

**SUBJECT : Responding To Tragedy**

**BIBLE BASIS:**

Lesson Scripture: Job 1:14-22, 3:1-3

**BIBLE TRUTH:**

God has the right to test righteous individuals  
for divine reasons.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Job 1:22

**Lesson Aim:**

To encourage believers to trust in God  
despite tough circumstances in life.

# Introduction

- The author of the book of Job is unknown. The time period in which the story takes place is unknown. The major question the story raises; is there a such thing as disinterested goodness (goodness unaffected by self interest)? This question needs to be discussed by believers to challenge the idea that materialism is the measure for success in every venue of life, even faith. Luke 12:15, Matt. 16:24-27
- Job was the richest man in the east. He was rich in character. Job was rich in family, Job was rich in possessions. Job 1:1-5
- Unknown to Job, there was a day when the Sons of God presented themselves before God and Satan showed up. God asked Satan what he was up to. Job 1:6-7 (John 10:10, 1Pet. 5:8-9)
- God ask Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job?” Satan looks over Job's situation and saw a hedge of protection and concludes that Job is serving God for what he can get (material wealth). Job 1:8-10, (Ps. 34:7, Ex. 23:20-23, Ps. 103:20)
- Had Job known about this meeting, he would have had no room for doubt or concern. But, he didn't know God was using him as exhibit (A), so he had to trust God by faith through this experience. Job 1:11
- Satan challenges God to just move the hedge of protection from around him and he would make Job curse him to his face. God accepts the challenge, but he sets boundaries. Vs 12, 1Cor 10:13, Lu. 22:31-34
- How would you feel about being placed in Job's position?

# Tragedy Strikes

- Job 1:14-17 And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: [15] And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. [16] While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. [17] While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.
- Our lesson opens with Jobs troubles just beginning. The Sabeans raiders took the oxen and asses. Then comes another report, the fire of God is fallen from heaven and hath burned up the sheep and servants. The Chaldeans raiders have made off with his camels. What a blow it must have been to Job to have a great portion of his earthly treasures taken away from him all in one day.
- Unknown to the Sabeans and Chaldeans raiders, these act of taking Jobs possessions and slaughtering his servants was orchestrated by Satan not God. God had given Satan power over all that Job possessed
- As bad as this was, Job was about to receive news that was far worse.

# Tragedy Strikes Again

- [18] While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:[19] And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee
- Now this tragedy is hard to believe. Job loses all seven of his children in one day. The story seems to be invented or made up, but its not.
- This was the work of Satan attacking Job in a relentless and unmerciful way that was sure to put Jobs faith to the test. This story is proof positive that Satan is out to destroy you. John 10:10
- Job is being force to consider what was happening to him. This could not just be a mere co-incident. We can only imagine the horror Job experience at the news of the death of all his children
- I wonder who was held responsible for this tragedy at the funeral of these seven children? Luke 20:34-38, Phil. 1:21,1Corn. 15:54-58
- Each of the four tragedies came from one of the for points of the compass: the wind from the east, the Chaldeans from the north, the lightning from the Mediterranean storm to the west, and the Sabeans from the south. Job was being attacked from all directions. In other words, the devil took his best shot at Job and Job is still standing.

# What Did Job Do?

- [20] Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, [21] And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. [22] In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.
- Job maintained a spirit of worship and praise. However, these are the times when most of us wonder if God really cares. These are the times when we break God's heart through unbelief. Mark 4:37-41
- Job gives us a good example of what a righteous man will do and say in the face of adversity. In one day Job had experienced more loss than most of us will know in a life time. already in shock over the loss of his wealth, he was in a weakened state when he received the worst news a parent can receive the death of his children.
- The result of Job's test was, he acknowledged that everything he possessed had come from God, who had the right to do as he pleases. He refused to accuse God of being unjustly in the things that had happened to him. To have accused God at this point would have been shown Job up as being ungrateful and foolish. Jer. 18:1-6
- Job had glorified God by vindicating what God had said to Satan about him. He had remained righteous and had not cursed God.
- Is the statement Job made in conclusion completely correct? Yes/No

# Jobs Second Response

- Job 3:1-3 After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day. [2] And Job spake, and said, [3] Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night in which it was said, There is a man child conceived.
- Satan makes his second attempt to destroy Jobs life. Job 2:1-4
- God had given Satan power over all that Job possessed now he allows Satan to touch his flesh. Job 2:5-6
- Then his wife enters the scene and tells Job he should curse God and die. Job over came the opposition of his wife. Job 2:9-10
- His friends came to comfort him. Job 2:11-13
- After this Job opens his mouth to speak. However, something has changed. It sounds like Job is reaching his breaking point. Seven days had past and the first thing that comes from Jobs mouth; He cursed the day he was born.
- What can we learn from this statement. To curse the day you were born is to question the God of nature and despised the dignity of life. It was something said that after reconsidering would make us ashamed. Job was not the only person that had come to this place and perhaps many of us have been there at a time in our life. Jer 20:14-18
- How do you handle life situations that seem not to align themselves with your theological understanding? When God's promises doesn't seem to manifest in your life. 2Corn 1:20, Isa 49:13. Isa 54:1-7

# What Have We Learned?

- Tragedy can strike at any time in our lives. As humans we have a need to have a reason or an answer to our situations in life. We ask the why question? But many times life will not give us an answer.
- The question God wanted Job to answer was not the why question but the what question. Job, now that we have no explanation for this tragedy in your life, **what** are you going to do? The devil said he would curse God to his face.
- What does Job teach us about the reality of faith? Heb. 10:35-38
- Faith is not dependent upon material blessings to prove itself.
- What does this lesson teach us about the devil? He accuses the saints before God, but, we have an advocate. An advocate is like a defense attorney who comes to your defense when accused of the devil ( the prosecuting attorney). Rev 12:7-12, 1John 2:1-2.
- What does Job teach us about Satan's powers? Satan is not equal to God. We give the devil too much authority.. Matter of fact if we would describe him in New Testament terms, he is a defeated, disembodied, fallen angel, and we have been given power over the devil. Matt 28:18-20 Luke 10:17-18.
- Then what makes him so dangerous. Rev 12:8, 2Corn 11:14.
- He **was** the God of this world. 2Corn. 4:4, Col 2:15, Col. 1:20,
- We have been given charge of this world. Mat 16:15-18, Eph 1:19-23