

Job – Study 4

Here comes Satan again...

Chapter 2

We start Chapter 2 with the word “again” proving this meeting of the sons of God in heaven was a regular event. Again the Angels came to report to God and to worship Him. Again Satan came too, Satan always comes again, and again! There is a repeat of the conversation between God and Satan as in chapter one.

Verse 3.

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? And still he holds fast to his integrity although you moved Me against him to destroy him without cause.

In verse 3 God is pleased to remind Satan that Job had kept hold of his integrity, which tells me that integrity is something God looks for in all Christians, but what does it mean? The dictionary says:

Integrity: Strict adherence to a code of moral values or standards.
Complete sincerity and honesty.
Completeness. Unity. Being unimpaired.

These attributes are in short supply in today’s world, but God requires them from His Saints to show the world Godly ways to live as an alternative to that which we find today in business, Banks, National Government, local Governments and in all walks of life. God found them in Job even after his losses. He reminds Satan he moved God against Job without a reason.

And Satan answered the Lord:

“Skin for skin yes all that a man has will he give for his life”

It is believed that skin for skin is a proverb used in Job’s time as a bartering phrase in trading. The more animals you have the more skins you can trade with for more goods, and a person may trade all the skins that a man has for his life.

Verse 5

But put forth your hand now and touch his bones and his flesh and he will curse you to your face.

Once again Satan is doing his best to persuade God to do what is against His nature, namely to afflict and destroy, but God would have none of it. God knew that what He allowed Satan to do to Job would be for the benefit of all generations to come even to us as we study together today. I wouldn’t be surprised if Satan thought he was gradually winning and it wouldn’t be long before he would get Job to denounce God altogether and give up his trust and faith in God and Satan would be the victor. As it was he had brought havoc to Jobs family and reduced the richest man on the earth at that time to a very sick man.

Verse 6

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And the Lord said to Satan behold he is in your hand: but save his life.

This is the second time God has given Satan permission to do Job harm. God was a spectator as Satan demolished Job's family, his livestock, and his children's homes but the Spirit of God was with Job all the time to help him through these testing times. It is unfortunate that we place such value on possessions like cars, houses, high pay, good jobs, recognition in a company, in the town, in the church and we are on earth only at the best 90 years and then we have to give all that we have 'gained' up to another who has been waiting in the wings to step into your shoes. If we could understand eternity, which is for ever and ever and ever that 90 years of pursuit and earthly gain means nothing!

Knowing the end from the beginning God knew that Job could use the free will He had given Job and all of His creation and Job had a choice: either to trust, believe and worship his God or do as his wife suggested curse God and die. I also like the fact that God said to Satan "but save his life", this tells me that Satan has the power not only to cause disease, sickness and hardship to a person but also to cause a life to be taken. Thank God Satan is still under the restraint of God and can only do what God allows.

Verse 7

So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his feet unto his crown.

Some believe this condition was a type of Leprosy or Elephantiasis, others think it might be smallpox, what ever it was you can guarantee Satan would have made it the very worst he could come up with. No part of Job's body was free of sore boils they were from his head to the sole of his feet Job was smitten with a grievous disease which also made him sick at heart. One would think that being a well known and prosperous man with many business associates someone in the town would come and minister to him. Perhaps some soothing ointment or cool water to quench his parched lips, but no, he found a piece of pottery with sharp edges to it and scraped his body to rid him of the horrid stinking puss that seeped from each boil and everyone kept their distance.

Well not quite everyone! When Job's wife saw she had lost her prestige, the big house, her income, all her children and the brand new camel in the drive-way and saw the boils all over Job's body of course she ran and got some ointment and some soft cloth to wipe his sores and a drink of water to moisten his lips! Not so! Even Job's wife questioned Job's continued integrity and told Job to curse God and die.

Verse 9:

Then said his wife unto him Do you still retain your integrity? Curse God and die.

God still saw in Job that he was perfect, upright, he feared God, and hated evil. His wife having lived with him and saw those attributes every day but when his troubles came she quickly took the easy way out and blamed God. Cursing God is what Job feared his sons would do that is why he offered sacrifices for them continually. To curse God in such circumstances is ludicrous, whether we believe it or not, whether it

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looks like it or not, God has everything under control and may well have a greater reason to allow Satan to afflict us.

The book of Job is an account of God's justice when it appears to clash with man's integrity and righteousness. Later in our study we will see Job claims a right to an explanation because he cannot understand why he has been subjected to such agony. The Book deals with man arguing against God's authority to do whatever He wants to a just man in terms of denying blessings and allowing tragedy for a season. We must all ask ourselves how will we respond to God when darkness or sickness comes. Will we claim our rights, even our Scriptural rights or do we trust an all knowing all loving all understanding God? Our understanding of such a God is very small so faith and trust in a great God is the only answer. We must trust Him even when He seems to act contrary to our sound theology, after all **He is God**.

Sometime ago my wife had a dream in the night which disturbed her when she woke up. She was lifted up from the earth and was able to see over the threshold of heaven. She saw a terrible roaring battle, more like a war going on one side of the heavens. Then the Lord showed her the other side and she saw a glorious radiant peace compared to the battle she first saw. Even having just woken up she could hardly explain to me in any detail the horrors of that war it disturbed her greatly but she knew she was being shown that the Saints of God were being fought for by Satan. She also felt that the picture she saw was to let her know she and I would be in a battle of some sort or another.

There is no doubt that we Saints on earth have no idea what goes on in the spirit realm in the heavens, we can only imagine with the help of the Book of Job giving us some idea of the fight for our souls. We calmly go about our play and selfish pursuits oblivious of what God and His angels are doing up there to protect us.

This is what I am learning, I know my "rights" as far as scripture is concerned, I believe the Bible when it says "by His stripes I am healed" I know the work of my healing is already complete in heaven, but I am also learning that God, in His wisdom, in His all knowing, in His justice may want to override those promises He made in His Word for a season to bring about a better me! He did that with Paul and when Paul questioned God about his affliction all God said was "My grace is sufficient for you"

Behind the scenes a battle raged for the life of Job between God and Satan and according to the Book of Job that battle took place in heaven. I can rest in the knowledge that Jesus is and will be the conqueror, I *must* trust Him.

The wife of a Pastor friend of ours was very sick indeed and having a world wide ministry an author of books and a publisher of a very good Christian magazine it was soon known everywhere that prayer was wanted and lots of it. His church fasted and prayed but his wife got worse and was at death's door. In desperation this Pastor spent time before God praying and asking God why he did not heal his wife according to His word and at last God told him. "Let her go let her go" The Pastor was devastated he could not believe that God wanted him to stop praying for his wife and let her go to be with Him. After waiting before God for a very long time he said all right Lord she is yours I let her go. God's reply was thank now you can have her back but hold her loosely and remember I must be first in your life. The Pastor's wife was up and about within a few days. We can all wonder what God was doing with that Pastor, why treat him like that but like Job we do not have the answer. The Pastor

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did and adjusted his life accordingly. I have no doubt they both will enjoy a greater **Eternal Weight of Glory** in heaven.

We have already looked at this verse but it is worth repeating.

2 Corinthians 4 v 17

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of Glory.

In the middle of pain, afflictions, and serious troubles, the loss of your job, a wayward son or daughter, a difficult marriage it is not easy to see them as “light” in comparison to eternity but they are, but as we deal with the here and now neither is it easy to consider our afflictions in terms of “**weight of Glory**” which we will receive when Jesus comes. But guess what, one second after entering heaven, seeing God in all His Glory we will forget our pain, sorrows and heartache that we have left behind and worship the Lord. *For ever!*

Verse 10

But he said to her, you speak as one of the foolish women speaks. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

You know I believe Job might have had some insight, from God of the warfare in heaven over his soul, that battle between God and Satan good and evil. He understood that we cannot go through life without experiencing some set backs and we cannot expect to receive good all the time at least not while Satan is walking to and fro over all the earth! God points out to us that Job did not sin with his lips. This appears to be important because God wants us to know the damage the tongue can do.

Proverbs 18 v 4-8

The words of a mans mouth are as deep waters and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.

A fools lips enter into contention and his mouth calls for strokes. (Punishment)

A fool's mouth is his destruction and his lips are the snare of his soul.

The words of a talebearer are as wounds and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Verse 21

Death and Life are in the power of the tongue and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. (You either choose to use your tongue for good, encouragement, love etc or spite, cursing, rudeness etc you will reap the rewards of your choice)

This chapter is full of instruction on the control of the tongue and it is well worth another study. Job 2 verse 10 tells us that Job was careful with his lips up to the point of the entrance of his friends not to blame God for the condition he was in, but

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later in chapter 40 Job says he would put his hand over his mouth to stop himself reproving God.

Job's friends!

Verse 11.

Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him they came every one from his own place: Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.

Eliphaz was the grandson of Esau who was also called Edom and as we know Esau and Isaac who was called Israel had their quarrels for many years. Eliphaz was the first to “comfort” Job taking 4 chapters to have his say. Bildad was a descendant of Shuah the youngest son of Abraham by Keturah who settled east of Palestine he was the second to have his say and takes up 3 chapters. Zophar was from Naamathon on the southern borders of Judah he takes only 2 chapters.

These three friends were old, knowledgeable and worldly wise men and were very religious. These men had travelled many days to reach Job and when they were afar off they did not recognise him. In that time Job would have become worse and his body swollen; he must have looked a mess. When in Job's company these religious men did the religious thing they:

*...lifted up their voice and wept, they rent every one his mantle and sprinkled dust upon their heads towards heaven.
So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights and no one spoke a word to him for they saw his grief was very great.*

Up to this time Job did not know what was going on. He had no idea of the conversation between God and Satan in heaven; he did not know that God had so much trust in him that He let Satan do what he wanted to Job up to a point. We in our sickness, afflictions and troubles do not know what is going on in the heavens either. Remember we are doing our best in reading Job, to try and understand the battles for our souls taking place in the heavens. I know it is easy to say we must have faith, and we must consider *our light afflictions which are but for a moment work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory* when dreaded deceases are rampant in the body and pain takes our rationale and controls us we loose our clear thinking and our belief that God has everything under control.

I am also mindful of the many healing ministries out there who may well disagree with my thoughts and are shouting in reply to this study and also every night on Christian TV “For a donation of ‘x’ number of pounds, dollars etc sent to my ministry Jesus will heal you” There are times when I longed for ministers to be honest with me and say Bill I don't know why you are not healed but I want you to know I will stand with you and pray that we both get understanding for the sake of the rest who take home their pain. Honesty, that's what is needed in our churches today! Do you know that would be a greater encouragement to me than leaving me with condemnation? **We should think twice before speaking once, especially in such a case as this, think long and we shall be the better able to speak short and to the purpose.**