

## Lessons to Learn from the Book of Job

1. **Satan is the author of sickness and disease** (Job 2:7; Acts 10:38).
2. **Satan causes calamities to come upon people** (Job 1:6-22; Rev. 12:9).
3. **Satan is the accuser** (Job 1:6-12; Job 2:1-8; Rev. 12:10).
4. **Satan is permitted to go only so far in testing God's people** (Job 1:12; Job 2:6; 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Peter 5:8-9).
5. **God does permit Satan to test His people** (Job 1:6-12; Job 2:1-8; Luke 22:31-34; 1 Peter 5:8-9).
6. **Satan has access to God's throne** (Job 1:6-12; Job 2:1-8; Rev. 12:10).
7. **Satan has many helpers in disguise** (Job 1:6-22; 2 Cor. 11:13-14; Rev. 12:7-12).
8. **God will not utterly forsake His people in times of trial** (Job 42:1-17; Psalm 34:6; Psalm 37:23-24; 2 Cor. 4:8-12; 2 Cor. 6:5-10; James 5:10-11).
9. **God is the deliverer of His people in sickness and trouble** (Job 42; James 5:10-11; Acts 10:38; John 10:10; 2 Cor. 10:13).
10. **God always delivers those whom Satan is permitted to attack for the purpose of testing** (Job 42; James 5:10-11; Psalm 91:1-12; Psalm 103:1-4).
11. **God uses troubles to purify and refine people as a father would use any trouble befalling his son, in an effort to make him a better man** (Job 33:14-30).
12. **Job 1:4, 5 reports that "Job's sons would take turns preparing feasts in their homes, and they would also invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. When these celebrations ended—sometimes after several days—Job would purify ['sanctify'] his children. He would get up early in the morning and offer a burnt offering for each of them. For Job said to himself, 'Perhaps my children have sinned and have cursed God in their hearts.' This was Job's regular practice."**

This reference to 'sanctification' concerns setting apart a day for God to rest (Gen. 2:1-4). Here Job simply went through religious ceremonies before God in the hope that He would have mercy on his children. He set them apart *in his own mind* and religious acts, but this did not save them or protect them even from physical death. There is no hint of their being cleansed from sin. The actual salvation of children happens when they comply with God's requirements for salvation.

Regarding Job's repeated offers of burnt offerings for his children's partying, was his motive fear rather than faith? We'll gain more understanding in how Job's children were potentially 'unprotected' from the enemy in the next lessons – Lessons 13 and 14:

13. Job 32:1 reports that "...Job was righteous *in his own eyes*..." Job had another major issue; pride.

It is important to note that Job lived prior to the Law of Moses. And according to Romans 3:20 & 4:14: "...For by law is the knowledge of sin," the Law was a 'sin-diagnostic tool.' Therefore, in Job's time, prior to Law, there was no 'knowledge' of sin, i.e. pride, fear, etc.

Proverbs 16:16-17 graciously states the timeless truth that, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoil with the proud."

Psalm 139:16 informs us that God has a book of each of our destinies, written for each of us before we are born. And pride and its destruction are not in God's plan for any person, including Job. Because God is love (1 John 4:16), He permitted a correction (Job 1:12) in Job's walk to help Job enjoy his true destiny. God is not the cause of trouble any more than a wise and righteous earthly parent; He works things out to our best good when we turn to Him for help and deliverance (Job 42; Psalm 34:6-19; Psalm 37:1-10; Hebrews 11:6; James 1:5-8).

14. Recorded at Job 3:25, Job states, "What I greatly feared has come upon me." Evidently, Job had another major issue; fear. (Consider that fear is the opposite of faith (2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:18) and Romans 1:17 states, "This Good News tells us how God makes us right in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, 'the just shall *live by faith*.'" (See also Eph. 2:8; Gal. 3:7, 11; Heb. 11; 1 Pet. 1:5; Habakkuk 2:4.)

2 Timothy 1:7 graciously states the truth that, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but power [Holy Spirit], love [Father God], and a sound mind [Christ Jesus]." And God's word states for our own good many many times, "Fear not;" "Be not afraid;" "...O ye of little faith."

It's important that we understand the spiritual principle that, as in Job's life, what we fear often comes upon us. A spirit of fear will do all it can to bring devastation upon us (see also Job 4:14-16; Eph. 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:26). Romans 4:21 graciously states the truth that, "Abraham was *convinced*..." Abraham's active faith gave God a legal right to Abraham's life (Gen. 17:1-14). When we are *convinced* by fear, as in Job's experience, *fear* has a legal right in that area of our lives (see also Matt. 9:29).

Consider also that *stress* is our modern term for *fear*.

Repeating, Psalm 139:16 informs us that God has a book of each of our destinies, written for each of us before we are born. And fear (stress) and its devastation are not in God's plan for any person, including Job. Because God is love (1 John 4:16), He permitted a correction (Job 1:12) in Job's walk to help Job enjoy his true destiny. God is not the cause of trouble any more than a wise and righteous earthly parent; He works things out to our best good when we turn to Him for help and deliverance (Job 42; Psalm 34:6-19; Psalm 37:1-10; Hebrews 11:6; James 1:5-8).

15. **God is not to be judged concerning His acts** (Job 2:10; 1 Cor. 13:12).
16. **People must learn that co-operating with God is His method of deliverance** (Job 33:14-30; James 4:7; James 5:10-16; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Acts 10:38).
17. **God is greater than all, and He can and will deliver from any power that afflicts His people** (Job 42; John 10:10; Acts 10:38; Luke 13:14; Psalm 103:1-4).
18. **Mankind in himself is frail and helpless to defeat Satan** (Job 1:6-22; Job 2:6-10; Ephes. 6:10-18; 2 Cor. 10:4-7; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Rev. 12:10-11).
19. **It's crucial to have faith and depend upon God before we get into trouble** (Psalm 91; 2 Cor. 10:4-7; Ephes. 6:10-18; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9).
20. **People's friends are always ready to criticize, find fault and interpret divine providence wrongly in time of sickness or calamity** (Job 4:1-37:24).
21. **Attacks from Satan are part of the lot of the saints of God** (Job 1:1-12; Ephes. 6:10-18; John 10:10; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9).
22. **People must learn patience while trusting in God** (Romans 5:1-11; James 5:10-11).
23. **People must learn to give thanks to God in trouble** (Job 1:21; Phil. 4:6).
24. **People under trial often falsely accuse God of being responsible for the trouble** (Job 42:3).
25. **Satan causes people to accuse God and blame Him for the devil's own works** (Rev. 12:10).
26. **It is God's purpose and will to test people through the attacks of Satan** (1 Cor. 10:12-13).
27. **God seeks to obtain glory by people remaining true to Him, and by delivering them from the works of the devil** (John 10:10).
28. **Under testing it is only 'natural' to defend one's self, as Job did** (Job 42:1-6).

29. **It does not pay to criticize anyone in trouble. God will sometimes make critics humble themselves before those they have talked about** (Job 42:7-9).
30. **It doesn't pay to find fault with God** (Job 42:1-6; Galatians 6:7-8).
31. **People must learn to trust God in sickness and calamity** (Job 42:1-10; James 5:10-11).
32. **God doesn't always reveal Himself the very moment we pray, but He will answer people who have faith** (Job 40:1-6; Job 42:1-6; Luke 18:1-8).
33. **It doesn't pay to argue in defense of one's self in time of trouble** (Job 40:1-6; Psalm 37:1-9; 1 Peter 4:12-19).
34. **The humble are always vindicated in the end, and humility prevails in time** (Job 42:1-17; Philippians 2:8-9; Hebrews 10:30-36; 1 Peter 4:12-19).
35. **We should seek to help and encourage people in trouble instead of condemning them** (Job 13:1-4; Job 16:1-6; Job 19:3; Job 21:3; Matthew 7:1-5; Galatians 6:7-8).
36. **Riches and honor are insecure** (Job 29:1-30:31).
37. **Satan is the adversary of God's people** (Job 1:1-2:12; Rev. 12:10).
38. **Trials and sickness should not cause people to backslide** (Job 1:1-2:12; 1 Cor. 10:12-13; James 5:10-11; 1 Peter 4:12-19).
39. **Bodily sickness need not affect the status of the soul** (Job 2:1-12).
40. **One should not permit wife or husband to cause discouragement and backsliding** (Job 2:1-12; 1 Cor. 7:15-17).
41. **Satan is sometimes given permission by God to cause storms** (Job 1:6-22).
42. **Do not give your own theories when trying to help others; give what the Bible says, trying to be led by the Holy Spirit** (Job 42:7-9; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Tim. 4:1-5).
43. **Instead of nagging at them continually, as Job's friends did, let God deal with people who sin** (Job 42:7-9; Galatians 6:7-8).
44. **Seek God when in trouble, and don't blame or criticize Him as the source of the trouble** (Job 13:15; James 5:10-11).
45. **God's grace sustains us in the greatest of calamities** (Job 19:25-26; Job 42:1-17; 2 Cor. 12:1-12; Hebrews 11; James 5:10-11).
46. **Counselors aren't always right** (Job 42:1-9).

47. **All the suffering that can be heaped upon a person is not enough to satisfy self-righteous hypocrites or make them sympathetic with him/her** (Job 42:7-9; Acts 7:54-60).
48. **God takes account of all criticism against His people** (Job 42:7-9; Matthew 12:37).
49. **God is very compassionate and has tender mercy toward those who are in need** (Psalm 103:1-19; Romans 8:32; James 5:10-11).

## **The Great Lesson to Learn about Job**

The great lesson all modern Christians should learn about Job is not that of being an example for Christians to remain sick and defeated and be content in such condition. The thing that modern Christians must understand is that Job did not have one book of the Bible to give him assurance that God would deliver him in his trouble. There are no grounds for believing that he had one promise from God. He did not have the many covenants and revelations of God to man that modern Christians have to help them in their fight against the devil. Christians of today have about 500 personal promises, a number of covenants, and hundreds of revelations of God's dealing with people in past ages since Job's day that should give them absolute assurance to believe God it times of attacks by the devil and demons. They have definite promises that God will keep them from sickness and sin and help them in all troubles of life. If Job had all this to help him in his day we would have a different story in the book of Job. So any doctrine that uses the sufferings of Job or the early Christians to prove that modern Christians must suffer sickness, sin, and failure in order to enter the Kingdom of God is all wrong.

Christians of all lands do not need ever to suffer from sin in their lives. They do not need to suffer from bad habits and bondage to the flesh, the world, or the devil. They do not need to suffer worry, discouragement, fretfulness, nervousness, or fear. Neither do they have to undergo sickness, pain, poverty, and defeat along many lines, as we see on every hand today. They can, by the help of God, have victory over all these conditions of life. Through prayer and proper and reasonable consecration, they can be healthy, wealthy, and wise beyond what they realize. They can live in complete victory over all the powers of the devil. They can reign as kings among people over many of the sufferings many of them now endure and are taught they must suffer as Christians.

No person needs chastening by intense pain unless s/he is a rebel against God as stated in Job 33:14. In that case God allows Satan to afflict him in a final effort to bring him back to Himself. God does not permit any such affliction as described in Job 33:19-22 unless it is absolutely necessary after rejection as in Job 33:14-18,

the only exception being this rare case of Job. The fact is that no other person, as far as we know, has been tried in the way Job was-as an example for others-and even this was not a chastening of God (see also *God's Role in Affliction and Destruction* below). We were given the book of Job that we might learn from his experience. However, his life-story should not be used as an excuse for unbelief. Job did not have the Bible and its faith-building promises as we have today, so we are without excuse. Christians are to resist the devil in his attacks and he will flee from them (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9). One can be quickly freed from the adversities Job endured by appropriating the benefits now revealed in both Testaments (Psalm 34:9-10; Psalm 37:1-8; Psalm 84:11; Psalm 91:1-12; Psalm 103:1-4; Matthew 7:7-11; Matthew 8:17; Matthew 17:20; Matthew 21:22; Mark 9:23; Mark 11:22-24; Luke 11:1-13; Luke 18:1-8; Luke 24:49; John 10:10; John 14:12-15; John 15:7,16; John 16:23-26; Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:38-39; Acts 5:32; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; 2 Cor. 1:20; Ephes. 6:10-18; Hebrews 2:1-4; Hebrews 11:6; James 5:14-16; 1 John 3:21-22; 1 John 5:13-14). It is the blood-bought right, the promised right, the gospel right, and the divine right of Christians to have what is provided through the atonement.

## **God's Role in Affliction and Destruction**

When Satan suggested that God put forth His hand and touch Job's possessions, it was really a suggestion that God withdraw His hand of protection so Satan could destroy Job's property (Job 1:11-12). Satan and evil forces are the agents of destruction, not God. The only sense in which God destroys is to withhold His protection and thereby turn an individual over to the devil to carry out his work upon that person. This truth is plainly demonstrated in the case of Job. Who was it that destroyed (Job 1:12-19) and afflicted the body (Job 2:7) when God permitted it to be done? The answer is Satan, and this will always be the case in instances of affliction and destruction (Luke 13:16; John 10:10; Acts 10:38). Satan brings about the actual happenings of accidents, sickness, disease, and calamity, then causes people to think that God brings these things to pass. Thus, He is blamed erroneously for the work of the devil by millions, even Christians who should know better. Permission by God is never the same as the work of Satan after permission is granted him: withdrawing protection and allowing another to destroy is not the same as the destruction itself. God's work is that of deliverance; Satan's is that of destruction (John 10:10; Acts 10:38). For greater understanding visit [www.gotchoices.net/evil](http://www.gotchoices.net/evil)

Satan's theory was that no person serves God without personal material gain. If He withheld such blessings, any person would automatically curse and hate Him. This, of course, is not true, for millions have loved and served God without material gain.

## **Eight Agents of Satan on Earth**

1. The Sabeans (Job 1:15)
2. Fire from heaven (Job 1:16)
3. Chaldeans (Job 1:17)
4. The elements (Job 1:19)
5. Disease (Job 2:7)
6. An ungodly wife (Job 2:9)
7. Fear (or stress) (Job 3:25; 4:14-16; 2 Tim. 1:7)
8. Pride (Job 32:1; 1 Tim. 3:6)

– Based on Dake Publishing, *God's Plan for Man*, pp 870-873  
[www.gotchoices.net/dake](http://www.gotchoices.net/dake)