

Job's Way of Life Interrupted By Satanic Attacks And Horrible Suffering Series

Job 1:1-2:13 NIV

Introduction:

Have you ever been coasting along comfortably in life with everything going fairly well, then, without warning, things began to crumble? For months, perhaps years, you had been relatively peaceful, stable, and happy. You were experiencing no major trouble or hardship. When the normal difficulties of everyday life arose, they were easily worked out. Whatever life threw at you was manageable and under control. But then, suddenly, something happened. Some tragedy struck so quickly and unexpectedly that things seemed to come crashing down around you. For years you had been working hard to build a good life for yourself and family, but then, without warning, your good life was threatened, interrupted, and perhaps damaged beyond repair. Think for a minute about these scenarios:

- ⇒ A good relationship suddenly deteriorates and falls apart.
- ⇒ A child starts action up or gets into serious trouble.
- ⇒ Unexpected bills arises or an investment goes bad.
- ⇒ You lose a job, home, or a beloved family member.
- ⇒ You are diagnosed with a life-threatening illness.

In other words, tragedy strikes and you feel attacked by fate, bad fortune, Satan, or even the Lord. You believe you are doing everything right but, in return, your life begins to unravel around you. On top of that, nothing you do seems to change or improve the situation. Hopelessness sets in and there appears to be no way out of your desperate situation.

This was the position Job found himself in. Job had a good life, in fact, a very successful, satisfying, and happy life. He was a moral and righteous man who loved the Lord with all his heart. Then suddenly, out of nowhere, one tragedy after another bombarded him. Before Job could comprehend what was happening, it was all over. He had lost everything. His ideal life was interrupted by Satanic attacks and horrible suffering.

This is the captivating drama of the book of *Job*, the real-life story of a godly man under assault by the evil one, Satan himself. In the opening two chapters, we witness a riveting account of the warfare waged in the spiritual world for the lives of men and women. This is, *Job's Rich Life and Happiness Interrupted by Satanic Attacks and Horrible Suffering*,

Job 1:1-22 (NIV)

¹ In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

² He had seven sons and three daughters,

³ and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

⁴ His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

⁵ When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

6 One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.
7 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."
8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."
9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied.
10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.
11 But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."
12 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.
13 One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house,
14 a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby,
15 and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"
16 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"
17 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"
18 While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house,
19 when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"
20 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship
21 and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."
22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

[Job 2:1-10 \(NIV\)](#)

1 On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him.
2 And the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."
3 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."
4 "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life.
5 But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face."
6 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."
7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.
8 Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.
9 His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!"
10 He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

I. Job's Remarkable Life, Character, And Faith In God.

Job 1:1-5 (NIV)

¹ In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

² He had seven sons and three daughters,

³ and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

⁴ His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

⁵ When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

A. Job lived in the land of Uz.

1. The precise location of Uz is unknown.

a. Uz is also mentioned in Jeremiah and Lamentations.

b. Uz is the name of an Edomite man, one of three sons of Dishan
Mentioned in the books (Genesis 36:28; 1 Chronicles 1:42)

c. This son might have given his name to the land of Uz.

2. Scholars speculate on its location, here are the following possibilities

⇒ In or near Bashan, south of Damascus

⇒ In or near Edom, southeast of the Dead Sea

⇒ In northern Arabia, east of Edom.

a. Scholars who point to northern Saudi Arabia note the area called the Wadi Sirhan.

b. This is a two-hundred-mile valley that is fertile enough to have supported the large herds Job possessed.

c. It is also near a desert (1:19) and close enough to Edom to be associated with it.

d. It was within raiding distance of the Chaldeans who attacked Job's camel herds (1:17).

B. Job was blameless or perfect and upright.

1. It is essential to understand how these words are used here.

a. The word blameless (perfect) does not mean sinless.

b. Job was human therefore he could not be sinless.

c. Nor was he perfect as the word is used today.

2. The Hebrew word blameless refers to being blameless of outward or willful sin not sinless perfection.

a. Job was innocent of deliberate and conscious sin, he was a man of integrity who walked closely with the Lord. Job was...

- Moral
- Honest
- Just
- Loyal to his wife and family
- Generous to the poor
- Faithful to the Lord.

b. Job nor God ever claimed that Job was sinless, only that he was blameless, innocent of known sin.

Job 42:6 (NIV)

⁶ Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

c. The word upright also pointed to Job's integrity.

Proverbs 13:6 (NIV)

⁶ Righteousness guards the man of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.

If a person observed Job's behavior in his day-to-day life would find n fault in him—and neither did God

Job 1:8 (NIV)

⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

C. Job feared God and shunned evil.

1. Scriptor declares that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" Ps.111:10

a. Fear of the Lord includes reverence and awe—and acknowledgment of God's perfection, strength, and majesty.

b. An appropriate fear of the Lord leads to a godly lifestyle and righteous behavior.

c. Job sought to live a blameless and upright life because of his fear of the Lord.

2. God blessed Job.

a. With great wealth, 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 1000 oxen, 500 donkeys, and a large number of servants,

b. Job was recognized widely as a wealthy and great man—a noble or aristocrat and a highly respected man of his day.

c. Job did not allow his wealth to lead him astray.

d. Job was faithful and generous, grateful to the Lord for all he had been given.

D. Job was committed to his family.

1. He was a faithful father.

a. Jobs family was close, a fact seen in his children's celebrating special occasions together. (v.4)

b. this one fact shows that Job and his wife had reared a loving tight-knit family, that cared for one another.

2. Job watched over and cared deeply for his children

a. He consistently sought the Lord for their cleansing and purification. (v.5)

b. After the children's celebrations, he would offer a burnt sacrifice for each child.

c. This doesn't mean the festivities were immoral or wicked.

d. Job most likely understood people can be careless with their thoughts, words, and behavior.

Job feared, revered, and loved the Lord, and proved this in his day-to-day behavior. He could have spoiled his children with his excessive wealth, but there is no indication he did so. Rather, he set a godly example for them. What better example of concern could he show for God's Holy Name than to offer atoning sacrifices in the event that his children had sinned? By this one act, Job showed how highly he esteemed and feared the Lord.

II. Job's Accuser and Adversary—Satan

Job 1:6-12 (NIV)

⁶ One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.

⁷ The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

⁹ "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied.

¹⁰ "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

¹¹ But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

¹² The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

A. Job was blameless but he still had an accuser.

1. The accuser was the same scheming adversary of every believer—Satan.

a. The New Testament teaches that Satan prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour.

b. Scripture also says that Satan stands before God accusing believers (saints) day and night

Revelations 12:10

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

B. Behind Job's suffering lay a spiritual battle, a cosmic conflict between God and Satan.

1. War was being waged in the heavens, and it would partly play itself out on earth in the life of Job—an innocent and righteous man.

Job 1:6 (NIV)

⁶ One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.

2. The Scriptures point to the angels and Satan were required to report to God concerning their activities.

a. A time of accountability for those who serve or work under others—takes place in the spiritual world as well.

b. Given that God is the *Master* of the universe, there are probably scheduled times for the angels to report to God.

c. This would include Satan and other fallen angels—those who followed Satan in his rebellion against God.

3. This is puzzling to us but nonetheless Scripture is clear: Satan will not be cast into the Lake of Fire until the end of the world. Revelation 20:10

a. Until that day Satan still has the right to enter God's presence though it may be limited and only when summoned.

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

4. Satan argued that Job only loved and honored God because of what God had done for him.

a. God permitted Satan's test, consenting to his devious challenge. God placed limits on Satan.

5. God granted Satan power over Job's possessions, but not over his body.

a. This is a clear example of the Lord's permitting Satan to harass and test believers, while at the same time placing limits on what Satan can do.

b. God allowed Satan to carry on His malicious work.

c. God dismissed Satan from His presence to return to roam about earth and carry out his wicked schemes.

Conclusion:

Few if any of us will ever suffer as much as Job did. Yet during our lives, most of us will face some serious trials, and many will undergo severe suffering. A question therefore arises: Will we continue to trust and love the Lord even when times get tough? Will we be faithful to God even when things do not go our way, when we suffer loss or disappointment? God allows hardships and afflictions in our lives to draw us nearer to Him and to strengthen our faith. In fact, the more we suffer or hurt, the more we usually cry out to God for help and the closer we draw to God. He alone can heal our wounds and strengthen us through the trials and sufferings of life. Listen to the encouragement of God's Holy Word: [1 Corinthians 10:13 \(NIV\)](#)

¹³ No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.