 22:31)

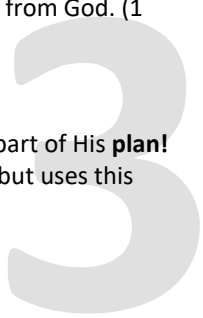
SATAN (Job 1:6)

- שָׂטָן satan {saw-tawn'} – meaning “adversary, one who withstands”
 - It can mean “adversary” in general as in 1 Kings 5:4; **11:14, 23, 25; Est 7:6.**
 - In its PROPER NAME form it is used for *Satan* – the chief adversary of God.
- **We learn about Satan from God’s revelation of him in God’s Word:**
 - He accuses the brethren day and night” – Revelation 12:10
 - He called “*the Devil*” – the slander and accuser. (Matt 4:1-11; **1 Peter 5:8**)
 - He is the sower of **tares**. (Matthew 13:39)
 - We are commanded to:
 - ① **RESIST** the Devil (James 4:7)
 - ② **GIVE NO PLACE** to the Devil. (Ephesians 4:27)
 - ③ **WEAR THE ARMOR OF GOD** to stand against the wiles of the Devil. (Ephesians 6:11)
 - ④ **BEWARE of the SNARE** of the Devil. (1 Tim 3:7 2 Tim 2:26)
 - ⑤ **BE SOBER and VIGILANT** because of the Devil. (1 Peter 5:8)
 - The word δαίμονος diabolos {dee-ab'-ol-os} is the same word used to describe **slanders and false accusers** in 1 Timothy 3:11; 2 Timothy 3:11; Titus 2:3
 - He is known by the names “*Abaddon and Apollyon*” (Rev. 9:11) which both mean “*Destroyer.*”
 - He is known as “*the Dragon, the old serpent*” in Revelation 20:2
 - He is called “*the god of this world*” (2 Corinthians 4:4)
 - He is called “*the prince of this world*” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
 - Also, “*the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience*” – Ephesians 2:2.
 - Jesus called him, “*Beelzebub*” – “lord of dung and filth” - the prince of the demons” (Matthew 12:24).
- Satan appears as “a person” possessing intelligence, reason, and cunning.
 - In the Garden of Eden – Genesis 3
 - In the courtroom seen in Zechariah 3:1.
 - In the wilderness to tempt Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11.

- Jesus taught that Satan was:
 - The **spiritual father of false believers and unbelievers**. (John 8:44)
 - Either you Satan's spirit working in you or you have the Spirit of God working in you. (Ephesians 2:1-3; Philippians 2:12-13)
 - Either you are a child of the Devil or you a child of God. (1 John 3:10; John 8:44; John 1:13; James 1:18; 1 John 3:1)
 - A **murderer**. (Same as those who hate their brothers – 1 John 3:14-15)
 - The father of **lies**. (John 8:44) See Handout: Deceptions of Satan
 - TRUTH has perished! (Jeremiah 7:23-28; 9:3; Isaiah 59:4, 14-15; Hosea 4:1; **Jeremiah 5:31**)
 - The father of the **"tares"**. (Matthew 13:38)
- John taught:
 - He was a sinner from the beginning of time. (1 John 3:8)
 - All those who **live in** sin are the children of the devil. (1 John 3:8-10)
- Satan is a **created** being who possess intelligence and reason **but** he is **not** omniscient nor omnipresent.
 - Because he is a **created** being he is **limited** by GOD!
 - He was **created** for a **purpose**. (See Proverbs 16:4; Colossians 1:16-17)
- He and the demons (angels) that followed him are **destined** (one can say **predestined**) for **hell** and **eternal punishment**. (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10)
- What are the wiles (guile, tricks, trickery, schemes) of the Devil (Eph. 6:11) of which we are not to be ignorant (2 Corinthians 2:11):
 - ➊ He looks to **deceive** just as he deceived Eve in the Garden. (2 Corinthians 11:2-5. He uses "the lust of the flesh and eyes and the pride of life" to do his work. (1 John 2:16)
 - ➋ He uses **religion** by masquerading as "an angel of light" to deceive **many!** (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
 - ➌ He uses **violence** to cause people to turn away from God. (1 Peter 5:8)

God Questions Satan (Job 1:7)

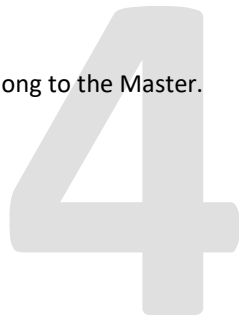
- Notice that **GOD** takes the initiative – as if this was part of His **plan!**
- "Where did you come from?" – God already knows but uses this question to get things started.



- Satan's reply: "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it" – consider these words -----
 - He could not say that he was doing any good like the others present who came from the executing orders of their King, serving the interests of the kingdom, and ministering to the heirs of salvation (Hebrews 1:14)
 - He **would not** report of hurting anyone or leading men away from the reverence, obedience, and worship of the **Most High God**. He is like the adulterous woman in **Proverbs 30:20** who truly believes she does nothing wrong.
 - In saying what he said, he is acknowledging that he has kept to the bounds of where he was sent – Revelation 12:9.
 - Yet, he seems to have spoken in his character:
 - ① A spirit of **pride** as if he were indeed the "prince of the world". Luke 4:6. He has come from walking to and fro in "his" kingdom.
 - ② Maybe he spoke with **frustration**. Being confined to the earth and marked as a **fugitive and vagabond** as Cain.
 - ③ Perhaps he was boasting of working hard in searching for those whom he could devour.

God's Testimony of Job (Job 1:8)

- **NOTE: The LORD takes the initiative! The LORD is in CHARGE as He always is!**
- "Have you consider . . ." הֲשִׁמַּתָּ לְבָבְךָ is literally "Have you set your *heart* on . . ." The word for heart is לֵב le {labe} which means: "mind, will, heart, understanding, determination, inclination, resolution, seat of appetites or desires, seat of passions and emotions"
- "My servant" – Job had surrendered himself to God. Who is a SERVANT of the LORD:
 - Does what the Master says.
 - Has no rights of his own.
 - Own no possessions. His "possessions" belong to the Master.
 - Owns no real status. See John 3:30.
 - He is **owned**. His life is not his own.
 - ★ **Read and meditate on Luke 17:7-11.**



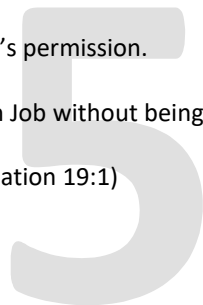
- **TRUTH: ALL OF GOD'S CREATION IS GOD'S SERVANTS.**
 - See Jeremiah 25:9 – “Nebuchadnezzar, My servant . . .”
 - See Isaiah 44:28 – “Cyrus, My shepherd (ruler, king, governor) . . .”
 - God is known as **the LORD of hosts**. Jeremiah 25:9; consider Daniel 4:35
- When we call Jesus Christ **LORD** we are acknowledging His **right** to tell us how we should live, His **right** to direct our life, His **right** to all of our possessions which are **not** ours (“He give and He takes away!”), His **ownership** of our very life!
- “there is none like him on the earth” – **THIS STATEMENT OF GOD IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE REST OF THE BOOK.** God sets Job above every other man on the earth and then adds . . .
- “a blameless and upright man, who fears God and shuns evil” **THIS IS IMPORTANT! GOD FINDS NO FAULT IN JOB! AND YET, HE ALLOWS JOB TO SUFFER.**

Satan's Response to God (Job 1:9-10)

- **“DOES JOB FEAR GOD FOR NOTHING?”**
- Here is a question that we all need to answer. Why do we serve and/or fear God? *Do we serve to get something?*
- The Israelites wanted something in return for serving and obeying God – see Malachi 3:13-14.
- “hedge” – a thorny row of bushes around a field to protect it from predators.
- **TRUTH: God does put a hedge around His own – He is our Father and He cares for His own.** (See Genesis 15:1; Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 5:12; 34:7; 91:4, 11; Isaiah 5:4-5; 1 Peter 1:5)
- **TRUTH:** God had blessed Job and household. Riches come from the LORD! (Genesis 12:2; 1 Samuel 2:7-8; Deuteronomy 8:17-18)

Satan's Challenge (Job 1:11)

- “But now, stretch out **Your** hand and touch all that he has, and he will **surely** curse You to Your face.”
- Satan **knows** that he cannot touch Job without God's permission.
 - See Mark 5:1-15 (vv. 12-13); Luke 22:31
- Satan **knows** that he has no power (ability) to touch Job without being given that power from God.
- **ALL POWER BELONGS TO GOD!** (Psalm 62:11; Revelation 19:1)



- Nothing in this world, to include what Satan does, can happen without God **commanding** (ordaining, decreeing) it! (Lamentation 3:27-28; Ephesians 1:11; Proverbs 21:30; Isaiah 46:10; Daniel 4:35; Ecclesiastes 7:13-14; Proverbs 16:4)

REMEMBER JOB 1:12 AS WE PRECEDE THROUGH CHAPTERS 1 AND 2!

God's Response to Satan (Job 1:12)

- God grants Satan the power to take all that Job owns! (**Meditate on this!!**)
★ THIS INCLUDES JOB'S CHILDREN!!!! (MEDITATE ON THIS!!)
- God limits Satan in what he can do and what he cannot do!
- **TRUTH:** Satan is one of God's creatures. God uses Satan for His glory. (Revelation 4:11; Romans 11:36; Colossians 1:15-17)

The WORST of BAD Days (Job 1:13-19)

- *There was a day . . .*
Sabeans take Job's oxen and donkeys and kill his servants.
- *While Job was receiving bad, bad news . . .*
Fire of God fell from heaven and burned up Job's sheep and his servants.
- *While Job was receiving bad, bad news . . .*
Chaldeans raid Job's camels and kill his servants.
- *While Job was receiving bad, bad news . . .*
A great wind came and collapsed the house where his sons and daughters were feasting killing all of them.

Purposes of Suffering

- Why does a loving and wise God allow His children to suffer?
 - ① **To produce fruit.** Suffering brings forth **patience** (James 1:3; Romans 5:3-5); **joy** (Psalm 30:5; 59:16; James 1:2; Acts 5:41); **knowledge** (Psalm 94:12; 119:67, 71, 75); **maturity** (1 Peter 5:10; 2 Corinthians 4:17).
 - ② **To silence the devil.** This is what we see in the first two chapters of Job. God allowed Satan to afflict Job to show the devil that Job did not worship God only for what God had given him.

- ③ To glorify God. (John 9:1-3; 11:1-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7)
- ④ To make us like Jesus. (Philippians 3:10; 1:29; Luke 9:23)
- ⑤ To teach us dependence. (John 15:1-5; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10)
- ⑥ To refine our lives. (Psalm 26:2; 66:10-12; Proverbs 17:3; Job 23:10; Isaiah 48:10)
- ⑦ To rebuke our sin. (1 Peter 2:20; Hebrews 12:5-9)
- ⑧ To enlarge our ministry toward others. (2 Corinthians 1:3-7)

Consider:

Why did Job suffer?

Romans 15:4

Job's Response to Affliction (Job 1:20-22)

- (v. 20) "tore his clothes and shaved his head"
 - There is no doubt that Job suffered!! He was deeply grieved!
 - In less than ONE DAY Job lost almost everything.
 - He fell down and **worshiped** God!
 - He did not complain, murmur, question God, etc.! He worshiped.
 - He **blessed the name of the LORD**! (v. 21)
- **GOD IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP BECAUSE HE IS GOD – NOT BECAUSE HE GIVES US THINGS! WHY DO YOU WORSHIP GOD?**
- (v. 21) **TRUTH:** We came into the world with **NOTHING** and we will leave this world with **NOTHING** (Psalm 49:17; Ecclesiastes 5:15; 1 Timothy 6:6-7)
- (v. 21) **GOD GIVES AND GOD TAKES AWAY! MEDITATE ON THIS!**
 - Job understood that both good and evil come from the mouth of God. (Lamentations 3:37-38)
 - Job understood that days of prosperity (good) and adversity (evil) come from God. (Ecclesiastes 7:13-14)
 - Job understood that it was God who made people rich and people poor (1 Samuel 2:6-7)
 - Job understood that all that he had was not his! All of it was **God's**! – Including his children.
 - Job understood God's right to give and take from him.
 - God did not owe it to Job to allow him to keep his possessions and family.
 - God owes us NOTHING! God is no in debt to HIS creation. (Romans 11:35)

Job Looked to God – NOT Satan!

- He did not accredit what had happened to him to Satan.
- He gave credit to GOD!
- (v. 22) **And in all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong!**
- **MEDITATE ON THIS! TO HAVE ACCREDITED SATAN WOULD HAVE BEEN SIN!**

Responding to Suffering

- The Bible outlines three ways a Christian can respond to suffering:
 - ① He can despise it. (Proverbs 3:11; Hebrews 12:5)
 - ② He can faint under it. He can quit! (Proverbs 3:11; Hebrews 12:3, 5, 7)
 - ③ He can be exercised by it and receive instruction from it. (Hebrews 12:11-13)

Job's Suffering Has JUST Begun!

