

THE FAITH OF JOB: Faith is the Victory Text: Job 1

1. **Job is afflicted with unspeakable suffering... and although he asks God why, he is never given the answer—he must endure with FAITH...**
 2. **Although Job Never Realized the Source of His Suffering—we do!**
 - a. The suffering Job experienced was a Satanic Attack—
 - b. He never realized this, but God pulls back the veil so we can see it.
 3. **Job's friends were wrong: Job's suffering was not a result**
 - a. Of Secret Sin, or a Rebellious Attitude, or from Asking God, WHY?
 - b. Job's Suffering Was a Satanic Attack, that God Allowed, to show All the World, for All Time, For both Angels and Men, for All Time, that... Job will worship God for Who God is!
 4. **There is a Battle Between Good and Evil—A Cosmic War, an Invisible War waged in the MIND, BODY and SPIRIT of every Single Human Being.**
 - a. IT is a War for your Mind, a War for your Soul, a War for Your Eternal Destiny
 - b. A War You Will Loose—If You Do Not Have a Redeemer (Job 19:25–27)
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I. **JOB'S LIFE, CHARACTER AND FAITH (1:1-5)**

A. **JOB WAS WISE, WELL KNOWN AND WEALTHY...**

1. **HE LIVED IN LAND OF UZ [MAP] the exact location lost to the sands of time**
 - a) Believed to be between Palestine & Arabia extending from Edom to Euphrates river
 - b) Near the Caravan Routes Between Babylon and Egypt, East of Galilee
 - c) Once very Populated it is now dotted with the Ruins of more than 300 cities (DeHoff).
2. **HE WAS BLAMELESS — A Man of Deep Integrity**
 - a) The word “blameless” speaks of genuineness and authenticity.
 - b) There was no hypocrisy in Job's Devotion to God
3. **HE WAS UPRIGHT —Having A Right Relationship with God and with man**
 - a) He was Honest in his dealings with Others...
 - b) He's Numbered on a Level of only 3 other men in terms of Righteousness (**Ezek 14:14**)
4. **HE FEARED GOD —He Honored God with Reverence for Who God Is**
 - a) The Reverence and Awe of God is the Beginning of Wisdom and Understanding
5. **HE SHUNNED EVIL — Job Walked in the Light, Not in the Darkness**
6. **HE WAS PROSPEROUS (v.2-3) But It Did Not Turn His Heart Away from God**
 - a) 7000 Sheep, 3,000 Camels, 500 yoke of Oxen, a very large household
 - b) God allowed Job to become the Wealthiest Man in the Region (v.3b)
 - c) But His Wealth Did Not Turn His Heart Away From God!
7. **HE WAS WISE—(v.5) As Spiritual Head of His Family he offered sacrifice...**
 - a) For Job said, “**It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.**”
 - b) Sometimes It's easy for young people to forget God...
 - c) He was concerned about their relationship with the Lord
 - d) Today We Interceded for our Children with Prayer—in Patriarchal age w/ Sacrifice

Job is Faithful to God and Blessed by God... God said, there was none like him... And This Makes Him a Threat to an Invisible Enemy in Spiritual Realm

Job has an enemy, not despite his righteousness, but because of it

II. JOB'S SLANDERER, ACCUSER & ENEMY (1:6-12)

A. GOD GIVES US A GLIMPSE BEHIND THE VEIL INTO SPIRITUAL REALM

1. And We Find Out Some things Job Did Not Know...
2. That He Had an Enemy...
3. He Had an Enemy, not despite his righteousness, but because of it!
4. An Invisible Enemy in the spiritual realm with Great Power

B. BEHIND THE VEIL WE SEE GOD GOVERNS THE PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL UNIVERSE

1. Some Believe that When God created the Universe He wound it like a clock and just let's it run with no divine intervention...
 - a) But here we see that God Governs the Spiritual and Physical Universe, not only by Divine Providence, but also Divine Delegation...
2. Notice that God calls His created spiritual beings to give account for their delegated roles and responsibilities (Job 1:6-7)

C. BEHIND THE VEIL WE SEE ANGELS ARE REAL

1. Angels are Spiritual Beings Created by God (Col 1:16)
 - a) Sometimes called "sons of God" and it appears they were created before the creation of the physical cosmos (Job 38:4, 7)
2. Angels Are Also Personal Beings Able to interact with God and w/ Man
 - a) Notice that although God is Sovereign Creator of All Things...
 - b) He Allows His Angels to Raise Questions (parable wheat and tares)
 - c) And Here God allows Satan to raise questions and even raise objections
 - d) BUT, He Calls Them to Accountability—no one fools God and God is not mocked!
3. We Know that Angels are Messengers (word angel means: messenger)
 - a) An Angel delivered a message to Daniel, to Mary, to Zechariah and John Apostle
4. Angels are Ministering Spirits (Hebrews 1:14)
 - a) After Jesus was tempted in the Wilderness, angels ministered to Him (Matt. 4:11)
 - b) It was An Angel who comforted Jesus in Garden of Gethemane
5. Angels Carry Out the Divine Commands of God (Ps. 103:20)
 - a) Angels Worship Around the Throne of God
 - b) Angels Offer Incense at the Altar which is the prayers of the saints (Rev. 8:4-5) which brings judgement on the earth!
 - c) In Revelation 8,9,10 it is Angels That sound the trumpet sound of plagues
 - d) In Rev. 12 there was war in heaven—Michael and his angels fought with Satan and his angels, and satan and his angels were cast to the earth!
6. Angels Are Moral Beings Who Have Free-Will (2 Peter 2:4)
7. But ALL Angels and Demons Are Accountable to God! Just as they are here

D. BEHIND THE VEIL WE SEE 7 FACTS ABOUT OUR ADVERSARY...

1. HE IS A SLANDERER (v.9-11) God found no fault w/ Job but Satan did!

- a) He won't Serve God for Nothing...His Faith is FAKE!
- b) That He Doesn't Really Love God—He Loves Himself
- c) (How interesting!) Satan accuses others of exactly what he is doing!

“Satan is called the Prince of this world, because self-interest rules the world; he is called the accuser of the brethren, because he does not believe that even the sons of God have any higher motive. He is a sceptic; and his skepticism consists in determined, scornful unbelief in the reality of any chief end other than that of personal advantage. "Doth Job, or even Jesus, serve God for nothing?" – A.B. Bruce

2. SATAN IS ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD (1:6)

- a) The angels along with Satan presented themselves before the Lord
- b) And the Accuser is Also Accountable — he too must stand before the throne of God
- c) He too must give an answer for what he has done

3. SATAN'S POWER IS LIMITED

- a) Satan couldn't deny Job's Character—so he tried to malign Job's motives
- b) Words are powerful, Words can hurt—but Words CANNOT change the TRUTH

4. SATAN IS BEHIND THE EVIL ON THE EARTH (1:7)

- a) When God asks him where he's been Satan answers: “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”
- b) Satan is Wicked—So He is Restless (Isaiah 57:20-21)
- c) Like the Proverb (Prov 4:16 NIV) so he seeks who he can devour (1 Peter 5:8)

5. SATAN IS WITHOUT DIVINE POWER

- a) Satan is not Omnipresent - he cannot be everywhere at one time
- b) Satan is not Omniscient - he Doesn't Know All Things and Cannot Read Your Mind
- c) Satan is Not Omnipotent - he has Angelic Power, but NOT Divine Power

6. SATAN IS UNDER GOD'S CONTROL

- a) Satan Could NOT Touch Job Without God's Permission
- b) Satan is in the world—but God is still on the Throne in Heaven

7. SATAN IS LIMITED IN ACTIONS (1:12)

- a) Satan's power against us is limited...
EX: The Lord Will NOT Allow Us to be Tempted Beyond What we can Handle
But will Provide a way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13)
- b) Even Satan Cannot Go Beyond the Divine Limits given by God

III. JOB'S FAITH DESPITE CATASTROPHIC LOSS (1:13-22)

A. A LIFE CAN BE DRASTICALLY CHANGED IN ONE DAY (1:13–19)

1. In One Day Job was stripped of all his Possessions

- a) In One Day Job Lost All His Children
- b) In One Day Job's Life is Drastically Changed

2. TO ATTACK JOB—Satan used PEOPLE...

- a) **The Sabeans** (Hebrew Lit: Sheba) raided and killed the animals, servants
- b) **The Chaldeans** (same as Babylonians) raided and killed rest of servants
- c) **Job's Wife and his friends** (if you choose to count these)

3. TO ATTACK JOB—Satan Used Elements of NATURE

- a) First: A Great Fire
- b) Second: A Great Wind
- c) Third: Physical Diseases afflicting Job (we will see in ch. 2)

B. THE CHARACTER OF A MAN IS REVEALED IN AN HOUR OF CRISIS

1. This is especially true of someone like Job under extreme grief & Anxiety

- a) Although Job cannot understand why God allows him to suffer...
- b) He chooses to trust God even if he doesn't understand.
- c) Job's Response is Remarkable—He Falls Down and Worships God

B. NOTICE WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE FAITH OF JOB (1:20-22)

1. JOB EXPRESSED HIS GRIEF HONESTLY (Job 1:20)

- a) Job Did Not Deny His Grief—He Didn't Ignore it and say: "Everything will be ok."
- b) Grief is defined: "Deep mental anguish." (Oxford Am. Dict.)
- c) "Mental suffering or distress over affliction or loss; sharp sorrow; painful regret."
- d) Involving emotions such as: Guilt, Regret, Anguish, Pain, Sadness, Depression
- e) Grief is a UNIVERSAL experience, a PERSONAL, and a NORMAL experience
- f) **The Bible: 'There is a Time to Weep' (Ecc. 3:4)**

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted

Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.

- g) Job Cried Long and Hard—"Tears are words that can't be spoken"
- h) Peter wept, David Wept, John Wept, and Jesus wept...
- i) Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus, even knowing He'd raise him up
Jesus experienced "deep mental anguish"

2. JOB ACKNOWLEDGED EVERY BLESSING IS A GIFT FROM GOD (1:21)

- a) *(1 Tim 6:7) We brought nothing into this world, and... we can carry nothing out.*
- b) Even Though Job was very rich, with many possessions...
- c) He Acknowledged: All We Have is From God—Every Good Gift is From Above
- d) Everything! Our Life, Health, family, children, spouse, possession, income, the air we breathe, water we drink, food we eat, all from God

3. JOB RECOGNIZED THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD (Job 1:21)

- a) That God Has the Power and Authority to Give and to Take Away...
without Giving us a Reason for it.
- b) Job Asked "Why?" in Many Different Ways—
But God Never Gives Him the Answer.
- c) Job Still Recognized that God is in Control
- d) **The Lord Gives and the Lord Takes Away—Blessed be the Name of the Lord!**

4. JOB STILL WORSHIPPED THE LORD (Job 1:20)

- a) We Worship God Because it is RIGHT—Not Because of How We Feel
- b) One preacher said, "Even if you don't **Feel** It—then **Faith** It."
- c) Worship God in Good Times and Bad, in Joy and Grief, in Faith and in Doubt

5. JOB DID NOT CHARGE GOD WITH WRONG (Job 1:22)

- a) Later When Things Get Even Worse, Job Wants to Know WHY?
- b) It's OK to Ask God WHY! God gave us the Divine Revelation of Bible to Give Us the Answers to the Questions We Ask!
- c) But Asking WHY is not the same as Charging God with Wrong!
- d) Charging God with Wrong is Placing us in God's Throne and Judging God as if we know better than God!

Job Never Did This—Job New God Better than that!

All Job Could Do Was Trust in God to Deliver Him!

Even Though Job Thought God Had Forgotten Him...

GOD NEVER TOOK HIS EYES OFF JOB THE ENTIRE TIME!

CONCLUSION:

1. It is Faith that Transforms Trial into Victory (James 5:11)

- a) Greek word here: perseverance (ὑπομονή hupomonē)
- b) Translated Patience or Endurance or Perseverance
- c) But it is much more than that...

It is not the patience which can sit down and bow its head and let things descend upon it and passively endure until the storm is past. It is the spirit which can bear things, not simply with resignation, but with blazing hope; it is not the spirit which sits statically enduring in the one place, but the spirit which bears things because it knows that these things are leading to a goal of glory; it is not the patience which grimly waits for the end, but the patience which radiantly hopes for the dawn.

It is the quality which keeps a man on his feet with his face to the wind. It is the virtue which can (transform) the hardest trial into glory because beyond the pain it sees the goal. (Barclay)

2. This is What Jesus Did For Us! —

- a) He Transformed Trial into Victory**
- b) By He Looking Beyond the Pain, to the glory!**

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

3. And When it was over, God Blessed Job even more than before!

God Blessed Jesus Even More than Before

God Will Bless Us More than Before!

(Job 42:12) Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning;