

Abounding Grace Christian Church

What about the Book of Job? – Part 3

I. Opening Text: Job 1:13-22

- A. In the last session we were introduced to the adversary, Satan. We mentioned that there is very little revelation concerning Satan, or the devil, in the Old Testament. The Israelites and many other people groups of the Ancient Near East, attributed everything that happened, whether good or evil, to God, not recognizing the fact that there was a demonic kingdom which was opposed to both God and humanity. With the understanding that the Bible is a progressive revelation, we interpret the Old Testament with the New Testament and see, amongst other things, that Satan is the destroyer and the oppressor, not God. Satan is a demented fallen angel who has an absolute hatred toward God and the human race and wanted to get Job to curse God (**1:11**).
- B. In our opening passage, we see that disaster strikes Job's life.
1. **Verses 13-15** - The Sabeans raided and stole the oxen and donkeys and killing the servants. **“The Sabeans lived in the land of Sheba, which archeology suggests was a Semitic trading state that existed for 1,000 years in the area that is now Yemen. The Queen of Sheba, or the Queen of the South, who traveled a long way to hear Solomon's wisdom, was likely a Sabean...”**¹ Yemen is in southern Arabia and borders Saudi Arabia. Satan accomplished his evil purpose by working through the evil character of fallen men. (cf. **John 8:37-44**; **I John 5:19**).
 2. **Verse 16** – **“The fire of God fell from heaven...”** and the sheep and servants were killed. **“The ‘fire of God’ would refer to lightning (1 Kgs 18:38; 2 Kgs 1:12). The LX²X simply has ‘fire.’³ (cf. Mark 4:35-41; Ephesians 2:2).**
 3. **Verse 17** – The Chaldeans raided and stole the camels and killed the servants. **“The name of a land, and its inhabitants, in S Babylonia, later used to denote Babylonia as a whole, especially during the last dynasty of Babylonia (626–539 bc); a semi-nomadic tribe occupying the deserts between N Arabia and the Persian Gulf (cf., Jb. 1:17) who early settled in this area occupying Ur ‘of the Chaldees’ (Gn. 11:28; Acts 7:4)”**⁴
 4. **Verses 1, 18-19** – A strong wind came and struck the house where Job's ten children were and killed them.
 5. **Verse 20** – **“Job...tore his robe, and shaved his head...”** – This was a common cultural response, indicating grief. Notice that in the midst of this great loss and tremendous amount of grief, Job **“...fell to the ground and worshiped.”** Instead of blaming God, he worshiped God! (cf. **Acts 16:16-34; James 1:2-4; I Peter 4:12-13**).
 6. **Verse 21** – **“...The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away...”** – We must remember that the common mindset was that everything, good or bad, came from the Lord. We have the advantage of what took place between Satan and God. Job was simply speaking according to his limited understanding.
 7. **Verse 22** – **“In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.”** – Even though Job was incorrectly thinking that God had been the cause of his trouble, he did not accuse God of being unjust and certainly did not curse God as Satan had hoped.

II. Chapter 2 – Satan attacks Job's Health.

- A. **Verses 1-3** – Most of this is a repeat of **1:6-8**. (Remember, it's set as poetry). **Verse 3** – Again, **“...Have you considered My servant Job...”** is better translated as **“Have you set your heart upon”** or, **“direct your mind to”**⁵
1. The ending of **verse 3** adds; **“And he has maintained his integrity, even though you urged me to harm him without cause.”** – NLT. Despite losing his children and prosperity, Job remained faithful to God.

¹ Got Questions Ministries, *Got Questions? Bible Questions Answered*, vol. 2 (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2014–2021).

² LXX Septuagint (the Greek Old Testament, translated between 250–100 BC)

³ Biblical Studies Press, *The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible* (Biblical Studies Press, 2005).

⁴ D. J. Wiseman, “Chaldea, Chaldeans,” in *New Bible Dictionary*, ed. D. R. W. Wood et al. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996), 180.

⁵ Biblical Studies Press, *The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible* (Biblical Studies Press, 2005).

B. **Verses 4-8** – Satan attacks Job’s body with “**painful boils**” all over his body. It’s important to remember that we don’t see the entire picture in this situation. There are some things hidden from us that we are not given insight into concerning Job. The Bible says “**For our knowledge is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect), and our prophecy (our teaching) is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect). But when the complete and perfect (total) comes, the incomplete and imperfect will vanish away (become antiquated, void, and superseded).**”

I Corinthians 13:9-10 – Amplified Bible.

1. As we search the entirety of Scripture, we discover that Satan is the one who is ultimately the author of sickness and disease and God is the Healer of sickness and disease.
2. Sickness originated with the Fall of man. When the principle of sin entered the world, sickness entered the world. **Romans 5:12** tells us that death entered due to sin. It’s safe to say that anything that can bring death, like sickness, must have also entered when sin did.
3. Sickness is called satanic bondage - **Luke 13:10-17**
4. Sickness is called satanic oppression - **Acts 10:38**. “The word “**oppressed**” means; “**to dominate (Jas 2:6); be under the power of (Ac 10:38)**”⁶
5. Sickness is always called a curse and never a blessing in the Bible. **Deuteronomy 28:15,21,22,27,28,35, 58-61.**
6. Healing in the Old Testament – God has always been known as the Divine Healer!
 - a. Abimelech, his wife, and maidservants - **Genesis 20:17.**
 - b. Israelites, as Jehovah Rapha - **Exodus 15:26; 23:25.**
 - c. Miriam, healed of leprosy - **Numbers 12:13.**
 - d. Those bitten by serpents - **Numbers 21:8-9.**
 - e. Widow’s son, who was revived – **I Kings 17:21-22.**
 - f. Naaman, healed of leprosy – **II Kings 5:14.**
 - g. Hezekiah, whose life was extended – **II Kings 20:5-6.**
 - h. David who believed in healing - **Psalms 103:2-3.**
7. A major part of Jesus’ Ministry on Earth was the Healing of the Sick. He came to Reveal the Father and to show humanity what God is like. (**John 1:18; John 14:9**).

“No man has ever seen God at any time; the only unique Son, or the only begotten God, Who is in the bosom [in the intimate presence] of the Father, He has declared Him [He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He can be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known].”

John 1:18 – Amplified Bible

- a. Isaiah prophesied concerning Jesus – **Isaiah 53:5.**
 - b. Jesus fulfilled the prophecy – **Matthew 8:16-17; I Peter 2:24.**
 - c. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil – **I John 3:8.**
 - d. The four Gospels record 41 distinct instances of physical and mental healings.
 - e. Countless healings took place – **Matthew 4:23-24.**
 - f. One fifth of the Gospel accounts are devoted to Jesus’ healing ministry.
8. What about Paul’s “**Thorn in the Flesh**”? - **II Corinthians 12:7-9.**
- a. It’s important to understand that this type of figure of speech was used in other parts of the Bible and it was never used to refer to sickness.
 - 1) **Numbers 33:55** – Speaks of the Canaanites being thorns in the sides of Israel. (An expression similar to someone being a “pain in the neck” in our vernacular.)
 - 2) **Joshua 23:13** – Refers to the Canaanites being thorns in their eyes.
 - b. Paul tells us *exactly* what this “**thorn in the flesh**” was – “**messenger of Satan**” (**verse 7**).
 - 1) The word translated “**messenger**” is the Greek word “**angelos,**” which literally means “**angel**”. This word is used approximately 186 times in the New Testament, and 182 of those times it is translated “**angel**” and only four times is it translated “**messenger**”. So we can say with certainty that Paul’s thorn was an angel of Satan.

⁶ James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).