

The Book of JOB
Chapter 2
“The Evil One Strikes Again!”

- > **Book Outline:**
- **The Conflict- Chapters 1 - 2**
 - **The Confrontation- Chapters 3 – 37**
 - **The Controversy- Chapters 38 – 41**
 - **The Confession- Chapter 42**

The major reality of the book is the inscrutable mystery of innocent suffering. God ordains that His children walk in sorrow and pain, sometimes because of sin (cf. Num. 12:10–12), sometimes for chastening (cf. Heb. 12:5–12), sometimes for strengthening (cf. 2 Cor. 12:7–10; 1 Pet. 5:10), and sometimes to give opportunity to reveal His comfort and grace (2 Cor. 1:3–7). But there are times when the compelling issue in the suffering of the saints is unknowable because it is for a heavenly purpose that those on earth can’t discern (cf. Ex. 4:11; John 9:1–3).

Job and his friends wanted to analyze the suffering and look for causes and solutions. Using all of their sound theology and insight into the situation, they searched for answers, but found only useless and wrong ideas, for which God rebuked them in the end (42:7). They couldn’t know why Job suffered because what happened in heaven between God and Satan was unknown to them. They thought they knew all the answers, but they only intensified the dilemma by their insistent ignorance.

By spreading out some of the elements of this great theme, we can see the following truths in Job’s experience:

- 1) There are matters going on in heaven with God that believers know nothing about; yet, they affect their lives;**
- 2) Even the best effort at explaining the issues of life can be useless;**
- 3) God’s people do suffer. Bad things happen all the time to good people, so one cannot judge a person’s spirituality by his painful circumstances or successes;**
- 4) Even though God seems far away, perseverance in faith is a most noble virtue since God is good and one can safely leave his life in His hands;**
- 5) The believer in the midst of suffering should not abandon God, but draw near to Him, so out of the fellowship can come the comfort—without the explanation; and**
- 6) Suffering may be intense, but it will ultimately end for the righteous and God will bless abundantly.¹**

(v1) Angels present themselves before the LORD. Believers & Non-Believers will also have to present themselves before the LORD- For Believers- 2 Cor 5:9-10- Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Also in 1 Cor 3:9-15- For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. I according to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

¹John F. MacArthur, Jr., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, (Dallas: Word Publishing) 1997.

For Non-Believers- Rev 20:11-15- *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Introduction: UNDERSTAND YOUR ENEMY! - SATAN (adversary) - the great opposer, of God and man. Another common name for Satan in the New Testament is "the devil," meaning "slanderer" or "false accuser." Other titles by which Satan is identified in the New Testament include "the tempter" (1 Thess 3:5); "Beelzebub" (Matt 12:24); "the wicked one" (Matt 13:19,38); "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31); "the god of this age" (2 Cor 4:4); "Belial" (2 Cor 6:15), "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph 2:2); and "the accuser of our brethren" (Rev 12:10).

- **History** - Two Old Testament passages - Isa 14:12-15 and Ezek 28:11-19-furnish a picture of Satan's original condition and the reasons for his loss of that position. These passages were addressed originally to the kings of Babylon and Tyre. But in their long-range implications, many scholars believe, they refer to Satan himself. They tell of an exalted angelic being, one of God's creatures, who became proud and ambitious. He determined to take over the throne of God for himself. But God removed him from his position of great dignity and honor. Building upon this foundation, Rev 12 sketches the further stages in Satan's work of evil. In his fall from God's favor, Satan persuaded one third of the angels to join him in his rebellion (Rev 12:3-4). Throughout the Old Testament period he sought to destroy the messianic line. When the Messiah became a man, Satan tried to eliminate Him (Rev 12:4-5). During the future period of tribulation before the Messiah's second coming, Satan will be cast out of the heavenly sphere (Rev 12:7-12). Then he will direct his animosity toward the Messiah's people (Rev 12:13-17). Rev 20 notes the final phases of Satan's work. He will be bound for a thousand years and then finally cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20:2,10).

- **Characteristics** - Satan has "the power of death," because "the sting of death is sin" (1 Cor 15:56); Satan being author of sin is author of its consequence, death. God's law (Gen 2:17; Rom 6:23) makes death the executioner of sin, and man Satan's "lawful captive." Jesus by His death gave death its deathblow and took the prey from the mighty; as David cut off Goliath's head with his own sword (Matt 12:29; Luke 10:19; Isa 49:24; 2 Tim 1:10; Ps 8:2; Heb 2:14). "Christ ... through death ... destroy (katargeesee, render powerless) him that had the power of death." Satan seeks to "get an advantage of" believers (2 Cor 2:11); he has "devices" (noemata) and "wiles" (methodeias, methodical stratagems) (Eph 6:11), and "snares" (1 Tim 3:7), "transforming himself (Greek) into an angel of light," though "prince of darkness" (2 Cor 11:14; Luke 22:53; Eph 6:12). "Satan hinders" good undertakings by evil men (Acts 13:10; 17:13-14; 3:8-10), or even by "messengers of Satan," sicknesses, etc. (2 Cor 11:14; 12:7; 1 Thess 2:18; Luke 13:16). Satan works or energizes in and through antichrist (2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:2) in opposition to the Holy Spirit energizing in the church (Eph 1:19). The wanton turn aside from Christ the spouse after Satan the seducer (1 Tim 5:11-15). The believer's victory by "the God of peace bruising Satan" is foretold from the first (Gen 3:15; Rom 16:20). The opposition of Satan in spite of himself will be overruled to the believer's good, the latter thereby learning patience, submission, faith, and so his end being blessed, as in Job's case. Man can in God's strength "resist Satan" (James 4:7); by withholding consent of the will, man gives Satan no "place," room or scope (Eph 4:27). "The wicked one toucheth not" the saint, as he could not touch Christ (1 John 5:18; John 14:30). Self-restraint and watchfulness are our safeguards (1 Peter 5:8). As a result of his original status and authority, Satan has great power and dignity. So great is his strength that Michael the archangel viewed him as a foe too powerful to oppose (Jude 9). Satan's influence in worldly affairs is also clearly revealed (John 12:31). His various titles reflect his control of the world system: "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31), "the god of this age" (2 Cor 4:4), and "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph 2:2). The Bible declares, "The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one" (1 John 5:19). Satan exercises his evil power through demons (Matt 12:24; 25:41; Rev 12:7,9). An outburst of demonic activity occurred when Jesus came to earth the first time because of the Savior's attack against Satan's kingdom (Matt 12:28-29; Acts 10:38). Another such outburst is expected just before the second coming of Christ, because this will bring about the downfall of Satan and his angels (Rev 9:3-17; 12:12; 18:2)

(3-8) Satan's attack boils over!- One commentator writes the following about Satan's strategies- "The whole of his schemes against God's children may be summed up under three heads: (1) *To cause them to sin*, as he tempted Christ in the wilderness; (2) *To slander them*, as Christ was slandered by family and foes; (3) *To slay them*, as Christ was slain at Calvary, when by the direct permission of God, the hour and power of darkness gathered around Him, and He by the hands of wicked men was crucified and slain (Acts 2:23).

- Paul teaches us how to overcome adversity- **2 Corinthians 12:1-10** - HIS GRACE IS SUFFICIENT! WHEN WE ARE WEAK, THEN WE ARE STRONG!

(v9-10) Satan attacks our marriages- Fight back! James 3:13-18 - Are you using wisdom from above for your marriage?

Eight Principles for a Great Marriage!

1- Are your motives pure?

2- Is your speech peaceable?

3- Is your life gentle?

4- Are you willing to yield?

5- Are you full of mercy?

6- Are you bearing good fruit?

7- Are you impartial?

8- Are you living without hypocrisy?

(v11-13) Be a friend to the hurting. How? Romans 12:15-16- *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.*

- **In the time of trial listen to James & Peter- James 1:2-5-** *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.* **1 Peter 1:3-10-** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith -- the salvation of your souls.*