

Episode: Genesis & Job Series No. 03

Narrator: Satan

Primary Scriptures: Job 1-2:6

Story Summary: God allows Satan to test Job by taking away all he has

Location: In the land of Uz

Time: In the time of Job

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Job 1:21, 1:22; 2:4

The book of *Job* is often considered to be a type of wisdom literature, much like *Ecclesiastes* and *Proverbs*. It is not known who wrote it or when, nor what time period it covers. Experts disagree whether it is to be taken literally or figuratively. Despite all these unknowns, it is still considered an invaluable resource for discovering the nature of God in light of the suffering of mankind. It also provides a unique look at direct interactions between God and Satan.

The book opens by describing Job, a resident of the land of Uz. There is no record where Uz is located, but many scholars believe it was in the modern Middle East. The whole plot of the story is underpinned by this opening description of Job: blameless and upright, a man who feared God and shunned evil.

Job had a wife, seven sons, and three daughters, and was the richest of all the people of the East. If anyone seemed to have it all, it would have been Job.

After confirming the amazing qualities of Job, the scene shifts to the presence of the Lord. The angels present themselves, as does Satan. The Lord asks Satan where he has been, and Satan rather flippantly replies that he has been roaming back and forth on the earth.

The Lord asks if Satan was aware of Job, the most righteous man on earth. Satan accuses God of making Job's life so good that he cannot help being that way. Satan tells God that if Job lost his possessions, he would surely curse God. God allows Satan to find out by taking away all of Job's possessions.

In short order, Satan destroys or takes away virtually all Job has: his children and all material possessions. Even so, Job continues to praise God and not charge God with wrongdoing.

Job Chapter Two opens with the scene shifting back to the presence of the Lord. Again, Satan challenges God, and asks to test Job again. This time, God allows Satan to take away Job's health, but not his life.

Obviously, things are going on in the spiritual realm that Job cannot know about or understand. He will have to rely on his theology—his knowledge of God—to make sense of it all. But what if his knowledge and understanding are unreliable?

Discussion Questions:

1. In what time period did Job live?
2. Where did Job live?
3. Why was Job such an unusual person?
4. Consider Job 1:6. What heavenly beings came before the Lord? Had Satan fallen before this time? If so, how could a sinful Satan be in the presence of God?
5. Consider Job 1:8. Was God testing Satan? Was God setting up Job to be tested?
6. Read Job 1:13-19 aloud and time how long it takes you. Job received his bad news faster than you just read those verses. How would you react if you got even a small part of his bad news that fast?

1. The Bible does not specify. From the description of Job's lifestyle, it may be that he lived just prior to Abraham. 2. The Bible does not specify. It seems as if it is in the Middle East. 3. We will find that Job was much like his wealthy friends. However, Job was blameless, upright, feared God, and turned from evil. According to Job 1:8, there was nobody like him on the earth.

Application Questions:

1. What would you have to do to become blameless and upright, like Job?
2. Job sacrificed on behalf of his children in case they had sinned. What could you do on behalf of your children in case they have sinned?
3. When you look at some of the privileged Christians in your life, do you ever feel like Satan in Genesis 1:9-11?
4. After Job lost all his possessions and children, he immediately worshiped God. Is that what you would do? Is that what you did the last time there was a calamity in your life?
5. Do you think it is okay to get mad at God or to question him for what happens in your life?
6. As people age, they typically value good health more. How much do you fear losing your health? What steps are you taking to keep your health as good as it can be?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. What would you have to do to turn away from evil, like Job?
2. When things go completely wrong in your life, what is your first reaction? Is it to ask questions of God, or to worship him?
3. A major theme of *Job* is the cosmic battle between God and Satan. Do you think such battles still exist? If so, what would one look like? Imagine Satan testing your mother. What would that trial look like? Would Satan be willing to harm you in order to get your mother to sin?