

## Lessons from Job

The first history book we have recorded is the book of Job. Then we have the book of Genesis.

Why this order?

In Job we are told about God's complete control over nature and the supernatural (which includes Satan and his demons).

So in Job God shows us He controls everything then in Genesis He explains why: He made everything including Satan and his demons so He can fix the problems caused by the Fall of Mankind.

So the first thing God wanted to tell us is that evil does not occur unless Satan has a right to attack us in area and this right occurs when Jesus is not Lord of an area.

Now everyone thinks Job had not sinned for Satan to be able to attack him and so this suffering was unjust. But after the two attacks of Satan Job states the following:

*Job\_3:25 (KJV) For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.*

*(CEV) and my worst fears have all come true.*

In other words Satan was able to attack Job and his possessions because Job had not believed God could protect them. It was not a full unbelief but a doubt.

The way Satan attacks shows he knew this weakness in Job even though Job had done all he knew to be in a correct relationship with God but had kept back his full trust in God in one area. That is why Satan says to God:

### **Note:**

Satan attacks the protection of Job by God because Job has some fear God cannot protect what he had been given. So first God shows us His control over Satan and our circumstances then He limits what Satan can do to Job.

The first attack occurred and Job still trusts God but still does not trust God completely. The point is that Job does not realise this lack of trust is making him open to the attacks of Satan because God is not in control of it but then God can still control the limits of the attack.

So Satan attacks Job again:

*Job 2:4 And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.*

*Job 2:5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.*

*Job 2:6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.*

The other thing to note that what man has he is only steward of and not owner so Satan is given permission to attack these things because God owns them and give this permission to Satan to attack them.

So Job is attacked personally with sickness and then He complains about how God has treated him.

His wife is still there and says to Him to curse God, that is complain to God how He has apparently returned all Job did to please Him with evil. But Job still declares God is correct in what He has done to Job. it is just that Job does not understand why it has happened.

*Job 9:20 If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.*

In other words, If I say I am correct and God is wrong I will condemn myself for my wrong viewpoint about God.

Job does not realise that, although He did his best to serve and please God and did so better than anyone on earth, he still had hidden in his heart a lack of trust in God and his protection and control of his life.

So in a sense this is a warning to make certain everything in your life is completely under the Lordship and thus protection of God so that suffering is for purposes of preparation for eternity and to bring Glory to God so that is beneficial and not just a restoration to where we should be in our Christian walk.

Job's comforters gave him all the theological arguments for God dealing with Job in the way he did but missed the whole point. Job had not deliberately sinned but had been fearful about something. So it was not a sinful act but a wrong attitude towards God

Job was restored to where he was before all this happened after he had repented of his unbelief and God prospered him in his repentance and new attitude to God.

God showed Job His control over things and through this truth Job was able to remove the nbelief in his heart.

**What can we learn from this:**

God is in complete control of everything, including Satan

It is the subconscious attitudes we have that can allow Satan to attack us even though we do everything consciously correct.

This is why we need to give every area to Jesus to be Lord of and not what we know.

Regardless of what happens we need to trust God as it is all working for our best.

God restores us to what we should be when we repent and what are restored too will be better than what we lost, even only because of our better relationship with God.