

A Study of the Book of Job: When Bad Things Happen to God's People

Lesson 3: Job's Further Trials (Chapter 2)

IMPORTANT TERMS & CONCEPTS

- v. 1: *LORD*: this name emphasizes that he is the forgiving and faithful God of free grace
- v. 1: *Satan*: name means "enemy, adversary" (14 of 19x in OT is in Job); devil means "accuser"
- v. 3, 9: *blameless, integrity*: come from same Hebrew root (כֹּף) meaning "complete/whole" w/o hypocrisy
- v. 8: *ashes/dust*: either in the dirt or the (burning) waste heaps in front of a village
- v. 10: *foolish*: signifies a moral/spiritual deficiency (opposite of godly wisdom in Proverbs)

BIBLE STUDY

Ch. 2:1-6

1.) What similarity do you see between Satan's answer to God in verse 2 and the Apostle Peter's description of Satan in **1 Peter 5:8** "*Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour*"?

2.) How does the LORD again challenge Satan? What is Satan's response? How well does he know our weakened human nature?

3.) Who is in control of what has happened to Job? How do you know (v. 3, 5, 6)?

Ch. 2:7-10

1.) Many Bible expositors identify Job's loathsome disease as elephantiasis, a severe form of leprosy, which causes thickening of the skin and extreme inflammation. Job further describes agonies that accompanied his affliction:

- insufferable itching of the skin so that he scraped himself with pottery (2:8)
- skin cracked and covered with boils, that later cracked and became infested with worms or maggots (7:5)
- foul breath (19:17)
- blackened and chapped appearance of his body (30:30)
- pain in his limbs (30:17, 30)
- extreme emaciation of his body (19:20; 30:18)
- anguish, nightmares, gasping and tortures (7:4, 13-15)

2.) How do you take the words of Job's wife (2:9)?

3.) How did Job respond?

4.) Was Satan correct about how Job would respond to his bodily torments? What does this tell us about the grace of God at work in his heart?

Ch. 2:7-10

1.) Why wouldn't Job's friends be able to recognize him?

2.) How did they respond to Job's suffering? (cf. Gen. 50:10; 1 Sam. 31:13)

APPLICATION

1.) What do you think of how Job's friends reacted (at first) to his affliction? What lessons might they have for us? Share any personal examples/experiences. (cf. Romans 12:15; Eccl. 7:2; Prov. 10:19; 12:18; 2 Corinthians 1:2-3)

2.) How can we, like Job, give glory to God even in our suffering? (cf. Lord's Prayer: "your will be done")