

THE BOOK OF JOB –

“The Suffering and Consolation of the Christian”

Date: 11-12-17 Lesson: 1 Text: Chapter 1

(1) There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. (2) There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. (3) He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east.

(4) His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. (5) And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed **God** in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

(6) Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before **the Lord**, and Satan also came among them. (7) **The Lord** said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered **the Lord** and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." (8) And **the Lord** said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears **God** and turns away from evil?" (9) Then Satan answered **the Lord** and said, "Does Job fear **God** for no reason? (10) Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. (11) But stretch out **your hand** and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." (12) And **the Lord** said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from **the presence of the Lord**.

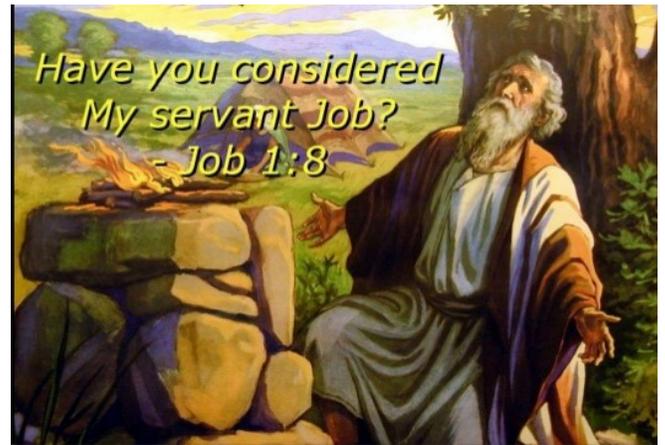
(13) Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, (14) and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, (15) and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

(16) While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "**The fire of God fell from heaven** and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

(17) While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

(18) While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, (19) and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

(20) Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. (21) And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; **blessed be the name of the Lord.**" (22) In all this Job did not sin or charge **God** with wrong.



STUDY NOTES:

1. The land of Uz – east of the Jordan (**Gen 10:23; 22:21; 36:28**)
2. Job (**Ezek 14:14,20; James 5:11**) – in great antiquity, perhaps even before Abraham (3000-2000 B.C.)
No genealogy or tribe or history is given, a sense of mystery here.
3. He was blameless, upright, feared God and shunned evil
(**Gen 6:9; 20:11; 22:12; Dt 4:6; Ps 11:7; 107:42; Prov 3:7; 21:29; Micah 7:2; 1 Th 5:22**)
4. The greatest man among the people of the East – very wealthy, with vast flocks and farmland.
5. He would purify his children and sacrifice a burnt offering on behalf of them.
In this pre-Moses world, he as the father of the household acted as a priest before God
(**Gen 12:7; 15:9,10; 35:1; Ex 19:10-14**)
6. The angels come before God, and the evil angel Satan is among them – a heavenly council
(**Gen 6:2,4; 1 Ki 22:19; Ps 89:5-7; 103:20; Jer 23:18-22; Dan 4:13-23; Zech 1:10-17; 6:4-8**)
Satan = the accuser (**1 Chr 21:1; Zech 3:2; Mt 4:10; 12:26; Lk 22:3; Rom 16:20; 1 Pet 5:8; Rev 12:10**)
This evil angel accuses of being self-serving, the one man God commends – Job.
“And **the Lord** said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears **God** and turns away from evil?"
7. The afflictions and temptations which come to us are from three sources: the devil, the world and our own sinful flesh. God allows Satan to afflict Job and thus we see the universal quandary among all people and through all time- called “theodicy” = the justice of God in light of human suffering.
8. But Satan is still under God’s power (**1 Sam 16:14; 2 Sam 24:1,16; 1 Cor 5:5; 2 Cor 12:7; Heb 2:14**)
9. Sabaeans = south Arabians from Sheba / Yemen.
Chaldeans = Bedouins whom became Nebuchadnezzar’s empire
10. The fire of God = lightning (**Ex 9:23; Num 11:1; 1 Ki 18:38**) Volcano (**Gen 19:24**)
Mighty wind = tornado or desert hot wind – sirocco (**Jer 13:24**)
11. Job tore his robe and shaved his head in mourning (**Gen 37:34; Is 15:2; 22:12**)
and worshipped on the ground (**Gen 23:7-12; Ex 18:7; 1 Ki 2:19**)
12. This famous phrase is the powerful message of the whole book and for all of life itself:
And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return."
The Lord gave, and **the Lord** has taken away; **blessed be the name of the Lord.**"
(**Ruth 1:21; 1 Sam 2:7; 3:18; Jerem 40:2; Eccl 5:15; 7:14; Eph 5:20; 1 Tim 6:7; 1 Thess 5:18**)
13. Job’s grasp of faith and the holiness of God: “In all this Job did not sin or charge **God** with wrong.”
(**Ps 39:1; 113:2; Prov 10:19; 13:3; Is 53:7; Rom 9:20**)

Luther’s Preface to the Book of Job 1545 (1524)

“The book of Job deals with the question, whether misfortune comes from God even to the righteous. Job stands firm and contends that God torments even the righteous without cause other than that this be to God’s praise, as Christ also testifies in John 9[:3] of the man who was born blind.

Job’s friends take the other side. They make a big and lengthy palaver trying to maintain God’s justice, saying that he does not punish a righteous man, and if he does punish, then the man who is punished must have sinned. They have a worldly and human idea of God and his righteousness, as though he were just like men and his justice like the justice of the world.

To be sure, when Job is in danger of death, out of human weakness he talks too much against God, and in his suffering sins. Nevertheless Job insists that he has not deserved this suffering more than others have, which is, of course, true. Finally, however, God decides that Job, by speaking against God in his suffering, has spoken wrongly, but that in contending against his friends about his innocence before the suffering came Job has spoken the truth. So the book carries this story ultimately to this conclusion: God alone is righteous, and yet one man is more righteous than another, even in the sight of God.”

LIFE APPLICATION:

What are the responses of worldly people, who have no faith in God, when disaster strikes them?
What do you think we are going to learn about how godly people, with faith in God, react to disasters?