

A MAN WHOSE NAME WAS JOB

Text: Job 1:1

INTRO: The book of Job tells the story of the severe testing of a good and godly man. Job is a man who had been abundantly blessed with material things. In fact, it was, in a sense these precise blessings that led to the trial of his patience and endurance.

I. SATAN'S CHARGE AGAINST JOB AND THE RESULTS. READ JOB 1:8-11

- A. The first test, vs. 12-22
- B. The second test, 2:3-8.

II. JOB'S MISERY WAS INTENSIFIED BY THOSE WHO CAME TO COMFORT AND ADVISE HIM.

- A. His wife, 2:9-10
- B. 3 friends: Eliphaz, Bildad, & Zophar.
 - 1. At first they sat in silence, 2:11-13.
 - 2. Then, one by one they began to speak & accuse Job of various sins & misdeeds.
 - a. Eliphaz affirms Job is being punished because he is a great sinner, & cites as "authority" for his affirmation a dream or night vision.
READ 4:12-19

b. Bildad makes similar accusations & bases his affirmation on the tradition of the "fathers." READ 8:8-10

c. Zophar makes basically the same arguments but offers no greater proof than his own reasoning.

d. The speeches of these 3 men & Job's answers to their accusations take up the major part of the book, chapters 4-31.

3. Then an angry young man, Elihu speaks in chapters 32-37, rebuking all the previous speeches of Job & his friends. Elihu comes closer to the truth than Job's 3 friends by recognizing that not all suffering is a punishment for sin, but in his know-it-all attitude he still falls far short of discovering the real reasons for Job's afflictions.

III. THE VOICE OF GOD SETTLES THE MATTER, chapters 38-41

A. God does not explain to Job the cause of his suffering, but reasons with him to illustrate the righteousness & wis-

dom of God compared to that of man.
READ 38:1-7.

B. God rebukes Job's friends.

[To Eliphaz:] My wrath is aroused
against you & your two friends, for you
have not spoken of Me what is right...
(Job 42:7).

NOTE: This should cause us to be
cautious in quoting the book of Job as
proof texts of certain matters. Tho
the writer was inspired to accurately
record the words of Job & his friends,
these men were not inspired in what
they said, & much of what they said
was inaccurate.

C. God vindicates Job & rebukes his friends.

1. Eliphaz had argued (4:18) that God
puts no trust in His servants. In
reality, the entire series of
events was brought on because
God did trust Job to be faithful &
thus put him to the test to
prove his faithfulness, 1:8; 2:3.

2. Bildad had argued (8:6) that if Job
were pure & upright God would
cause him to prosper. But in
fact, Job was upright in God's
eyes as is clearly established in
1:8; 2:3.

3. All of the speakers except Job indicated at one time or another that Job's sufferings were somehow connected with his sins. God Himself declares (2:3) that Job's test of faith was not caused by anything wrong Job had done.

4. Job's wife, his 3 friends & Elihu all assumed that God was causing Job's afflictions, when in reality, his sufferings were caused by Satan, 2:7.

a. We might ask why God allowed Satan to afflict a righteous man. Certainly, God had the power to keep Satan from afflicting Job. In fact, He did place limitations on the afflictions. God could have destroyed Satan for suggesting such a trial for righteous Job, but even as he sank into oblivion, he could have disappeared with a smirk on his face: "I told you so." The only way Job could be fully vindicated was by the trial of his faith.

b. Satan is the accuser who accuses man B-4 God (Job 1:11) & accuses God B-4 men (Gen. 3:4-5).

5. The attitude of Job's friends & advisers regarding Job's defense of himself is summed up in the accusation of Elihu. READ 34:35-37

But God vindicates Job, READ 42:7.

C. The turning point in the story is found in 42:10. Thru-out the book, Job had prayed for himself & this was not wrong, but the real blessings began to be restored to Job when he began to pray for others, even for those who falsely accused him of being a great sinner.

Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, October 5, 1977 (meeting)

Exton, PA, October 6, 1985

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, August 16, 1992

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 24, 1999

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, April 23, 2006