

# Job – Study 3

## God introduces Job to Satan

God knew Satan had been walking up and down the earth and he asks Satan very pointedly:

### Verse 8

*“Hast thou considered my servant Job that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and upright man, one that fears God and hates evil?”*

The scriptures do not say but our all knowing God may have pre-empted Satan’s question about Job and drew attention to Job first. I find it very encouraging to note that God knew all about Job, that *there was none like him in all the earth*, he was *perfect*, he was *upright*, he *fears God, and hates evil*. God knows all about you and me. I wonder if He can give such a glowing report to Satan about any one of us. I believe God discusses you and me with His Son and assigns His angels to minister and to help us His children, when the need arises. Are our lives such that God can confidently talk to His Father of our good behaviour, our love for God, our love for our fellow man, our Bible reading our prayer life or are we an embarrassment to Him?. There is no doubt that there are conversations going on in heaven and most of them are about His Saints. He sees us in our troubles, our heartache, our sickness and pain, the loss of loved ones He also sees how we handle those troubles and that sickness. He sees the joy we have at the birth of a new baby in the family, the happiness we show when enjoying a holiday or the achievements of our children, the joy we experience when souls are saved at our church, yes there is a lot to talk about in heaven.

Here God draws attention to Job. He asks Satan if he had even considered Job. Knowing Satan’s mission was to *steal, kill, and destroy* I have in the past thought it a bit mean of God to almost hand Job on a plate to Satan knowing his power can tempt man into sin and rebellion towards God. But God knew Job, trusted Job, relied on Job and knew the end from the beginning which Satan didn’t. Satan is at war with the Saints. He has tried to defeat Jesus and through Jesus the Trinity, by the temptation in the wilderness but God fully trusted that His Son Jesus would overcome Satan’s temptations. Satan failed so he now has turned his attention on God’s people. His greatest and most important mission is to stop God’s creation accepting His Son Jesus Christ as Saviour and getting to heaven, thus sending them to an eternity in hell. He does that by counterfeiting God’s doctrines recorded in Scripture thereby deceiving the Saints.

### 2 Corinthians 11.14-15

*And no marvel* (believers should not be surprised) *for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers* (Satan’s fallen angels) *also be transformed as ministers of righteousness whose end shall be according to their works.*

The Christian should always be on their guard knowing that Satan wants to steal from them an eternity with God. I repeat, get to know your enemy!

He is the enemy of all good and the accuser of God and man.

### Ezekiel 28. 11-17

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*Moreover the word of the Lord came to me saying, Son of man take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus and say unto him, thus saith the Lord God; You seal up the sum full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You have been in Eden the Garden of God; every precious stone was your covering the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald and the carbuncle and gold the workmanship of your tabrets and of your pipes was prepared in you in the day that you were created. You are the anointed Cherub who covers and I have set you so: you were upon the Holy Mountain of God; you have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. You were perfect in all your ways from the day that you were created, till iniquity was found in you. By the multitude of your merchandise they have filled the midst of you with violence and you have sinned; therefore I will cast you as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy you O covering Cherub from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness: I will cast you to the ground, I will lay you before kings that they may behold you.*

This is our enemy; we expect an evil enemy to dress up in black, have a black mask over the eyes, have black leather boots, black leather gloves and no doubt a whip and he will look as sinister as possible. But not Satan, he sometimes comes as a beautiful diamond encrusted being bursting with light and brightness to deceive the very elect, and he does!

Here are a few more descriptions of Satan; look them up and read them.

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| He is the father of lies | John 8:44                                       |
| A murderer               | John 8:44                                       |
| A sower of discord       | Mathew 13:39                                    |
| An adversary             | 1Peter 5:8-9                                    |
| He is cunning            | 2 Corinthians 2: 11 & 11: 14. Ephesians 6:11-12 |
| He is wicked             | Mathew 13:18. John 8: 44                        |
| He is cowardly           | James 4: 7.                                     |
| He is a tempter          | Mathew 4: 1-11                                  |
| He is a thief            | John 10: 10.                                    |
| And many more            |   |

As we read our Bibles we know there are a lot more verses that tell us more about the character of Satan and we can only conclude that the Christian needs to be on guard.

### James 4 v 7

*Submit to yourselves to God and resist the Devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you, cleanse your hands you sinners, and purify your hearts you double minded.*

So he flees from us, but continue to know that he is there and know that if you are a child of God he will seek you out to take your trust, faith and even your salvation away from you don't let him!

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God said: *Hast thou considered my servant Job there is none like him in the earth a perfect and upright man one that feareth God and eschews (hates) evil.*

And Satan said: *Doth Job fear God for nought? Have not you made a hedge about him and about his house and about all that he has, blessed the work of his hands and his substance is increased in the land? But put forth your hand now and touch all that he has and he will curse you to your face.*

### God's protection is always there even if we don't see or feel it.

Every Christian should note that according to this book of Job we can be comforted to know that although we sometimes may not see it, know it, or feel it, the hand of God is protecting His children all the time they have Jesus in their heart, honour Him and walk in His ways. Like Job, Jesus may let Satan have his way with us to torment, bring sickness and all sorts of troubles upon us, but God uses what Satan throws at us for our good if we let Him. It is obvious Satan does not see this and most of the time neither do we but if we were to trust our lives and all that we have to our wonderful Saviour He will walk with us and if necessary carry us through our trial. And remember the blessings of the Lord makes rich, God *allowed* Job to be tried and He *allowed* Peter to be sifted; it is our comfort to know that Jesus has Satan on a chain and He will not allow us to be tempted or tried more than we are able to bear.

#### 1 Corinthians 10 v 13

*There is no temptation taken you but such as is common to man but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able but with the temptation also make a way to escape that you may be able to bear it.*

Surely this is another confirmation that God is in total control of Satan but we have to fight and fight hard not to give up our faith and trust in Jesus but work hard to overcome the Devil.

It is in those times of temptation that God uses what Satan puts on us to build character, integrity, trust and all those attributes that make us more like Christ and less like Satan. The whole book of Job is not for the conversion of the sinner but the consecration of the Saint. Satan has no power to lead men into sin, only what man gives him. If we give in to temptation, to steal, kill, fornicate, sin, rebel and so on we have removed ourselves from God's grace and opened our hearts to Satan's power. Some do not believe that sickness and troubles come from Satan; some believe sickness comes from God to test us, No! If that were that case we could accuse God of being inconsistent which He is not.

#### Luke 13 v 16

*And ought not this woman being a daughter of Abraham whom Satan has bound lo these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath Day.*

#### Acts 10 v 38

*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with Power who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed of the devil...*

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We really must get this right. Satan will not mind at all us blaming God for the wrongs in this world or the sickness and pain we have. We have all heard people say “if God is a God of love why does He allow these wars, these awful floods, these murders of little children, these earthquakes etc” We forget man gave the dominion of this world, which was meant for God’s creation, to Satan. Some Christians don’t believe that! Well according to the first chapter of our study Satan’s reply to God was that he walked up and down the earth, what for if not to snatch men and women God’s creation, from the love and security of God and he has the power to do that.

At the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness the Devil took Jesus up into an exceedingly high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them and said :

Mathew 4: 8.9

*All these things will I give you if you will fall down and worship me.*

1 Peter 5 v 8 tells us:

*Be sober, (self controlled) be vigilant because your adversary the Devil as a roaring lion walks about seeking whom he may devour. Who resist steadfast in the faith knowing the same afflictions are accomplished in your Brethren who are in the world.*

Christians the world over are experiencing the same troubles, trials and sickness as you and I, and I know sometimes we think we are the only ones as we wallow in self-pity but Satan is not a respecter of persons he will destroy anyone who lets him.

So what Satan was really saying to God was you take away your hand of protection so that he could bring destruction in Job’s life and Job will curse you to your face. It is obvious that Satan could not touch Job because of that hedge that God had put around Job. The only way God “destroys” is the taking away of His hedge of protection and giving Satan a free hand. He has done that before as in:

Romans 1v 28

*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge God gave them over to a reprobate mind to do those things which are not convenient. (Translated proper in the NASB)*

Psalms 78 v 62

*He gave His people over also unto the sword and was wroth with His inheritance.*

Psalms 78 v 50

*He made a way to His anger; He spared not their soul from death but gave their life over to the pestilence.*

...and this truth is plainly demonstrated in this story of Job. This will always be the case in the area of sickness or affliction. God’s hand withholds the infirmities that Satan wants to put on the Saints of God and God, removing that protection, gives

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Satan permission to do his worst on them while God watches His people to see if they learn the valuable art of overcoming and not yielding to Satan's temptation to blame God. Remember God has the situation under His control *a/ways* and He said I will never leave you nor forsake you and that means in pain or sickness too.

### The eternal destiny of the Christian largely depends on his overcoming

1. John 3: verse 8.

*He who commits sin is of the Devil for the Devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the Devil.*

1 John 5 v 4

*For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world and this is the victory that overcomes the world even our Faith. Who is he who overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

What do you believe and who do you believe in?

Revelation 3 v 21

*To him who overcomes will I grant to sit with Me in My throne even as I overcame and am set down with My Father in His throne.*

What happens to the Christian who does not overcome?

Revelation 21 v 7

*He who overcomes shall inherit all things and I will be his God and he shall be My Son.*

Who is your God and whose son are you?

*Notice how overcoming is vital for the Christian.*

Job 1 v 12

*And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold all that he has is in your power, only upon himself put not forth your hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.*

I can imagine Satan's flight from Heaven was like the speed of light! He had got permission from God Himself to get Job's possessions, and poor Job knew nothing about it! I guess he thought he would prove to God that Job would fall at the first hurdle. He waited until all the family were eating and drinking in one of Job's son's house, when they were certainly not thinking of bad things happening to the family when there came a messenger unto Job and said:

Job 1 v 14-19

*The oxen were plowing and the asses were feeding beside them. And the Sabeans fell upon them and took them away yea they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword and I only am escaped alone to tell you.*

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*Verse 16 While he was yet speaking came also another and said the fire of God is fallen from heaven and hath burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them and I only have escaped alone to tell you.*

*Verse 17 While he was yet speaking there came also another and said the Chaldeans made out three bands and fell upon the camels and have carried them away and slain the servant by the edge of the sword, and I only am escaped alone to tell you.*

*Verse 18 While he was yet speaking there came also another and said Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brothers house and behold there came a great wind from the wilderness and smote the four corners of the house and it fell upon the young men and they are dead and I only am escaped to tell you.*

Read these verses again. Now do you believe the power of your enemy Satan? These atrocities were not from God they were from Satan when he was let loose by God under strict limitations. Can you imagine what Satan would do to God's creation and to His Saints if he was not on the end of a chain and totally under God's control? With an enemy like this it is imperative that we know our God and His Son Jesus as a personal Saviour, we cannot go through life with just a hope that it will be all right in the end. There must be a deep, sure, steadfast trust in God and His son Jesus Christ who holds the other end of that chain tightly in His mighty hands. We must as Christians work together with Jesus, not leave it all to Him, we must pray earnestly read His word constantly, quote His word to Satan and we can't do that if we don't know it. We must fight the Devil with all our might and Jesus will work and fight with us. In our struggles, in our pain, give Jesus a chance to teach us perseverance, patience, longsuffering, love, joy and all those other attributes that make us more like Jesus.

### James 1 v 12

*Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.*

It is clear to me that God does not put sickness upon us but what He will do is make better Saints of us by walking with us through our sickness or trouble that Satan uses to try to make us give up on our trust and belief in Jesus and that's where the fight comes in! But He can only do that if we have a clear understanding of where sicknesses and troubles come from and understand they do not come from God but Satan and believe that God wants to use these infirmities to make us more holy, and bring us closer to Him to teach us all the fruits of the Spirit. God wants us to work with Him to that end, and not believe what Satan says to us. Satan will cause all manner of sickness to fall on us because we love with Jesus. If we treat our bodies improperly, neglect our sleep, be addicted to alcohol and because we live in a fallen world, unforgiveness, anxiety and worry are all part of Satan's menu.

### Isaiah 59 v 19

*When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.*

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When Satan attacks us and fills us with fear and all sorts of troubles and sicknesses the Lord is right behind to hold up a standard, to support, encourage and help us. He is never far away. Note, He will not always take the sickness away. Not everyone prayed for is healed. We were in a church once when preaching on this subject our Pastor would quote “and He healed them all” and he would ask “How many did He heal?” and we would have to shout the answer “All” he would say “How many?” and so on; you get the idea we did this sort of thing in Sunday school! But we are not ignorant to the fact that many times sick people take their sickness home. We must not be under bondage if that happens to us. You have read enough scriptures here to know that sometimes sickness is a part of the cross we must carry to bring Glory to the Lord. But Didn't Jesus say?

I will never leave you nor forsake you.

In our sickness we must fight and hold on, overcome, and even as Paul says *rejoice* in trials and tribulations, sounds mad doesn't it? But God's ways are beyond understanding we just have to obey to win that crown of Glory.

I have learnt this lesson very recently. Since my retirement from business ten years ago, I have had 7 operations in as many years. A hip replacement in my left leg which dislodged 3 times, Lumber spinal stenosis (my spinal cord is squashed and twisted in the middle of damaged vertebra even after an operation), I have Myasthenia Gravis found in only 15 in every 100,000 people, Rheumatic disorder, a new hip in my right leg, an operation on my shoulder, double pneumonia and pleurisy. Laying in bed with pneumonia hardly able to breath I asked the Lord what on earth was going on, why after very good health all my working life has it all gone wrong in retirement?. He said to me plainly “I want to fill up your emptiness not top up your fullness”. I confess that made me think hard and it hurt!

Did God put all those afflictions upon me? What we are learning from Job I don't think so, what I do believe is that He in His great wisdom and knowledge allowed Satan to afflict me and cause me to ask questions which called for the answer He gave me. It was up to me to deal with that, put my attitude right and humble myself before Him. I regret I have not been on top of things spiritually as once I was. Even with my wife's tremendous support in helping me to try and stay focused on Him I have been cross with God for not keeping His word when I have trusted and believed He would. I have repeated His word to Him and claimed my healing, and have been prayed for many times. Some years ago I was in a healing team and I have seen legs grow to the same length, eyes opened and much more but I am in great pain even as I write this. And guess what, I have even had the Job's comforters giving me “help and advice” saying “But you obviously don't *really* believe” “Search your heart Bill and see if there is anything in your life that hinders God from healing you” I could share a lot about this but this study is not about me, what I have written is to let you know I write from experience of acute pain and can sympathise with those who also suffer. I am pleased to tell you He is teaching me to look beyond my pain and seek Him and see what He wants to teach me in it rather than moan to Him about what I think He is not doing about it

### Our suffering...for the gospels sake

Preachers and Bible teachers have for hundreds of years used the Apostle Paul's writings in their sermons. Paul had a miraculous salvation, heard God's voice, saw a

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great light, and was made blind all to get Paul's attention so God could change his life. Within a few days he got his sight back and he became a Christian. His epistles have been held as examples to us all for some two thousand years yet his own testimony in 2 Corinthians 11 tells of the suffering he endured for the sake of the gospel and the cross of Christ.

### 2 Corinthians 11 starting at verse 23

In labours more abundant.  
In stripes above measure.  
In prison more frequent.  
Exposed to death often.  
Five times received forty stripes.  
Beaten with rods three times.  
Was stoned once.  
Shipwreck three times.  
Adrift on the open sea a night and a day.  
In perils of robbers.  
In peril from my own countrymen.  
In peril from the heathen.  
In perils in the city.  
In perils in the wilderness.  
In perils in the sea.  
In perils among false brothers.  
In weariness and painfulness.  
In hunger and thirst.  
In cold and nakedness

And in all this he had responsibility for the Spiritual condition of the churches he had planted. One would think that God would have put a hedge of protection around Paul but He didn't in fact Ananias prophesied to Paul and said:

### Acts 9 v 15

But the Lord said unto him (Ananias) Go your way for he (Paul) is a chosen vessel unto Me to bear My Name before the Gentiles and kings and the Children of Israel. For I will show him how great things he must suffer for My names sake.

Paul's sufferings have been held up as an example to the Christians of today on how to live a Godly life, how to overcome, how to persevere in times of trouble. The thing is that Paul's writings have blessed millions of Christians since they were written; they have strengthened, built up, encouraged, blessed, and enriched. What could Paul write about if he didn't go through trials like us? With Paul experiencing the list above, we cannot say to him "It's all right for you Paul you will never understand the troubles I have today" Instead he says in:

### Romans 5 verse 2

Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ by whom we have access by faith into this grace wherein we

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stand and rejoice in hope of the Glory of God and not only so but we *glory in tribulation* also knowing that tribulation works patience, and patience experience and experience hope, and hope makes not ashamed because the Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given to us.

How many of us “Glory in tribulation”? That is not easy to do or even understand and we may well gloss over that phrase and go on to something else. But to “Glory in tribulation” can be our experience because the born again Spirit filled Christian whose life is given over to walking close to the Lord, guarding the tongue, continuing in prayer and reading His Word, and keeping His commandments is given grace to endure trials and tribulations without sustaining loss or deterioration, we are like gold tried in the fire when refined.

That is why God said of Paul he is a chosen vessel unto me. God knew He could trust Paul to lay hold of the grace that would see him through that great list of trials he talks about in Corinthians to the glory of God.

### **For the sake of the gospel.**

2 Corinthians 4 v 17

*For our light afflictions which is but for a moment works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.*

I have no doubt the physical pain you feel right now or that terrible trial you are going through, that job loss, or that loss in the family does not seem a “*light affliction!*” but when you compare that to an eternity with Jesus, *an eternity!*, and we take our minds off of ourselves and look through the eyes of faith to an eternity with Jesus, pain, suffering, troubles and trials all seem to fade in the promise of an eternal weight of glory. I hope you can understand what I mean and I know there are people out there who are in real pain and suffer greatly, but there is promised an *eternal weight of glory* for all of us if we trust and faint not. There is that fight again!

1 Peter 4 v 16 **To bring glory to God.**

*Yet if any man suffer as a Christian let him not be ashamed but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

1 Peter 4 v12 **We suffer for Righteousness sake.**

*Beloved think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you as though some strange thing happened unto you, but rejoice inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's sufferings that when His Glory shall be revealed you may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

That scripture says “*when His Glory shall be revealed you may be glad also with exceeding Joy*”. That simply means when Christ comes back for us and we actually see Him in all His glory we will be glad we did not give up on that fight or that perseverance and we will not be ashamed that we did not share Christ's suffering but rejoice with exceeding joy that with Christ's help we won that fight.

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And what does it mean to share Christ's suffering?

Colossians 1:24 Borrowed from the Amplified translation.

Even now I rejoice in the midst of my sufferings on your behalf. And in my own person I am making up what ever is still lacking and remains to be completed on our part, of Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body which is the church.

Of course we do not share Christ's suffering in taking away the sin's of the world like Jesus did having offered one sacrifice for sin for all time (Hebrews 10: 12) nevertheless there appears to be a "making up or "filling up" that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

Dutch Sheets, in his book *Intercessory Prayer* on this subject tells the story of a husband and wife in a dilemma over how to punish their son for lying. They decided to make him stay in the attic for three evenings and nights. So they made up a mattress a table and lamp and then explained to their son why he was being punished. "You know we as a family need to be able to trust each other do you understand that?" "Yes" said the son. "You know that the lies you told were serious and hurt you mother and father?" "Yes sir" the boy said as he headed of to the attic to take his punishment. During the evening the mother tried to do some sewing but could not concentrate. The father tried to read the paper but the words seem to melt into each other through the tears. They went to bed but sleep would not come for each of them until the father said he could not stand it any more and grabbed his pillow and another blanket and climbed up into the attic and found his son also in tears.

"Son" he said "I cannot take away your punishment for the lies you told, they were very serious and have severe consequences. But your mother and I cannot bear the thought of you being up here alone so I am going to share your punishment with you" So the father laid down next to his son and as their tears mingled on their checks as they shared the same pillow and with arms around each others neck the father shared the punishment...for three nights.

Jesus will not let us get away with sin which, the Bible says is rewarded with death, eternal death without Christ. So, to help us understand our sorry state and the punishment we owed He came down from the glories of heaven and shared our punishment with us. We should have been hung on the cross, it was us who sinned, not Him, it was us who disobeyed and rebelled. But it was Jesus who, like the father came into our attic and shared our pillow with tears in His eyes shared our punishment with us.

Isaiah 53: 3.

He is despised and rejected of men a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief and we hid as it were our faces from Him. He was despised and we esteemed Him not.

The Hebrew word for grief refers to disease and sicknesses and verse 4 confirms:

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows yet we did esteem Him stricken of God and afflicted.

Not only our sins were paid for on the cross but our sickness and afflictions, our pain and sorrows were also dealt with. But Paul explains to us that as he rejoiced in the

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midst of his sufferings *on behalf of his church at colossi* he is also making up or filling up whatever is lacking and remains to be completed on our part of Christ's afflictions *for the sake of His body the Church*. All believers are called to suffer for the church or the truth.

Romans 8: 18

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2 Timothy 3: 12

Yes, and all who will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecutio

### What Job did after he lost everything.

That brings us back to Job after all that Satan put upon Job, after loosing all his flock, his houses his children and all that he had the Bible says:

Job 1 verse 20

*Then Job arose and rent his mantle and shaved his head and fell down upon the ground and worshipped. And said Naked came I out of my mother's womb and naked shall I return the Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not nor charged God foolishly.*

Job did 10 acts in his calamity:

- 1 He arose, he did not feel sorry for himself and go into a corner somewhere and cry.
2. He rent his mantle as a sign of sorrow for the loss of his family.
3. Shaved his head as a sign of mourning.
4. Fell down upon the ground as a sign of humility.
5. Worshipped Jehovah who had provided for him up until this point.
6. He was content to leave the world as he had entered it.
7. Acknowledged that God can give or take away and was content with that.
8. He blessed the name the name of the Lord.
9. Refused to sin
10. Did not blame God nor charged Him foolishly.