

Job 1:1-22

A mystery of innocent suffering.

Authorship is unknown.

Part of the Canon

Biblical Canon-collection of scriptural books distinguished by their divine qualities.

The Book of Job is NOT primarily about one mans suffering and pain.

It is a theological issue. Two Greek words: theos, meaning God, and logos, meaning word or rational thought.

Big Idea- God does not act the way Job always thought God would and should.

David asked, "Oh Lord why do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?" Psalm 10:1.

Thought for us- God does not act the way we think He should, rather understand He acts according to His perfect sovereign will.

4 men seek an answer: "Why does Job suffer?"

Verse 1. "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was **blameless** and **upright**, and one who **feared God** and **shunned evil**."

The 4 characteristics of Job

Not perfect but devoted to God. Job 9:20, "if I say I am perfect, is shall be proved perverse."

One MUST keep vs 1 in mind at all times.

"Blameless" not sinless-Sin is vertical- Sin is not conforming with God's character or commands. It is about crossing lines that have been laid down for us by God. Blamelessness deals with people.

Job's Conduct- type of behaviour, bad judgment, speech. Honest, loyal, friendly, encourager, kind, integrity, self control, helped others, self sacrifice.

We can do this! I John 4:4, "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."

Ask often, “am I like this?” “my reputation? Am I blameless? upright? fear God? Do I shun evil”?

Not about being perfect-only one person perfect - Jesus. I Peter 2:22 “He committed no sin, neither was there any deceit found in Him.” I JOHN 3:5 “In him there is no sin”.

4 questions: Yes?- Well done. If no, then see I John 1:9

Vs 2-3

“And 7 sons and 3 daughters were born to him. **3** Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep (clothing, milk) three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, no mention of gold and silver and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.”

Again he was (1) blameless, (2) upright, (3) feared God, (4) shunned evil, was prominent, affluent, wealthy- Some, sadly, become either a hermit or a recluse.
1. Howard Hughes, 2. bobby Fisher 3. Greta Garbo. What did Job do with all that money?

Fast forward to Job 29:12-17.

“Because I delivered the poor who cried out,
The fatherless and *the one who* had no helper.
The blessing of a perishing *man* came upon me,
And I caused the widow’s heart to sing for joy.
I put on righteousness, and it clothed me;
My justice *was* like a robe and a turban.
I *was* eyes to the blind,
And I *was* feet to the lame.
I *was* a father to the poor,
And I searched out the case *that* I did not know.
I broke the fangs of the wicked,
And plucked the victim from his teeth.”

Job 31:16-21

“If I have kept the poor from *their* desire,
Or caused the eyes of the widow to fail,
Or eaten my morsel by myself,

So that the fatherless could not eat of it
(But from my youth I reared him as a father,
And from my mother's womb I guided *the widow*);
If I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing,
Or any poor *man* without covering;
If his heart has not blessed me,
And *if* he was *not* warmed with the fleece of my sheep;
If I have raised my hand against the fatherless,
When I saw I had help in the gate;"

Job Rescued the needy, cared handicapped, the dying, orphans. He used his \$ to do good, instead of being greedy.

challenge-leave a spiritual legacy - Why? We will not last, but His kingdom will. Daniel 7:14, "Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* Which shall not be destroyed".

vs 4.

"And his sons would go and feast *in their* houses, each on his *appointed* or special day - act of kindness- Are we kind? Are we kind to our family?

An indication that The family was close

Vs 5 "So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify 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 sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly."

Job - a priest to his family. * "rise up early in the morning"-did business with God. Challenge- pray for your family.

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.

the scene is Heaven- Context is king. Don't ever forget that.

The “Sons of God” -OT description of angels and among them is **Satan**. The Devil, enemy, Lucifer. He was thrown out of heaven -Revelation 12 says, “like a great dragon he fell and with his tail he swept a third of the angels with him.”

Jesus believed in him. He talked to him in Matthew 4, John 14, & 16. He tempted Eve in Genesis, tempted Christ in Matthew, he fights with Michael in Jude. Yes, the Devil is real.

7 And the Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?” So Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”

How to deal with Satan-

1 Peter 5:8, “Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour.”

8 Then 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, one who fears God and shuns evil?” God himself affirms the description of Job in vs 1- and that “there is no like him on the Earth”.

As follower of Christ, this is how God sees us, justified in Christ.

Vs 9-11 “So Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? **10** Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around 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 now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”

Satan accuses Job in front of God that his godliness was fake

Eph 6:13 “Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” We need to do the same.

Vs 12, “And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has *is* in your power; only do not lay a hand on his *person*.”

God gives Satan limited permission

Key- God allowed Satan to do what he wanted to do to ultimately **serve His purpose**. Eph 6:12 says, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.”

Vs13-19. “Now there was a day when his sons and daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house; **14** and a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, **15** when the Sabeans raided *them* and took them away—indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

16 While he *was* still speaking, another also came 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* still speaking, another also came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

18 While he *was* still speaking, another also came and said, “Your sons and daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, **19** and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

Job’s greatest possessions were his 10 kids and they have all died. King David understood a bit about this- when his one son died.

Job lost all 10, all at once and is now childless.

Remember- he- was blameless, upright, feared God, shunned evil

QUESTION- God lacking in compassion & mercy toward Job?

James 5:11 says, “you have heard of the perseverance of Job and have seen the end intended by the Lord- that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”

There is an aspect of human junk that is not the result or penalty of sin. Sometimes it is just Innocent suffering- God ordains that his children walk in

sorrow and pain, sometimes because of sin (numbers 12), sometimes for chastening (Heb 12), strengthening (2 Cor 12) sometimes to reveal His comfort and grace (2 Cor 1). Sometimes it is unknowable because it is for a heavenly purpose (John 9:1-3).

vs 20-22 *is key.

Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and he **worshiped God.** **21** And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." **22** In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

QUESTION- Why/ how could he respond this way? Because he was blameless, upright, feared God and shunned evil.

Boils down to trust which is faith. "faith comes from hearing and hearing from the word of God."

Job trusted God. Will you trust Him? Will you trust Him for your salvation? Will you put your faith in Him?

II Peter 3 that "he is not willing for any to perish but that all should come to repentance."

2 Cor 6:2, "Today is the day of salvation."

Heb 9:27, "it is appointed unto man once to die."

We will all die, get prepared. How? Romans 10:9, 10 & 13.

"that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **11** For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." **13** For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Mouth, heart, heart, mouth, call on Him. He will hear you, save you and change you and take you to heaven when you die.