

Job – Study 2

Job's riches and what God thought of him.

Verse 1.

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was perfect and upright and one who feared God and hated evil.

The first verse says “There was a man” this story is not a parable a myth or fairy tale, Job was an important part of history and was used by God Himself to show all the spirit powers both good and evil that a man can, with faith and trust in the one true God win through to victory over sickness and terrible times. Job was an ordinary man subject to the same passions, temptations and feelings as we have and the word “perfect” does not mean sinless perfection but rather blameless in his efforts to please his God, his protection of his family and kindness to his neighbours. Because of this God knew that Job could be trusted with the affliction He was about to allow. He was upright in his business dealings with men and with God; he was faithful to his promises, true to every trust put on him. He measured up to God's law which he placed deep in his heart this is what God says about Job:

Isaiah 33 v 15. 16.

He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly who despises the gain of fraud and of oppressions, who shakes his hand free from the taking of bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, and shuts his eyes to avoid looking upon evil.

He shall dwell on high his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks, bread shall be given him, and his waters shall be sure.

The fear of God in Job's heart governed his whole way of life, he worshipped and revered God according to His will, giving respect to God, and he gave regard to His authority and feared His wrath. Living like this is what made Job perfect, not sinless but continually striving to walk in the ways of God.

Job 1.v 2

And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters,

As our story of Job begins to unfold we read that Job's children were old enough to each have their own house, and old enough to have parties one with the other so there was unity among the family and it is reasonable to believe there were grandchildren added to Job's family.

Psalms 127. v 3.

Lo children are a heritage of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is His reward.

Children should be looked upon as the blessings that they are, especially to good people who will give good instruction, set them a good example and pray with and over them daily. It can easily be seen from our media that there are very many helpless children that are treated very badly indeed in today's society by parents who consider their babies in the way of their own happiness and enjoyment. But these little ones are God's reward to us, He watches over them with a careful eye. I believe heaven will be full of the laughter of little children playing and enjoying themselves, they are God's reward may this verse help us to appreciate our children better.

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Job had great wealth, he had seven thousand sheep for a start, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred she asses, and a very great household, he was reckoned to be the richest man in the then known world. Job lived at a time before the earth was greatly populated and with so many animals and vast fields, land and rivers to maintain the Bible says he had a *very great household*. Because Job feared the Lord God blessed him greatly.

Mathew 6 v 33 tells us.

But seek you first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.

Job's piety and his great prosperity comes before his great afflictions to show that riches, power, influence and all else that money can buy will not act as insurance from any of the calamities that befell Job.

Verse 4. 5.

*And his sons went and feasted in their houses everyone his day and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.
V 5 and it was so when the days of their feasting had gone about that Job sent and sanctified them and rose up early in the morning and offered Burnt Offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, it may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.*

Before the giving of the law, the father of the family was the Priest of the family and it was his responsibility to bless, purify and offer Sacrifice for his family before God. Offering a ram for each burnt offering and one for each son and daughter shows us that Job had placed his faith in the Sacrifice of Jesus. Since Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden God has always required a Sacrifice, preparing people for the Supreme Sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. The offering of Sacrifices for Job's children could not atone for their sins unless they individually placed their faith in God, we are not told they did and maybe that is why Job offered Sacrifices continually on their behalf in faith.

Satan turns up to a meeting in heaven. **Get to know your enemy.**

Verse 6.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.

Sons of God are almost always rendered Angels in the Bible whether they are righteous or fallen and they came to light in Genesis chapter 6. It was not long after the earth was re-made in Genesis Chapter 1.verse 2 by God Himself that mankind became wicked and their sin displeased God greatly.

We read in verse 1 of Chapter 6 daughters of men were born into this wicked population and in verse 2 we are told that the sons of God saw these daughters of men that they were fair and so they took them to be their wives. "Sons of God" portrayed here refer to the fallen angels which had sided with Lucifer who led a revolt against God some time in eternity past and as we know were thrown out of heaven.

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Jude 6

And the Angels which kept not their first estate but left their own habitation....

Isaiah 14.v.12

How are you fallen from Heaven O Lucifer son of the morning? How are you cut down to the ground which did weaken the nations?

Lucifer is a name of Satan, he is an angel created by God in the distant past who served the Lord in righteousness for an undetermined period of time. He was a created being along with all the angels in heaven and in Ezekiel we are told what God thought of him.

Ezekiel 28:14

You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until iniquity was found in you.

This iniquity was pride. There is no doubt that Satan was very beautiful to look upon and he thought he could become like "the most high".

Ezekiel 28:17

For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.

Isaiah 14:13-14

For you have said in your heart I will ascend into Heaven I will exalt my throne above the stars of God I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds I will be like the Most High.

These verses in Ezekiel and Isaiah were directed initially to the kings of Tyre and Babylon but as we have studied extensively in another series on Ezekiel these kings were given over to Satan and were used by him to the detriment of Israel at that time. From the time of his ejection from heaven Satan has always been God's enemy and he has an ongoing desire to defeat God's purposes for all mankind on earth. Satan was and is full of pride; God cannot abide the sin of pride, Satan has so much pride that he stood before Jesus and sought Him earnestly to bow down before him apparently convinced that would give him power and authority over the God Head. Thanks be to God that Jesus prevailed even though He was weak after a very long fast. Having lost his attempt to defeat Jesus he has no recourse but to try and destroy God's plans for men and women by getting them to renounce God and join him in his own rebellion. Satan will continue this quest to the very end and that "end" is in sight through the Spiritual eyes of the believer.

Revelation 20: 7-10:

And when the thousand years are finished Satan will be loosed out of his prison and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of

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the earth Gog and Magog to gather them together to battle the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the Saints about and the beloved city and fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. And the Devil who deceived them was cast into the Lake of Fire and brimstone where the Beast and the False Prophets are and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Satan persuaded about one third of the angels of heaven to revolt against God with him and God threw them out of heaven. (Rev 12.4). From the time of that revolt in heaven to this day a war between good and evil right and wrong has raged. All pain, suffering, deception and early death can rightly be laid at Satan's door. Adam and Eve knew nothing of the afflictions man has to deal with until Satan came on the scene in the form of a serpent and tempted and deceived God's creation and sin was birthed. Don't underestimate Satan, I know Bible teachers who have advised their congregations to ignore Satan, "treat him as though he does not exist, we give him too much attention and we only boost his morale" they say. Whilst there is some truth in that, we must always remember Satan is our enemy, he is also God's enemy and in order to overcome his temptations, lies and deceit we, like any earthly army must know our enemy.

Here are some facts about Satan that may help you to know your enemy.

He is a person with a personal name.	Job 1 verse 6 to 12.	
He has access to Heaven.	Job 1 verse 6.	Job. 2 v 1.
He is the accuser of the brethren.	Job 1.verse 9-11	Rev: 12 v 10
He goes from place to place.	Job 1.verse 6-7	Job 2. v 1-2
He associates with angels.	Job.1 verse 6.	Job 2. v 1
He appears before God.	Job 1 verse 6.	Job 2. v 1
He roams the earth.	Job 1 verse 7.	Job 2.v 2 1
Peter 5.v 8		
He converses with God.	Job 1 verse 7-12	Job 2.v 2-6
He singles out individuals.	Job 1 verse 8, 12	Job 2.v 4-6
He hates good men.	Job 1 verse 8-12	Job 2.v 3-6
He hates God and His Saints	Job 1 verse 10-11	Job 2.v 4-6
He seeks to cause men to curse God,	Job 1 verse 11.	Job 2 v 5
He is limited by God in touching us.	Job 1 verse 12	Job 2 v 6
He can destroy men's riches.	Job 1 verse 12-19	
He destroys through God's permission.	Job 1 verse 12-19	
He has agents on earth to do his bidding.	Job 1 verse 15,17	
He can send fire from heaven	Job 1 verse 16	
He can control the elements	Job 1 verse 18-19	
He can destroy good men	Job 2 verse 1-8	
He can bring sickness and disease	Job 2 verse 7	

Verse 6

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord and Satan came also among them.

This meeting took place in Heaven at appointed times when the sons of God would give account of themselves to God. Psalms 103:20. 21 tell us:

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Psalms 103:20. 21

Bless the Lord you His angels who excel in strength who do His commandments harkening unto the voice of His Word. Bless ye the Lord all ye His hosts ye ministers of His who do His pleasure.

The Angels of the Lord ministering to His Saints

All the righteous Angels praise Him and do His bidding and on this particular day they were in heaven reporting to God and no doubt getting further instructions. Sometimes Angels can be seen and sometimes not but there are many witnesses to the fact that Angels are busy doing God's work sometimes at the speed of light.

One such testimony recalls that a Christian man was washing his car in his drive way when his little daughter helping him ran out into the path of an oncoming car. The driver of the car saw the little girl but was too late to do anything at all but shout "JESUS". With no skidding of tyres the car stopped just in front of the little girl. The father grabbed his daughter hugging her tight and started to thank the driver for his remarkable driving skill. Shaken, trembling and shocked all he could say was "but I never touched my brakes at all it just stopped"

A Pastor friend of our family was in training at a Bible College in London when he heard that his mother was very ill in Eastbourne about 2 hours away by train. He didn't have enough money for the ticket so prayed and prayed all the way to the station. There was a big queue for tickets and so he joined the queue at the back still praying soon it was his turn at the kiosk.

Just as he was handing in the little money he had he felt a tap on the shoulder and turned to see an old lady who said "I think you will need this" the Pastor turned back to the man behind the kiosk and gave him the right money for the trip. Having got his ticket he then looked for the old lady to thank her, she was nowhere to be found so he asked the man behind him "where has that old lady gone" "What old lady there has been no old ladies here" the man replied.

Our youngest son and his wife were in a car on a flyover when their car swerved on some ice ran across the road and crashed into the barrier opposite which stopped them from going over and down onto the traffic below. A lady riding a small motorbike came up to our son and said "your wife will be all right". When the ambulance came our daughter in law was carried into the back of the ambulance ready to go off to hospital. Our son turned to thank the lady but he could not find her. Because the accident was high up on a flyover the police did not allow anyone to stop, even I had difficulties getting to our son. So few people were at the scene about 6 including my wife and I. Neither the police, ambulance team or my wife and I saw this lady rider anywhere. The car was a right off and our Daughter in Law was sent home from hospital the same day.

Job tells us that all angels good or bad are subject to the will of God. I am pleased to note that no matter whom or what, God is in control and even Satan is answerable to the Lord and can only do what God permits. However he is still a powerful enemy and as we have noted his abilities are far reaching, earth would be in a very sorry state indeed if Satan did not have some limitations put upon him by God.

Just picture the scene, the meeting, no doubt full of worship and praise to God Jehovah gets under way and in walks Satan. I am surprised he had the nerve, he

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hates God and all God's children and also hates God being worshipped but there he was standing among them. No doubt he came as an angel of light as 2 Corinthians 14 tells us he can be and it is quite possible that the host of heaven did not recognise him, but God did and spoke to him and asked him "where have you been"? It is possible that a man or woman may be a child of the devil and yet be found in the company of the Saints of God even today and may go undetected by men but not by God. Satan will use any person whose heart is open to him. This is confirmed by the Lord in:

Mathew 13 v 24

Another Parable put He forth unto them saying, The Kingdom of Heaven is likened unto a Man (Christ) which sowed good seed in his field. But while men slept the enemy (Satan) came and sowed tares among the wheat (true Christians) and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up and brought forth fruit then appeared the tares also. (The church has both true and false attendants)

In verse 27 Questions were asked about where the tares came from because good seed was sown. The answer came an enemy has done this referring to Satan and his agents, 2 Corinthians 11 v 12 – 15 shows us just how busy Satan is destroying God's work in people's lives.

God is all knowing and the question "where have you been" and Satan's answer may well be for the benefit of the rest of us. Satan's answer was the truth;

Job 1 v 7

"From going to and fro in the earth and from walking up and down in it"

Satan searches the whole earth never resting but prowling, seeking, like *a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour*. Satan is always walking to and fro over the earth, always has and always will until his time of reckoning when God will deal with him once and for all and that won't be long now! We must be encouraged that the Lord's eyes are also ever busy on our behalf going to and fro over the whole earth; I like to think His eyes are also following Satan's works and keeping him in check!

2 Chronicles 16 v 9

For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect towards Him.

If you have given your heart to Jesus, if you follow Him daily in prayer and Bible reading and as He says your heart is perfect towards Him, perfect in your intentions to obey and please Him, Jesus will show Himself strong to us, and help us but we must show continuous Faith in Him.

The sons of God came to present themselves and report before the Lord God to give account of their service in His Kingdom, executing His instructions, ministering to the heirs of salvation and to receive further instructions. I believe ministering angels are ever round about us and the unseen protection we get from them we may never know of, what is more apparent is that angels of darkness also surround us to do harm.

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Knowing that God had created the Heavens and the earth as recorded in Genesis 1 knowing that God intended that Adam and Eve were to manage the earth with God, also knowing that he Satan, had snatched that dominion which the Trinity gave Adam and Eve giving him the right to “walk up and down in the earth” this cheeky retort to God was given with much pride and self assurance.

Next study, “Hello Satan - have you met my servant, Job?”