



The Beginning

Lesson 7: Job's Losses

(Job 1:1-2:13)

The book of Job tells us the story about a man who was named Job and lived in the land of Uz. We do not know for certain when he lived. But, many people believe that he lived around the time of Abraham. This was a man who lived to please God and did what he could to stay away from things that were evil.

God blessed Job with many things during his life. He had seven sons and three daughters. He had 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 teams of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and a very large household of servants. He was the greatest of all the people of the East. He was so devoted to God that when his sons and daughters would have feasts together to eat and drink, Job would get up early in the morning after their feasts were over and offer sacrifices for each one. He was concerned about whether his children had sinned against God.

One day when all the sons of God came to present themselves before God, Satan was there and had a challenge for God. Just like Satan did with Adam and Eve, Satan wants to hurt people and get them not to obey God. Now, he wanted to hurt Job and get him not to obey God.

Whenever God spoke about how obedient Job was, Satan said that Job only listened to God because of how God had blessed him. Satan said that if God would take away his blessings, Job would surely curse God to His face. So, God allowed Satan to take away the blessings Job had in order that Job might prove Satan wrong. But, God said that Satan could not hurt Job's body. Then, Satan left God's presence.

Later, a messenger came to Job and told him that the Sabeans had attacked Job's oxen and donkeys and taken them away. They killed the servants and only this one messenger escaped to tell what happened. While that messenger was still speaking to Job, another messenger came and said that fire fell from heaven and burned up Job's sheep and servants, and only this messenger escaped to tell what happened. Then, while that messenger was still talking to Job, another messenger came and said that the Chaldeans attacked and took Job's camels and killed his servants, and only this messenger escaped to tell what happened. Then, while this

messenger was still speaking, one more messenger came. This one told Job that a great wind hit the house his children were in and caused the house to fall on and kill them. Only this messenger had escaped to tell Job what happened.

When Job heard all these things, Job mourned over all that he had been told. He tore his robe, shaved his head, fell to the ground and worshiped God. He said that the Lord had just taken away what God had given and blessed the name of the Lord. In all of this, Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

On another day when the sons of God came to present themselves before God, Satan came before the Lord again. God spoke about how Job had been faithful to Him even though Satan had tried to hurt him. Then, Satan wanted permission to hurt Job's body. He believed that Job would surely curse God if he hurt his body. God granted this permission to test Job, only telling Satan that he could not kill Job.

So, Satan left the presence of God and caused Job to have painful boils all over his body (from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet). Job was in so much pain that he took a broken piece of pottery and scraped himself while he sat in ashes. But, even then, Job still would not curse God. Even Job's wife told Job to curse God and die. Yet, Job would not curse God or sin with his lips. He knew that people must accept both the good and the hard things in life that come from God.

Later, when Job's three friends heard about all that had happened to Job, they came to him. They were: Eliphaz (the Temanite), Bildad (the Shuhite), and Zophar (the Naamathite). They wanted to visit Job, mourn with him, and comfort him. When they got close to the place Job was, they did not even recognize Job and they all were sad to see Job's suffering. They stayed with him for seven days and no one said a word to Job because they all saw how sad he was.

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: CS25

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Study Questions:

- 1) Who was Job?

- 2) How had God blessed Job?

- 3) Who wanted to hurt Job? Why did he want to do this?

- 4) What did Satan do to all of Job's blessings?

- 5) Did Job sin when all his blessings were taken away?

- 6) What did Satan do to hurt Job's body?

- 7) Did Job sin when he was put in great pain?

- 8) Who were Job's friends? Why did they visit Job?

Memory Verse:

“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.” (Job 1:1).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: