



Lesson 93

Job's Calamity – Part 1

Story Elements

- **Text:** Job 1:1- 2:10
 - **Setting:** circa 3000 B.C. in the land of Uz (northern Arabia)
 - **Main Characters:** God, Job, and Satan
 - **Plot:** God allows Satan to test Job's faith through the loss of family, possessions, and health.
- **Key word(s):** "a perfect and an upright man, one that _____ God, and escheweth evil" (1:1, 8; 2:3)
 - **Climax:** **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's Riches

1. (1:1-5) The story of Job opens with a description of his familial and material abundance:
 - a. Job had _____ sons and three daughters.
 - b. Job had *seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household.*¹
2. Job was not only rich materially, but _____ also.
 - a. The narrator describes him as *a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil.*
 - b. Evidence of Job's righteousness was his special concern for his children's holiness. He was *jealous over them with a godly jealousy.* (2 Cor. 11:2).
 - i. When his sons held family feasts, Job arose early the next morning and *sent and sanctified them*, that is, he would summon his children for family _____.

APPLICATION → Though Job's sons sent for their sisters to join them in their family dinners, demonstrating their family love, unity, and blessedness, Job sent for them to join in family devotion. A godly parent is more concerned for their children's spiritual wealth than their material wealth.

Mark 8:36 *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own _____?*

- ii. He would also make burnt offering because, he thought, *It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.*

APPLICATION → The word translated *curse* (כּוּרָה) is more frequently translated *blessed*. How can one word have such opposite meanings? One theory suggests that "this was the common term of salutation between friends at meeting and parting. It is then supposed to have been used in the sense of the English phrase *to bid farewell to*. And then, like that phrase, to mean *to renounce, to abandon, to dismiss from the mind, to disregard.*"² Job was concerned that his children would, in their prosperity, _____ their God.

Prov. 8:8 *Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with food convenient for me: 9 Lest I be full, and deny thee, And say, Who is the Lord?*

Job's Reputation

3. (1:6) The scene changes from earth to heaven, where we see angels "came to stand before God to give an

¹ That Job's wealth was measured in livestock instead of silver or gold is one indication that this story is very ancient.

² Albert Barnes, *Notes on the Old Testament: Job*, vol. 1 (London: Blackie & Son, 1847), 98.

account of what they had done, and to receive further orders in regard to what they were to do.”³

APPLICATION → How rarely we think of the spiritual world that exists alongside our physical! We must continually remind ourselves “that the affairs of this earth are very much the subject of the counsels of the _____ world. That world is dark to us, but we lie very open to it.”⁴

4. (1:7-8) Satan was amongst the angels, but he was not there to report of doing good amongst the saints of earth, but of doing evil and *walking about, seeking whom he may devour*. (1 Peter 5:8)
 - a. When God asked Satan, “Whence comest thou?” he was not asking out of ignorance (because God knows all), but to hold Satan accountable and to remind the evil one that he is always in check.
 - b. Not only was Job famously rich in substance (1:3), he was famously rich in godliness. Job’s renown as a man of integrity made him the talk of God’s throne room.

APPLICATION → Why did God mention Job to Satan? Perhaps because Satan was there to _____ the brethren (Rev. 12:10) and to use their failures to mock God. Job’s name was mentioned as an example of a man who truly feared God. Job, like Daniel who lived thousands of years later, was a *man greatly beloved* and the talk of the supernatural world. (cf. Dan. 9:23; Acts 19:15)

5. (1:9-11) Evidently, Job’s testimony had reached the ears of Satan, for the accuser of the brethren did exactly that – he accused Job of following God for _____ reasons, saying, *Doth Job fear God for nought? ...put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face*.
 - a. (1:10) Satan complained that God had put a hedge around Job and all that he had.

APPLICATION → Satan cannot snatch what God has shielded. God’s people can truly confess “*God is my goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; My shield, and he in whom I trust.*” (Psa. 144:2) If Satan cannot harm me save what God allows, then I can trust that whatever I may suffer at his hands is for my good and God’s glory. (Rom. 8:28)

- b. (1:12) God told Satan, *Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand.*

Job’s Ruin

6. (1:13-19) Later, when Job’s children were once again feasting as a family, Satan did his worst. One-by-one, the servants came – the sole survivors of horrific tragedies – telling Job that everything he had was gone: his oxen were stolen by Sabeans, his sheep slain by fire from heaven, his camels plundered by Chaldeans, and his _____ killed by a tornadic wind that collapsed their house.⁵
7. (1:20-22) Job’s response to all these calamities has provided God’s people with comforting words for thousands of years: *The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; _____ be the name of the Lord.*

TO BE CONTINUED...

Answer Key: Key word(s): feareth • 1. a. seven • 2. Spiritually; b. i. worship; Mark 8:36, soul; →forget • 3. →unseen • 4. →accuse • 5. Mercenary • 6. Children • 7. blessed

³ Ibid., 99.

⁴ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 655.

⁵ The fire of God may have been severe lightning that the servant interpreted as divine. The other natural disaster mentioned shows that Satan, when unhampered by God’s control, has capabilities even to manipulate the natural world.