

January 4/Day 4

As we begin Job, we will have the opportunity to learn more about the character of God in regard to His sovereignty. Everything you learn afresh about God and His character and how He works in our lives helps develop your own systematic theology. Think back to what you have learned about God in the past three days in Genesis; His names, his power and authority. All of this helps us know Him, and trust Him more. You may be inclined to write what you learn in a journal about God.

Job 1

Verses 1-5

The main character of this book is the name as its name, Job, pronounced with a long 'o'.

- Where did he live (the setting)?
- What do we learn about his character?
- What do we learn about his relationship with God?
- What do we learn about his family?
- What do we learn about his finances?
- Did you notice there was a son for each day of the week and they feasted together every day on each son's designated day?
- In what way did Job intercede for his sons? Why did he do this? Of what (whom) might his be a picture?
- How often did he do this? What is the time reference, in this case an adverb, which tells us how often his did this?

Verses 6-12

- Keeping context in mind, who might the sons of God be? (Hint: With whom are they travelling?) Son, in this case, means they came from God; He was the source of their existence.
- Where did Satan and the sons of God come to present themselves? So, where does this mean they could gain access at this time in history?
- Notice the LORD (YHWH) and Satan converse. What did God ask Satan?
- What was Satan's reply?

Many people believe Satan lives in hell. While this is his future abode, it's not where he lives at this time. He's on earth. 1 Peter 5:8, in the New Testament, tells us, "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

In fact, he has been granted permission to rule the earth, under God's sovereignty. Observe 1 John 5:19, "We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."

- Who brings up Job?

Notice Satan is not allowed to do anything to Job without God's permission and God adds boundaries to this permission. God is sovereign. It means He rules above all. Many people think God and Satan represent good and evil; sometimes God wins and sometimes the devil wins. An accurate study of Scripture shows us this is only human logic. God is above the devil and the devil can't do anything without God's permission. If God allows it, according to His loving character, He has a purpose for it; for our good and His glory. This is a great comfort to know Satan doesn't have full reign and God has a purpose for our pain.

Verse 11 tells us Satan thinks Job will curse God if his circumstances were changed. This is what we would call a test. What do you think is the purpose of tests in our lives? My teacher used to say "Faith is not faith unless or until it's tested."

Verses 13-19

- What happened to Job's oxen and servants? Sheep and another group of servants? Camels and those servants? (Remember, Chaldeans are synonymous with Babylonians, currently Iraq)
- What happened to his children?
- What does it seem like was left of Job's possessions and family?

Verse 20

- How did Job respond to this loss? Tearing his robe and shaving his head are associated with grief.
- Did his circumstances change his relationship with God?

Verses 21-22

- Does it seem like Job recognizes God's sovereignty? His right to do what He chooses to do in his life?
- Does it seem like Job was close enough to God to understand whatever God allows is for Job's good and God's glory?

Job 2

Verses 1-6

- This passage begins with "again". Before you read another word, what would this one word tell us?
- What happened "again"?
- When it says Satan and the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, it kind of seems like they are there to make a report, huh?
- What did God ask, "again"? How did Satan reply, "again"?

- Who did God mention, “again”?
- What word is added about Job’s character now that he has been tested? (Hint: he held fast to it.)
- In what way had Satan incited (encouraged or persuaded) God to test Job when God was the One who mentioned him?
- What boundary did God give with His permission this time?

Verses 7-8

- What did Satan do to Job after he went out from the presence of the LORD?
- Can you imagine?

Verses 9-10

- What do we find out about Job’s family relationships in this verse? Has she been mentioned before?
- What does she “encourage” Job to do? Was she acting in the supportive role God gave her as a helper (Gen 2)?
- How did Job say she was acting?

Good comes from God, but where does adversity come from? While God permits the devil (as well as evil people – Herod, Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus…) to test or try humans, if God rules over all, the adversity ultimately comes from God. When it does, we can know it is for our good and His glory. Many people find it hard to acknowledge anything we would consider bad can come from God, by using James 1:17a, “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights”. While it’s true all good comes from God, there are situations and circumstances we wouldn’t consider good, that are rather good for us because they are used for His purposes. Let’s look at Isaiah 45:7, “The One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these.”

Verses 11-13

- Job has lost all his children and his wife is discouraging him, but he still has friends, right?

They “made an appointment together”, meaning they all came to see him at the same time, in the same way two or three of us would deliver a casserole to a grieving family.

- What was the purpose of their visit?
- What did they think when they saw him? How did they respond? Representing what?
- How long did they stay?

Job 3

Verses 1-26

- Did Job have a reason and a right to grieve his children and his possessions and his illness?

While, in his grief and exhaustion, he cursed the day he was born, he never cursed God.

I didn't want to interrupt his lament, but look at the word in verse 8, Leviathan. A leviathan is a sea monster, or a very large sea creature like a whale, or a sea creature like a crocodile. Some believe the leviathan is a sea dinosaur or something similar to the Loch Ness Monster. If we consider when Job lived chronologically, in the beginning during the time of Genesis, a sea dinosaur is a possibility. Christian scientists believe the dinosaurs became extinct shortly after the flood, when meat was given as food, with the help of Nimrod the mighty hunter.

Job 4

Verses 1-4

This tells us more about Job's character. He was an encourager/exhorter/comforter. This is the same description of Barnabas (Acts 4:36) in the New Testament as well as that of the Holy Spirit. In fact, the root word is the same. Strong's **3874** *parákēsis* – “properly, a call (urging), done by someone ‘close beside,’ i.e. a *personal exhortation* that delivers the ‘evidence that stands up in God's court.’”

Verses 5-8

Galatians 6:7, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”

Verses 9-21

Job 5

Notice while begin a new chapter here, it is a continuation of the words of Job's friend, Eliphaz. It is important to know when the Scriptures were written out, they did not contain chapters or verses. These were added late to help us navigate the text. If ever you start reading a new chapter and you can't tell what's going on, it's important to back up to gain context. Then we would be less likely to misinterpret a passage if we have the big picture.

Verses 1-8

- Eliphaz is saying Job should remind God how he's been a righteous and blameless man.

Verses 9-10

- Note the time reference here. This is after the flood because rain had not come upon the earth prior.

Verses 11-17

God disciplines His people. Hebrews 12:5-6 tells us, [5](#)and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, “MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM [6](#)FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”

Verse 18

- Who inflicts pain? Who?
- Who gives relief?
- Who wounds? Who?
- Who heals?

Verses 19-27