



DISCIPLE

Desire Determination Discipline Diligence Delight Doer

Course: A Survey of the Bible: Genesis to Revelation

Lesson: 20_3 - 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)

Review

• JOB's Character

- Blameless, upright, feared God, and shunned evil. (vv. 1, 8)
- Serious about his and his family relationship with God. (v. 5)
- "the greatest man of all men of the East" (v. 3)

• JOB's prosperity: large family, many "cattle", many servants.

• Activity in Heaven:

- The sons of God assemble and Satan is among them (vv. 6-7).
- God **initiates!** (v. 7)
- Job is **unaware** of what is happening in Heaven concerning him!
- **WE**, however, have full access!!

• Satan **must** have God's permission **before** he can do anything!

- **All power belongs to God.** (Psalm 62:11; Matthew 28:18; ἐξουσία exousia {ex-oo-see'-ah} – "the power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases" "the power of authority (influence) and of right (privilege)"; "the power to rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed)"; see John 17:2; 19:11; Romans 13:1, 11:36; Jeremiah 27:5-8)
- **Nothings happens in the universe unless God commands it!** Lamentations 3:37-38; Psalm 33:9-11; Proverbs 16:9; 19:21; 21:30; Isaiah 46:10; Daniel 4:35; Eph 1:11; James 4:13-15.
- **Satan can do nothing without God's permission.**
 - Mark 5:1-15 (see vv. 12-13); Luke 8:28-32
 - Luke 22:31

- (v. 12) God **gives HIS permission** to Satan to touch **everything** of Job's (to include his family).
- (v. 12) God **limits** Satan. Satan can **only** do what God allows! **ONLY** God is **FREE** in this universe — HIS UNIVERSE.

The WORST of BAD Days (vv. 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.

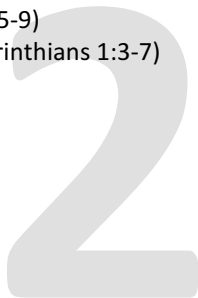
Purposes of Suffering

- 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 (vv. 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!