

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

Lesson 2: Job's First Trials (Chapter 1)

IMPORTANT TERMS & CONCEPTS

- v. 1: *The land of Uz*: likely the region southeast of Israel (also called Edom)
- v. 6: *the LORD*: the special covenant name for God that emphasizes his grace, promises, and faithfulness to sinners
- v. 6: *Satan*: name means "enemy, adversary" (14 of 19x in OT is in Job); devil (found only in NT) means "accuser"
- v. 15: *Sabeans*: Arabian bedouins/nomads, likely from the south
- v. 17: *Chaldeans*: another name for people from Mesopotamia/Babylonia, likely from the north

BIBLE STUDY

Ch. 1:1-5

1.) How is Job described? What does this description mean? What doesn't it mean? How is this an example for us?

2.) Describe Job's wealth.

3.) What can we say about Job's children? How does Job show extra love and concern for them?

Ch. 1:6-12

1.) Brainstorm what you know about Satan from Scripture.

2.) Sometimes we assume that Satan took the initiative of challenging God to test Job. Who however, first made Job and his faithfulness a matter of focus, yes, even of "pride"?

3.) What was Satan's (accusatory) response to God's favorable evaluation?

4.) How did the LORD respond to Satan's challenge? How is this a comfort to us?

5.) "Stretch out your hand and strike everything he has..." Based on this and the following passages, explain how there is divine mystery here. This mystery will play out in Job's life.

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

James 1:13b For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.

Isaiah 45:7 "I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things."

Ecclesiastes 7:14 When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other.

Isaiah 43:10b-11 "Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior."

Ch. 1:13-22

1.) What were the four reports brought to Job by his servants?

2.) How did Job respond to this catastrophic news?

3.) Even in his severe trial and grief Job could worship the LORD because he had a heavenly perspective on his earthly blessings. Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks (cf. Luke 6:45). What was Job's attitude towards his possessions? How did this compare to Satan's prediction?

4.) Note the final verse: "In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing." So far so good. God had afflicted Job, and he remained firm in his faith.

APPLICATION

1.) Many preachers today preach "prosperity theology," which suggests that following Christ will ensure prosperity and success in this life. Why are such promises misleading and dangerous?