

Job 2-3

Good evening and thank you for joining us. Would you please turn in your bibles to Job 2?

Last week in Job 1 we saw a 'cosmic conversation' you could say, as Satan asked God to remove Job's blessings. This resulted in the loss of Job's prosperity, his property, his vast collection of livestock, and much more importantly, the sudden and untimely death of all 10 of his children at once.

We then saw Job utter one of the most inspirational and compelling phrases in scripture in v 21 of chapter 1 21 **And he said:**

**"Naked I came from my mother's womb,
And naked shall I return there.
The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away;
Blessed be the name of the LORD."**

Tonight we again get to eavesdrop on a 'cosmic convo' between God and Satan. We'll see Job's reaction when unspeakable difficulties continue to avalanche upon his life.

We're gonna study chapters 2-4, and the title of tonight's message is XXXX

Let's pray

I mentioned last week that this is a difficult study, it's not one that necessarily pumps us up. But the Bible makes no attempt to follow the world's methodology of motivation. No the Bible confronts difficult truths head-on

One of the difficult realities we come to as we get older is realizing that life is full of loss. Think about it-

When we're young we lose our innocence

As we grow up we begin to lose friends

As we grow older we begin to lose our eyesight, our waistline, and our hairline!

But of course there are losses that are much more profound-the loss of loved ones. The loss of health.

2 Cor 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Let us keep this in mind not only as we read the book of Job, but as we live out our days.

1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. This again indicates that

Satan and certain angelic beings (fallen as well as faithful) have access to God's presence in heaven.

2 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." Satan is not in hell. Hell is where he will spend eternity. So where is Satan now? **1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**

Remember Satan promised Jesus the kingdoms of this world...

3 Then 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, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause." Notice the vindication of Job that falls from God's own lips - "without a cause."

This sets up the rest of the story... Job's friends will later on insist that specific sins in Job's life caused his horrible circumstances but just the opposite was true.

All that came upon Job was the result of a righteous life that pleased God - so much so, that God hung His reputation on Job's responses to his calamities. Notice those 2 words again-without cause.

4 So Satan answered the LORD and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. Satan argued the prior attacks of losing all his wealth and all his children, things Job surely loved didn’t affect Job physically. Yes they affected things close to Job, but nothing physically.

Satan’s comment in verse 4 has some truth to it, and we see examples of this throughout the Bible. Abraham betrayed his wife to save his life. David forsook his sanity 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.

Satan continues...

5 But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” Satan insists that if the attack were made against Job physically — if Job’s health left him, then Job would certainly curse God.

6 And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life.” God again “lowered the hedge” that protected Job, but God didn’t eliminate it completely. Satan was given greater allowance to attack Job, but not unlimited allowance

7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. We come to the place we found ourselves back in chapter 1 to see that Satan has the power to attack mankind in ways we sometimes don’t realize. Last week we saw how Satan could

inspire others to attack Job, and could use weather as an attack against Job.

Now, we see that disease and physical suffering could come against Job as an attack from Satan.

This isn't the only time we see physical suffering being the result of a spiritual attack. Another example of this is in **Luke 13:11 And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.**

This woman was afflicted with a spirit of infirmity and was bound by Satan in her condition.

Does this mean all physical issues are a direct demonic attack? No. I want to be clear-we see both circumstances in the bible. We see some physical issues as a result of spiritual warfare, and others are not the result of spiritual warfare like in John 9.

So how are we to treat cancer, dementia, or blindness?
We pray!

Let's read 7-8 together

7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

8 And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes.Satan strikes Job with painful, puss-filled, itching, inflamed lesions all over his body. He

sits in the ashes, and madly scratches with a piece of broken pottery to get any sort of physical relief he can.

Now's a good time to let you know that this is not the only physical issue Job was afflicted with.

Throughout the book are a list of Job's physical complications, and if we could peek here's what Job's medical chart might look like!

We learn he has a loss of appetite and battles depression.

7:14 terrifying nightmares

9:18 shortness of breath

16:16 darkened eyelids

19:17 foul breath

19:20 loss of weight

30:17 continual pain

30:17 an erosion of the bones

30:27 the inability to rest

30:30 a high fever

I intentionally left something out because I don't think we can fully understand it. **Job 7:5 My flesh is caked with worms and dust, My skin is cracked and breaks out afresh.** In chapter 7 we learn worms, or literally in Hebrew Maggots were in his boils.

He's lost all his possessions, his children, and his health.

BTW this list doesn't even mention the social scorn and banishment that came upon Job. He was ostracized from society. He lost his position and prominence.

One more thing about Job's boils. One of the curses God promised to a disobedient Israel was listed in **Deuteronomy 28:27** "The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed."

This may very well be the same affliction that Job suffered from; Job had every reason to feel cursed by God, and he appeared that way to others also.

9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" Job's wife has become a proverbial example of a cruel, unsupportive, sharp-tongued wife. But we need to remember-everything that Job lost, Mrs. Job lost too! She also lost her wealth and prosperity and her children too!

So I have a question I've never heard addressed, and if you know the answer, tell me after service ok?

Satan could've killed Job's wife, but didn't? I wonder why?

Anyway, Job's wife 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's saying, 'Job curse God and He'll strike you dead too. Then you can escape this pain.'

Please notice her words "do you still hold fast to your integrity?" It implies Mrs Job had abandoned her integrity. Remember Satan's goal in his attacks against Job were to shake Job from his

standing. Satan failed in regard to Job, but he succeeded with Job's wife.

Have you noticed how trials, deaths of loved ones, and loss of physical health can shake our very foundation? This is why it's so important to build upon our faith on the Rock

Matthew 7:24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

We need to make sure we have a steady foundation so when the storms come, our faith in Christ will not waiver.

10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Pause here. Notice he doesn't call her a fool, but rather that she's speaking like a foolish woman, which implies this was out of character for her.

When great calamity, suffering, or a trial befalls a household, how easy it is for the husband and wife to begin to drift apart.

Why is it that when one spouse suffers the other does also? Because when they become married they are no longer 2, but 1. When one spouse is hurting, the other one hurts as well.

But here's the problem. The spouse who is not suffering cannot fully comprehend what the suffering spouse is enduring. And it naturally creates a degree of separation between the sufferer, and the one suffering.

And how do we bridge this gulf? The sacrificial love of Jesus toward each other.

Please know Satan delights in turning hurting couples against each other. He will poke and prod until division and alienation set in, looking to drive a wedge between them. It's up to both spouses to make sure that doesn't happen.

10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. What an incredible example of strong faith! Job loses his fortune, family, his health, a wedge between his wife. Job loses everything but one thing, the most important thing. He didn't lose his faith.

Whenever I study the book of Job I'm always reminded of an often overlooked fact - Job never read the first two chapters of Job. Job never learned the reason for his calamity. We're informed why Job suffered, but not Job.

11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, each one came from his own place—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had made an appointment together to come and mourn

with him, and to comfort him. Put "comfort him" in italics because Job's buddies do anything but comfort Job... You've heard the old expression, "With friends like these who needs enemies." Job's comforters will become more like tormentors.

In the coming weeks we'll see them accuse him falsely, they even make up stuff. These friends will do all they can to pin a sin on Job as the cause of his calamity.

The bulk of the book consists of 3 rounds of dialogue... Eliphaz speaks – Job responds.

Bildad accuses – Job answers...

Zophar condemns – Job defends...

This cycles three times... These guys are like the three musketeers of misery. But it doesn't immediately start this way.

So the 3 men gather together to comfort Job...

12-13

12 And when they raised their eyes from afar, and did not recognize him, they lifted their voices and wept; and each one tore his robe and sprinkled dust on his head toward heaven. 13 So they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great. To their credit this was a good approach to a person in Job's condition. Oftentimes the best way to help a suffering person is to just be there.

In moments of trauma our words of wisdom can come across glib or trite – until the time is right. Our counsel can be misunderstood, but our presence speaks powerfully of our love.

As a Christian we know that God hasn't promised everyone "a bed roses." There are rainy days in every life. Matt 7 says God sends the sun and the rain on both the just and the unjust.

It was CS Lewis who once quipped, "Why should the righteous suffer? Why not! Only the righteous can handle it."

Everyone who lives in a fallen world will experience some pain. A Christian's advantage is that God has promised to go with us through the suffering.

This is why it's wrong to conclude that just because a person suffers it means they've sinned – and just because all is well it means they're righteous.

A pastor I know loves golf. And he commented how golfing buddies make this mistake. **SHOW PIC** They hit an errant shot into the woods – it caroms off a tree – and bounces into the center of the fairway. Someone laughs and says to the guy who hit the shot, "Well, it looks like you're living right." As if holy living entitles you to favorable breaks - while unholy living leaves you in the rough. **CLOSE PIC**

I wish life was always that straightforward, but it's not.

Please know this is false theology, yet it's the theology of most people. That bad things happen to bad people – and good things happen to good people.

And this is so dangerous because it means that when bad stuff happens they draw one of two conclusions - either they've sinned or God failed.

This is such a big deal because faith becomes shipwrecked by false theology. And this kind of simplistic, erroneous theology can be lethal to a person's faith. When setbacks occur they mistakenly think that either God failed or they are a failure – and most folks won't accuse God, so they needlessly beat themselves up.

Here's the message of Job. There could be a reason for our hardships that are hidden from view. Only heaven knows the whole story.

Faith doesn't always get a reason. Real faith trusts God even when it doesn't know the answers.

Chapter 3

Remember Job is blameless, but he's not perfect. Job curses the day he is born, but notice, he does not curse God.

1 After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. This was after all the catastrophe, all the personal affliction, and all the demonstration of compassion from Job's friends. Now, Job will begin to speak about his situation.

Whenever a person goes through suffering, hardship, or calamity, there's something called CISM.

It's to make sure the person is processing through the events of what just occurred. They aren't in denial, they aren't going to need medical attention as a result of the trauma.

But you know, as I know, that once several days pass, a new suffering begins. It's life moving forward in the midst of the pain. It's the battle in the mind and soul of the sufferer. And this is what we're about to see with Job. Job will not lose more or suffer more than he already has (though his physical pain will continue).

But the real battle of the mind and heart and soul comes into view. How will Job choose to think about his suffering? How will he choose to think about God in all this? These are the questions that take up the remainder of the book, and soon come to any sufferer. We're about to get a personal look at the agonizing battle in the mind and soul.

Btw now is where we begin to experience Hebrew poetry.

2 And Job spoke, and said:

3 "May the day perish on which I was born,
And the night in which it was said,
'A male child is conceived.' Job not only curses the day he was born, but he goes even further back and curses the night of his conception. Job's complaint is that it would be better if he were never born than to endure his pain.

By the way notice it's a male child at conception, not a mass of cells

4-8

4 May that day be darkness;

May God above not seek it,

Nor the light shine upon it.

5 May darkness and the shadow of death claim it;

May a cloud settle on it;

May the blackness of the day terrify it.

6 As for that night, may darkness seize it;

May it not rejoice among the days of the year,

May it not come into the number of the months.

7 Oh, may that night be barren!

May no joyful shout come into it!

8 May those curse it who curse the day,

Those who are ready to arouse Leviathan. The name Leviathan means "twisting one" and is also used in other interesting places in Scripture.

This is the first mention of Leviathan in the Bible, but Leviathan is mentioned in a long discourse beginning at Job 41. We'll talk more about Leviathan then.

In Job's present context, the idea may be that even as sailors and fishermen would curse the threatening Leviathan with all their might, so Job wishes the day of his birth would also be cursed.

9-21

9 May the stars of its morning be dark;

May it look for light, but have none,
And not see the dawning of the day;
10 Because it did not shut up the doors of my mother's womb,
Nor hide sorrow from my eyes.

11 "Why did I not die at birth?
Why did I not perish when I came from the womb?
12 Why did the knees receive me?
Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?
13 For now I would have lain still and been quiet,
I would have been asleep;
Then I would have been at rest
14 With kings and counselors of the earth,
Who built ruins for themselves,
15 Or with princes who had gold,
Who filled their houses with silver;
16 Or why was I not hidden like a stillborn child,
Like infants who never saw light?
17 There the wicked cease from troubling,
And there the weary are at rest.
18 There the prisoners rest together;
They do not hear the voice of the oppressor.
19 The small and great are there,
And the servant is free from his master.

20 "Why is light given to him who is in misery,
And life to the bitter of soul,
21 Who long for death, but it does not come,

And search for it more than hidden treasures; Job wondered why God allowed people suffering in misery such as his to go on living, and why life was given to those who were so bitter of soul.

We've all asked those questions haven't we? How come the mass murderer gets to live till his 80's, yet a young child dies?

22 Who rejoice exceedingly,

And are glad when they can find the grave?

23 Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden,

And whom God has hedged in?

24 For my sighing comes before I eat,[fn]

And my groanings pour out like water.

25 For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me,

And what I dreaded has happened to me. Here's a reminder-you can have everything, but the more you have the more you fear losing it!

26 I am not at ease, nor am I quiet;

I have no rest, for trouble comes."Through it all, he shows us that even a great man of faith can fall into great despair.