

“When The World Turns Upside Down”

Job 1:1-22

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Teaching Aim: To explore the circumstances surrounding the apparent demise of Job. To recognize sometimes things happen in life for reasons that are completely out of our control. To understand God is sovereign and still in control no matter what curves life may throw at us. To realize God is working for our good and His glory; no matter what life brings. To believe in Christ we win!

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Job was blameless and upright, one who feared God and shunned evil (Job 1:1-5)

1. Today our world is being rocked by the Covid-19 virus. In many parts of our country, life has come almost to a standstill. What were some of your experiences like during previous epidemics in our country? How is the current pandemic different?
2. Job is the classic Biblical illustration of someone who went through difficult times. It is from Job’s struggles that we get the popular saying, “*The patience of Job.*” What are some ways that your patience is being tested by the current Covid-19 pandemic? Have you been able to take this current crisis as an opportunity to let your light shine as a Christian? How?
3. What can we learn about Job from **verse 1**? During what time in history did Job live and where do most scholars believe “*the land of Uz*” was located? (See Commentaries) When Job was described as “*blameless,*” did it mean that he was “*sinless?*” What did it mean?
4. Was there any significance to Job having seven sons and three daughters (**vs. 2**)? If so, what? What is the Biblical significance to the number seven? (See Commentaries)

5. What can we learn about the wealth of Job from **verse 3**? According to this verse, who was the greatest man from the people in the East? Note: In the ancient world, people believed God's blessing on a man was based on the size of their flocks and the number of their children. How blessed was Job according to **verse 3**?

6. **Verse 4** appears to indicate that even Job's adult children got along well, frequently gathering to celebrate their special days (possibly meaning their birthdays). What can we learn about the wealth of Job's children from **verse 4**? Note: They appeared to be almost a perfect family.

7. What do we learn about Job's spiritual life from **verse 5**? Did he take the role of spiritual leader in his family seriously? What can we learn about the time period of Job's life from **verse 5**? Why? Are Job's pre-law actions similar to that of other heroes of the faith living in the post-flood era through the patriarchal period? (See **Gen. 6:20-21; 22:13-14**) What change occurred with the arrival of the Mosaic law? (See **Exod. 28:1-4; Deut. 18:1-2**) Which tribe of Israel was given the role of officiating sacrifices and offerings?

Part II: A heavenly drama that affects the life and family of Job (Job 1:6-12)

1. **Verse 6** switches from earth to heaven. Who do "*the sons of God*" represent? Who is distinguished from the other angels? What is the meaning of the word "*Satan*?" What can we learn about Satan from the following Bible verses? (See **1 Pet. 5:8; 2 Cor. 11:14**)

2. From **verse 7** we learn that Satan was allowed to come into the presence of Yahweh at this time. In light of God's question to Satan in **verse 8**, what do you think Satan was doing as he went "*to and fro on the earth*?" Who initiated the challenge with Job (**vs. 8**)? On what basis?

3. What accusations did *“the accuser”* (or Satan) make against Job and against God (**vv. 9-10**)? Do you worship God only when times are good, or do you worship Him in the hard times as well? Why is the current Covid-19 pandemic a test for each of us? Is it possible that the pandemic might be a wake-up call from God as we approach the end times?

4. With what challenge did Satan confront God in **verse 11**? The fact that Satan had to request permission to go after Job from God affirms that God is sovereign; Satan is not God’s equal! How is **verse 11** similar to, yet different from **verse 5**?

5. How did the LORD respond to Satan’s challenge (**vs. 12**)? Why do you think God allowed this? Have you ever had an attack from the enemy turn your world upside down? How did you respond? In times of crisis, do you ask God, *“Why me?”* or request Him to *“Use me?”*

Part III: In a single day Job’s world was turned upside down (Job 1:13-22)

1. Once Satan had the opportunity to go after Job, he attacked immediately with four rapid-fire attacks in one day (**vv. 13-21**) What was the first attack (**vs. 13-15**)? Who were these people? (See Commentaries) Where did they come from? Who escaped?

2. What happened next as the lone survivor notified Job of the tragedy (**vs. 16**)? What was *“the fire of God?”* How many of Job’s servants escaped? What happened as the second servant was still informing Job of the latest tragedy (**vs. 17**)? Which people group would the Chaldeans eventually become? (See Commentaries) Did God force the Chaldeans to raid Job’s camels and kill his servants or was it something they already wanted to do? Did God simply removed His restraining hand or cause this evil? (**Psa. 47:5; Jam. 1:13-14; 1 John 1:5**) What was Satan’s part? How many of Job’s servants escaped?

3. What happened while this third servant was still giving his report to Job (**vv. 18-19**)? What do you think *“the great wind”* was? (See Commentaries) What did Job lose in this devastating tragedy? How many servants escaped? Note: In one day Job lost his wealth and all of his children. How do you think Job felt upon receiving this news? How would you have felt if it were your children or grandchildren?

4. What was Job’s response to this news (**vs. 20**)? What do these two acts symbolize? Did Job curse God as Satan said that he would? What did Job do (**vs. 21**)? Would you be able to worship God under such terrible circumstances? How did Job find the strength to do so?

5. What did Job mean when 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”* (**vs. 21**)? Do you feel the same? How might Job’s comment relate to our current situation?

6. What do we learn about Job’s response from **verse 22**? Perhaps some of you feel like Job today. Within just a few short weeks we are looking at best at some very difficult times ahead financially. At the very worst some of us are looking at death or possible bankruptcy. Why is it that in times like this we find out what is truly important to us? What things are the most important in your life? How do you think you and your family will handle the current Covid-19 crisis? How should the church handle this crisis? What about financially?

7. What is *“the gaze and glance concept of prayer”*? Why is following this concept important for every believer today?

8. Of course, the story of Job didn’t end there. How did things get worse for Job before they got better? (See **Job 2:3-10**) What was Job’s amazing response to his demise in **Job 2:11**? Do you feel the same way today? Why or why not?

9. How did Job's three friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar) respond to Job's crisis? How about Elihu? For 36 chapters Job was falsely accused by his friends, yet he maintained his innocence and personal integrity. Finally, Job loses his cool at the end of the book with God and lets Him know it. How did God respond to Job's charges in **chapters 38-41**? How did Job respond to God's tongue lashing in **Job 42:5-6**? Did God accept Job's repentance?
10. Who had to come to Job and request his prayers and intercession to avert the wrath of God? (See **Job 42:9**) Who is the one Mediator between God and man today? (See **1 Tim. 2:5-6**) Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now in prayer?
11. What surprising conclusion do we find to the Book of Job in **Job 42:10-17**? How does this conclusion relate to our current situation today? (See **Rom. 8:28**)

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Job was blameless and upright, one who feared God and shunned evil.
- Job took the responsibility of being the spiritual leader of his family very seriously; so should we.
- Job was a man who seemed to have it all together: health, wealth, a large family, and a great relationship with God.
- In one day, something completely out of Job's control changed everything.
- Job lost his health, his wealth and his 10 children, yet in his brokenness worshipped God.
- God has promised that all things happen for the good of those who love Him. (**Rom. 8:28**)
- Job remained faithful to God through it all and in the end, Job was vindicated, and God was glorified; the LORD blessed the latter days of Job's life even more so than his beginning.
- Job's response in time of crisis should be a model for each of us in our current crisis today!