

## **Lesson 3**

### **Job Is Further Tested**

#### **Sons of God Present Themselves Before The Lord**

**JOB 2:1** Again there was a day when the sons of God [angels] came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. See Job 1:6; 38:7.

1. Satan is once again permitted into God's presence.
2. He could not appear before God without God's permission.
3. The word "day" refers to an undefined time after his first testing. (Job 1:6).

#### **God Speaks To Satan Job's Life Must Be Spared**

**JOB 2:2** And the Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "From roaming about on the earth, and walking around on it."

JOB 1:7 And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."

1. Satan is not omnipresent.
  2. He is able to freely roam the earth. See 1 Pet. 5:8.
- 1PE 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
3. You do not need to "roam the earth" if you are omnipresent.
  4. God's question was not for His information, but it was to obtain a response from Satan. See Gen. 3:9.

#### **God Praises Job**

**JOB 2:3** And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to ruin him without cause." Job 1:8

1. This is a tremendous compliment to Job - "no one like him on the earth."
2. God Himself is praising Job.
3. Job was holding "fast his integrity."

- a. “Integrity” is from the Hebrew “tummah” [toom **maw**] meaning “innocence, integrity.”
  - b. “Integrity” can have the meaning of “innocence.” Job was maintaining his innocence.
  - c. It can also be used to denote his godly character, his righteousness. In all of this Job was still a godly man and one who lived righteously “fearing God and turning away from evil.” This was God’s view of him. (Job 2:3).
4. Satan had set out “to ruin him without cause.”
- a. Job had done nothing to deserve the loss of his children, property and servants.
  - b. Satan had charged that Job was faithful only because God had so richly blessed him (Job 1:9, but Satan had not been able to reveal sin on the part of Job and prove the charge he had made.
  - c. Satan had not led Job to curse God. (Job 1:11).

### **Satan Speaks To God**

**JOB 2:4 And Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. JOB 2:5 "However, put forth Thy hand, now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse Thee to Thy face."**

1. Satan is confident Job cannot withstand physical suffering especially the kind he plans to afflict on Job.
2. Satan is persuaded physical suffering will lead Job to curse [renounce] God.
3. **Satan knows how to break men who do not depend on God.** (1 Cor. 10:13; Jas. 4:7,8).

### **God Permits Satan To Test Job**

**JOB 2:6 So the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life."**

1. God places Job in the “power” [ hands] of Satan.
2. Satan was not permitted to take Job’s life showing Satan is not omnipotent.
3. God placed Job in the power of Satan, but if Satan were omnipotent he would already be in the power of Satan.

### **Satan Leaves God’s Presence And Afflicts Job**

**JOB 2:7 Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.**

- “presence of the Lord” is not absolute, but refers to God’s meeting with “the sons of God.” (Job 2:1).
  - No one, including Satan, is out of the presence of God. (Job 15:3)
1. Job’s disease is thought by some to have been a form of leprosy, complicated with Elephantiasis, one of the most loathsome and painful diseases know to the Oriental world.

2. It appears to be incurable and characterized by:

a. Boils or sores (2:7)

JOB 2:7 Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

1) The Hebrew “shekh **een**” means “burn, inflammation, ulcer. boil, botch”

2) Its exact meaning here is not known, but we do have a description of its symptoms.

b. Itching (2:8)

JOB 2:8 And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among the ashes.

c. Drastic change of appearance (2:12)

JOB 2:12 And when they lifted up their eyes at a distance, and did not recognize him, they raised their voices and wept. And each of them tore his robe, and they threw dust over their heads toward the sky.

d. Difficulty in eating or lost of desire for food (3:24).

JOB 3:24 "For my groaning comes at the sight of my food, And my cries pour out like water.

e. Mental depression (3:25).

JOB 3:25 "For what I fear comes upon me, And what I dread befalls me.

f. Worms and running sores (7:5).

JOB 7:5 "My flesh is clothed with worms and a crust of dirt; My skin hardens and runs.

g. Shortness of breathe (9:18).

JOB 9:18 "He will not allow me to get my breath, But saturates me with bitterness.

h. Darkness of eyes (16:16). NIV “deep shadows ring my eyes.”

JOB 16:16 "My face is flushed from weeping, And deep darkness is on my eyelids,

i. Odorous breath (19:17).

JOB 19:17 "My breath is offensive to my wife, And I am loathsome to my own brothers.

j. Lost of weight (19:20).

JOB 19:20 "My bone clings to my skin and my flesh, And I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth.

k. Gnawing pains (30:17).

JOB 30:17 "At night it pierces my bones within me, And my gnawing pains take no rest.

1. Blackened skin that peels and fever. (30:30).

JOB 30:30 "My skin turns black on me, And my bones burn with fever.

3. The indication seems to be that this horrible condition continued for months (7:3; 29:2).

JOB 7:3 So am I allotted months of vanity, And nights of trouble are appointed me.

JOB 29:2 "Oh that I were as in months gone by, As in the days when God watched over me;

**JOB 2:8 And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among the ashes.**

1. This great man had lost everything and was not "sitting among the ashes."
2. This great man was now scraping himself with broken pieces of pottery.
3. The greatest man of the east had now been reduced to nothing. (Job 1:3).

### **Mrs Job**

**JOB 2:9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!"**

1. We do not know anything about this woman except she had apparently given birth to 10 children.
2. She was probably a woman of faith being married to Job, but she did not have near the faith and character of Job when her faith was tested.
  - a. She had also lost everything, that is, her children her material possessions, her servants, her husband.
  - b. Her flesh was not afflicted by Satan.
  - c. She had become bitter toward God.
  - d. She had given up her faith in God and wanted her husband to do the same thing.
3. Her advice to Job shows she did not now respect God and she wanted Job to curse Him.
4. Job needed encouragement from his wife, not the advice to give up and renounce God.
  - a. Woman was created to be the companion and helper of man. (Gen. 2:18).
  - b. Mrs Job miserably failed in her responsibility to her husband, and was even seeking to persuade him to curse God and give up his faith.
  - c. She did not accuse him of evil, but believed death would end his suffering.
  - d. She evidently did not believe there was suffering after death for those who reject God.

5. Death does not end the problems or suffering of the wicked, but Mrs Job may have the fallacious view that suffering ends at death. (Matt. 25:41, 46; Mk. 9:18; 2 Thess. 1:9).

### **Job Rebukes Wife** **“Job did not sin with his lips”**

**JOB 2:10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish [unbelieving] women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.**

1. “Foolish” is used to mean “unbelieving, unrighteous” women. See Psalm 14:1.
2. Job did not speak evil of God.
3. “Job did not sin with his lips,” but this does not mean all kinds of things were running through his thoughts.
4. He did later utter some rash things against God. (Job 42:3).

JOB 42:3 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' 'Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.'

### **Coming Of Job’s Three Friends**

**JOB 2:11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, they came each one from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite; and they made an appointment together to come to sympathize with him and comfort him.**

1. **Eliphaz**, the Temanite, may have a descendant of Esau and an Edomite. (Gen. 36:10, 11).
  - a. One of Esau’s was named Eliphaz.

GEN 36:10 These are the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz the son of Esau's wife Adah, Reuel the son of Esau's wife Basemath.

- b. One of the sons of Eliphaz was named “Teman.”

GEN 36:11 And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho and Gatam and Kenaz.

- c. Teman, perhaps this Teman, was the grandson of Esau. **Esau - Eliphaz - Teman**

2. **Bildad**, the Shuhite, may have been a descendant of Abraham and Keturah. ( Gen. 25:2).

GEN 25:2 And she [Keturah] bore to him Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and **Shuah**.

- a. Keturah was Abraham’s second wife.
- b. Shuah was her youngest son.

3. **Zophar**, the Naamathite, is of unknown origin or locality.

4. **Elihu**, the Buzite (32:2), may have been a descendant of Abraham’s brother Nahor. (Gen. 22:20, 21).

JOB 32:2 But the anger of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram burned; against Job his anger burned, because he justified himself before God.

GEN 22:20 Now it came about after these things, that it was told Abraham, saying, "Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor:

GEN 22:21 Uz his first-born and Buz his brother and Kemuel the father of Aram

5. The three friends who had an erroneous view of human suffering were “all worthless physicians.” (Job. 13:4).

JOB 13:4 "But you smear with lies; You are all worthless physicians.

6. They were miserable comforters.

7. One must be careful, on guard that he/she does not become like them.

8. Suppose one is sick or has lost everything including friends and family, and those coming to visit tell him to confess his sin or sins.

### **Friends Do Not Recognize Job**

**JOB 2:12 And when they [Job’s friends] lifted up their eyes at a distance, and did not recognize him, they raised their voices and wept. And each of them tore his robe, and they threw dust over their heads toward the sky.**

1. The disease had disfigured him and was causing him great discomfort and pain.

2. Somehow they knew or deducted it was Job even though Job was “at a distance.”

3. They were his friends and likely came with good intentions.

4. Seeing Job and hearing all that had happened to him forced them to change their view of Job.

5. They knew he was a righteous man, but they now conclude he must have done something very evil to have all these things befall him.

**JOB 2:13 Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights with no one speaking a word to him, for they saw that his pain was very great.**

1. It was the custom in ancient times to mourn the dead “for seven days.” (Gen. 50:10; 1 Sam. 31:13).

GEN 50:10 When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and sorrowful lamentation; and he observed seven days mourning for his father.

1 SA 31:13 And they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

2. They seemed to have considered him a dead man or as good as dead.

3. During this time they are forming the conclusion and perhaps even the arguments that Job must be a terrible sinner since all suffering is God’s punishment for sin according to their view.

**Note:**

1. The Joban author says “they saw that his pain was very great.”
  - a. His suffering is incomprehensible to the vast majority who have ever lived.
  - b. Job is not presented as the only one who ever lost everything.
  - c. There have been some who have lost everything and have suffered immensely.
2. Job’s friends had initially come to sympathize with him, but they were now ready to criticize him and get him to repent.
3. Their false theology had blinded them to the truth about Job’s righteousness, but they had no specific charge to make against
4. False theology causes man to blaspheme God.
  - a. “A good God would not allow anything bad to happen to me.”
  - b. “God cannot be omnipotent because there is so much suffering and evil in the world.”
  - c. “If God is a loving God, He would not condemn anyone.”
  - d. “A good God will not allow Satan to tempt and destroy us.”
  - e. “A loving God would keep us from all harm.”

“Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,  
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation  
Used by permission." ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))