

Will Job Curse God.... And Would You?

In Job 1:6-12—We find ourselves in the presence of God, and creatures called *the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD*. These appear to be angels; Satan was also an angel. It seems that until they are cast out during the upcoming tribulation period (Revelation 12:7-10), bad angels (demons or evil spirits) have access to the heavenly realm. At least Satan, the ruler of the bad angels, seems to be required to report to God. It also seems that Satan has discussions with God about believers. Jesus told Peter; *Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat* (Luke 22:31).

Next, we should observe that the chain of events leading to Job's suffering, and this book, began with God taunting Satan about Job. *Have you considered My servant Job?* The argument between God and Satan was about the motive for goodness. God pointed out that Job was a *blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil*, to prove there were people who desired to conform to the righteousness of the character of God. Satan's point was that nobody just desires to fear God and live righteously. Satan believed the only reason Job lived for God was because God *blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land*. This brings us to a very significant moral question.

Would you love God and keep His commandments if God did not do things for you, or if God condemned you to a life of suffering, or if God had not promised you eternal life? As a servant of God, would you serve Him with no promise of blessing from Him?

Satan says you would not. Satan believes nobody will imitate the character of God, or desire to please God, as an end in itself. He thinks people will only turn away from evil if they are buying blessings from God. Satan believed that Job was just like any idol worshipper who sacrifices to his god in order to get some benefits from his god. So God and Satan have a sort of bet going. If Satan is right, then Job will curse God when he loses God's blessings. If God is right, then Job will hold to his integrity without God's blessings. God then gave Satan permission to destroy all that Job had, *only do not put forth your hand on him*.

In verses 13-22 Job then received four reports, back-to-back: *The Sabeans attacked and took your oxen and donkeys. They also slew the servants with the edge of the sword, the fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and...servants and consumed them, the Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and took them and slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and behold, a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people and they died*. In each case, the servant said, *and I alone have escaped to tell you*.

In verses 21-22, **Job said, *Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.***"

Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

For more information see commentary on **Job** at relationalconcepts.org
P.O. Box 141456 • Grand Rapids, MI 49514