

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Job 1.

(2015)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

Job 1.

Topics.

- Job was blameless upright and feared God.
- Job's great wealth and his fear that his sons and daughters sinned.
- Sons of God and Satan come, before God and God speaks to Satan.
- God brings Job to Satan's attention and Satan's accusation against Job to God.
- Satan challenges God that Job will turn against Him.
- God allows Satan to have power over Job.
- Sabeans take Job's oxen, donkeys and kill his servants with the sword.
- Naked I came out of my mother's womb, and naked I will return.
- Jobs great and amazing faith.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION: the book of Job is considered both a theological and a literary masterpiece it is an honest discussion of why God allows good people to suffer. The test of Job's faith, allowed by God in response to a challenge from Satan, reveals God's sovereignty and the supremacy of divine wisdom over human wisdom (personified by Job's four friends). Believing that God is good despite the apparent evidence to the contrary, Job rested in faith alone. In the depths of agony he could still proclaim, "I know that my Redeemer lives" (Job 19:25). In the end God silenced all discussion against the truth that He alone is wise (Job chpts. 38–41). Yet he vindicated Job's trust in him (chpt. 42), proving that genuine faith cannot be destroyed. The unknown author was probably an Israelite writing sometime between 2000 and 500 B.C.

Helpful facts: before reading Job it is helpful to understand when Job, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Elihu are speaking they are not speaking, "thus sayeth the LORD", they are simply giving their opinions on how they personally perceive things to be. Amongst their conversations there is truth and wisdom, but it must be kept in mind not everything they are saying is true or even wise, in fact God rebukes Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar and tells them they have spoken foolishness, but Job has spoken what is right (Job 42:7-9). The book of Job is not about doctrinal truth, but human suffering and the questions regarding God that arise during a person's calamity and pain.

Job was Blameless Upright and Feared God.

Job 1:1 ----- ¹There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

Job was blameless, upright, feared God and turned away from evil means he had a disdain toward wrongdoing and consciously and deliberately had nothing to do with anything that was offensive to God. God Himself confirms Job's righteousness, by saying, "there is none like Job a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" And even after Job had been tested and suffered greatly the LORD said, "Job even continues to hold fast his integrity even though I the LORD have almost destroyed him without reason" (Job 1:8) (Job 2:3).

Blameless in this context does not mean that Job was without sin, it simply means he was a decent man who did no harm to anyone and he helped the poor and did what was right before God. There has only ever been one man who walked on earth without sin before God and his name was not Job, but the Lord Jesus Christ. If it was possible for us to attain to a life completely free of sin then Christ died for no purpose.

The fear of God: the reason a person is told to fear the LORD is because all humans have sinned and will one-day be judged by God. This fear should motivate all of us to seek God's forgiveness and eternal life. This is why the Bible says the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom it motivates a person to seek after God and His forgiveness.

The apostle John in his letter wrote: -

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10).

The fear of the LORD has the following two aspects: -

- 1 An eternal aspect: wisdom teaches that mankind is separated from God because of sin and without God a person has no hope of eternal life and will be judged accordingly. The fear of the LORD in this context is wisdom because it motivates a person to seek God and eternal life.
- 2 An aspect for the present moment: the fear of the LORD in the present moment motivates mankind to obey God's Ten Commandments which are all designed to protect the innocent from harm, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally and spiritually (i.e., do-good and not harm). The fear of the LORD in this context is also wisdom because if everyone feared the LORD humanity would live in harmony with each other. Sadly there is very little fear of the LORD in the world today and so we see rampant rebellion, violence, crime and wars in most countries.

The fear of God and Christians: those in Christ look to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and understand and experience Christ's great love and God's grace in their hearts and minds and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love dwelling in his heart. Likewise it is with the faithful who belong to the Lords global family.

- The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. (Prov. 8:13).

The fear of the LORD is hatred toward evil: it is having a hatred of everything that harms another human physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, or spiritually and having a strong dislike of anything that destroys the planet and of whoever treats animals cruelly. God loves humans He gave his only Son to die for them. The fear of the LORD is about protecting and preventing harm to other humans. It is about knowing we are all going to stand before Him one day and give an account of our actions. The fear of this judgment should motivate a person to do the right and good thing and treat others with respect.

Job's Great Wealth and His Fear that His Sons and Daughters Sinned.

Job 1:2-5 ----- ²There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. ³He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. ⁴His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

These feasts were not held every day of the year, but each on their appointed day. It is most likely that these were gatherings of brothers and sisters uniting together on their birthdays in each others houses to maintain family unity and love and celebrate the day each one was born as is common to all mankind. Though the celebrating was not everyday of the year it did go for some days.

Job feared that during these days his children may have sinned not outwardly, but in their hearts, which may mean that under the influence of alcohol they spoke and complained against God in some way as Israel often did. Whatever their sin may or may not have been Job felt it necessary to rise early in the morning every day of their feasting and offer burnt offerings for each one of them just in case they had sinned in their hearts in some manner against God. This is most likely mentioned to highlight the godliness of Job and his concern for his children's faith and spiritual well-being before God.

These verses show us the following five things: -

1. Job had seven sons and three daughters.
2. Job was very rich.
3. Job was the greatest of all the men of the east.
4. Jobs sons and daughters were not righteous and blameless as Job was.
5. Job did not have very much trust in his children's faith toward God and because of this he continually offered burnt offerings for them.

Because of these five facts Job would have been known by all throughout the land.

Sons of God and Satan Come, Before God.

Job 1:6 ----- ⁶Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

The word satan is a Hebrew word that means opponent, adversary or withstand. It is interesting to note that in the Hebrew language satan does not have a capital "S." The Hebrews never interpreted the word satan to mean a literal fallen evil angelic creature. To the Hebrews satan simply means, a government, religious organisation, a group or someone who acts as an adversary or opponent to the LORD and withstands the things of God. This is what the Moslem world means when it calls Israel the little satan and America the great satan.

For further information concerning satan, see the title: -

- Satan in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The sons of God: this is the first time the sons of God and Satan come before the LORD, the second time is in (Job 2:1). Genesis chapter six shows that the expression, the sons of God refers to human men and not angels they are the men of Seth's line. These men from the godly bloodline are spoken of as taking ungodly (and probably sensual woman) for their wives.

In Genesis six the sons of God refers the men of Seth's line entering into mixed marriages with women that were ungodly. The reason the writer in Genesis six says the men took wives is because it was always the man who asked the woman, and not the woman taking a husband, further evidence that the sons of God are men, is the statement, "they took human wives," angels do not take human women for a wife, neither do they marry. (Matt. 22:30) (Luke 20:34-35). If it was angels that took the daughters of men (Gen 6:2) it would read and they went in unto them not that they married them.

Added to this God says of these sons of God that His Spirit will not strive with man God accredits the blame to man and not angels, there were already human giants in the land (i.e., very large men like Goliath) prior to these sons of God mating with the daughters of men.

The children born to the sons of God that mated with the daughters of men became mighty men of renown or in today's language famous and powerful men. (Genesis 6:1-13). In every case the Sons of God in the Old and New Testament are human men and not angels. For further information see the title: -

- Sons of God.
- Giants, Anakim and Gath.

Both titles are found in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The sons of God presented themselves before the LORD: in the Old Testament coming before the altar means the same as coming before the LORD, or up unto the LORD all these terms carry the same meaning. The Bible says that all of the following, was done, Before the LORD.

- Israel's cry came up before the LORD.
- All Israel's males appear before the LORD.
- Aaron goes before the LORD.
- Hannah's child Samuel appears and grows before the LORD.
- King David danced and all Israel played music before the LORD.
- All Israel appear and weep before the LORD.
- Joshua and all the tribes of Israel, the elders, the judges, and the officers and all their wives and children presented themselves and stood before the LORD.
- All Israel was to appear before the LORD when the people were gathered together and the prophet or priest read the word of the LORD.

Biblically the expression, "Before the LORD," can be written: -

- All the people came before the LORD
- All the Sons of God came up before the LORD.

They came before the LORD, mostly means that they came before the high priest or before the Ark of the covenant or before a prophet who had a word from the LORD to speak to the people, likewise the expression, "The LORD said," can refer to a prophet called by God speaking or a priest speaking to the people and even an angel speaking to men and woman, this is because when they speak God's true word, it is considered the same as the LORD Himself speaking. (Deut. 31:11).

All, of his house went up unto the LORD: when a Jewish man and his wife go to the House of God with their children and servants, it is written, they went to the House of God and inquired of His word or worshipped Him. A shorter way to say the same thing, but in less detail is to say, they came before the LORD. In Biblical language when people left their homes and traveled to a city to worship at the House of God, the Bible writer would often leave out all the detail of their leaving the house or land and the events of the journey and just write, they came up before the LORD and worshipped.

This principal is seen in the book of Samuel when the writer of Samuel says, "Hannah and Elkanah rose up early to worship the LORD." It simply means they went to the House of God in the city, the statement they returned, and came to their house highlights this principle (1 Sam 1:19).

The application today: today a Christian man may say he and his wife rose early Sunday morning, waking and dressing the children to go to church to worship the LORD in the city of Southport. On the way the car overheated and cracked the head of the motor, resulting in the family having to call for a yellow taxicab. They arrived at church on time and worshipped God and listened to His word being

expounded. After the service he and his wife stayed and had coffee while the children played, finally all the people went home and returned to their own houses. The same husband could say of this same event, "All, my house went up to the LORD (or before the LORD) on Sunday," both accounts of this same event are correct the first simply has far more detail than the last.

The sons of God presented themselves before the LORD: simply means godly men are gathered in a place on this earth that is recognised as a house, a church or area of worship or fellowship to God. The sons of GOD in the Bible are always men this means that here in the book of Job the sons of God could easily be amongst an assembly of people gathered together for the purpose of coming before the LORD to get instruction and to worship. Israel in the wilderness is also described as coming before the LORD.

The expression coming before the LORD is a term used many times in the Old Testament when Israel or God's people came before God's high priest to sacrifice and worship. The Bible states that all the following was done before the LORD: -

- Moses and Aaron went up unto the LORD and spoke words before the LORD (Exod. 19:3) (Exod. 28:29).
- All Israel's males appeared before the LORD. (Exod. 34:24).
- Korah, all his company and all Israel stood before the LORD. (Num. 16:16).
- All Israel appeared before the LORD thy God. (Deut. 31:11).
- Joshua and all the tribes of Israel, the elders, the judges, and the officers and all their wives and children presented themselves and stood before the LORD. (Joshua 24:1) (Judges 20:26).
- All the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto the house of God, and wept and sat there before the LORD and fasted that day until even, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. (Judges 20:26).

In all these examples (there are many more) those who came up before the LORD came before him not in heaven, but on earth. The expression came up before the LORD means that the people came in faith and with the mindset that the LORD was present with them.

When the people were gathered together and the prophet or priest read the word of the LORD it was written in the following manner, "All the people of Israel came, before the LORD and the LORD through the prophet or priest said.....This could also be expressed in the following way, "All the sons of God came up before the LORD and the LORD through the prophet or priest said.....

Throughout the Old Testament it is often written that the LORD spoke to the people then later it is shown that the words spoken to the people were actually spoken by a prophet or priest. Many times when one of God's chosen prophets, priest or angels speak the word of the LORD it is written, the LORD spoke.

Summary: the sons of GOD refer to the faithful of Israel who have come before the LORD, while satan coming amongst them could refer to an angel appearing as a man on earth with direct access to God in heaven or to an angel in heaven that comes into God's presence (before the LORD) at the same time as the sons of GOD are in God's presence (before the LORD) on the earth.

Whichever of these two satan maybe we do know that in this story he is not a powerful evil spirit creature that is opposed to God and His ways since he acts in obedience to God and only according to God's will and God's permission. For these reasons and others as we will discover as we travel through the story of Job it is more likely that satan in this story is an angel of God who suspects the only reason Job worships God is because God has blessed and abundantly prospered him.

God uses this angel as his servant to prove that what he is saying is not true and to bring about a much deeper faith in Job so the angel becomes an adversary to Job (in accordance to God's will) and in this sense the angel is called or titled satan which simply means in the Hebrew language to act as an adversary against another. For further information see the title: -

- Before the LORD.

In Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

God Speaks to Satan.

Job 1:7 -----⁷The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

God approaches this angel called satan and asks him what have you been doing today, and he replies I have been travelling and walking around the earth, notice there is no evil going on here, the LORD and this angel are simply having a chat.

Following are the six most common understandings of the word satan: -

1. The word satan is the personification of some evil spirit force or power in the world working through man, governments and the media etc., as an influence that opposes the will of God and acts as an adversary to God's plans and purposes and sets up laws and governments or individuals that withstand God Himself.
2. A fallen evil angel called Satan who opposes and withstands the things of God.
3. An angel of God who is controlled by God and named Satan because his service to God is to act as an adversary to Job.
4. The influence within every human that has a leaning toward sin (wrong doing).
5. What the world calls the devil within human nature.
6. The mind of the flesh that causes humans to act as adversaries and oppose the things that God delights in.

My personal belief regarding Satan is that he was one of God's angel's under God's control and used by God to: -

- To test Job's faith and bring him into a greater faith and deeper relationship to God.
- To evidence to all mankind that true faith in God endures all things.
- To highlight the truth that the faithful in God do not believe in Him simply because their life is charmed and blessed.

The angel is named Satan because he withstands and acts as an adversary and opposer to God and to Job (which is what the Hebrew word satan literally means). It should be noted, not every angel of God is used to bring peace and harmony; there are at least seven angels of God in the book of Revelation who God uses to bring about enormous destruction and suffering to planet earth.

NOTE.

Careful reading of the first two chapters of Job shows that the angel named Satan has no power until the LORD gives it to him, and he cannot even do anything until the LORD give him permission so God is ultimately in control of everything that is happening in Job's life. It is also interesting to notice that after the first two chapters Satan is not mentioned again in the entire book of Job and his three friends Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar credit everything that happens to Job as being from the hand of God and not Satan.

In the context of this story it is not terribly important which of the six aspects above that a person believe Satan to be or whether they accept my personal belief concerning satan, because the primary focus of the author of Job is not upon a doctrinal teaching of satan, but rather that the reader would discover the following two things: -

1. How a person's faith in God can soar far beyond human suffering.
2. Whatever or whoever Satan is he is under the control of God no-one who belongs to the LORD is ever out of God's hand or His sovereign purposes or His eternal love and grace.

God brings Job to Satan's Attention.

Job 1:8 ----- ⁸And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless (perfect in KJV) and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?"

Perfect and upright in this context does not mean that Job was without sin, it simply means he was a decent man who did no harm to others and that he helped the poor and did right before God.

There has only ever been one man who walked on earth without sin before God and his name was not Job, but the Lord Jesus Christ. If anyone of us could attain to a life of perfection and be free of all sin Christ suffered and died for no reason. It is interesting to notice that it is God who brings Job to Satan's attention which also evidences the truth that God is in total control of all that is happening.

Satan's, Accusation against Job to God.

Job 1:9-10 ----- ⁹Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? ¹⁰Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

The LORD and Satan are continuing to chat, notice Satan is not slandering or accusing Job of anything evil, in fact it is most likely that if the LORD had never brought Job up in this conversation by highlighting the goodness of Job Satan probably wouldn't have even bothered giving him any attention. It is only when the LORD asks Satan if he has ever thought about Job that Satan becomes aware of Job. Satan answers the LORD's question, "Has He considered Job?" By saying that the only reason Job worships the LORD is because the LORD has blessed and abundantly prospered him.

NOTICE: once again Satan is not slandering Job or accusing him of any evil, he is just giving his honest thoughts in answer to the LORD'S question. The character of Satan so far does not seem to be one of an evil powerful spirit creature that is opposed to God and His will, but of an angel of the LORD that is obedient to God and is simply expressing his honest thoughts concerning Job who after this conversation God uses as His servant to prove that his statement about Job is wrong. The angel acts against Job according to God's will and God's permission and becomes an adversary to Job and is therefore naturally given the title, Satan which in the Hebrew language means to act as an adversary.

A possible conversation: after travelling the earth Satan comes back to God and they have a conversation that maybe went something similar to the following: -

- Satan says: "Wow it is very hard to find a righteous man on earth today."
- God replies: "Yes I know, but look, over there, see that man named Job, I am very pleased with him."

Then Satan looks at Jobs life, ponders and replies: "Yes Job is a good man, but look how great his life is, he has wealth in abundance of course he is going to worship you, but I often wonder if his life was not so prosperous and charmed whether he would still be so faithful or would he forsake his devotional attitude of worship toward you altogether.

NOTE: Satan is not accusing Job he is just expressing his thoughts as he believes it to be. Satan's concept of men only worshipping God because their life is materially blessed, prosperous and charmed is expressing the natural thinking of much of mankind. Satan in his statement to the LORD is expressing the natural way the human mind thinks. So God uses Satan as an adversary to Job for the following two reasons: -

1. To prove to Satan and all the world that the mindset and belief that people only worship God because their lives are prosperous, blessed and charmed is not a true statement.
2. To do a work in Job that not only brings him to humbleness and repentance and brings his faith to a far greater depth, but also gives him a far greater understanding of his own nature before God and a far greater understanding of God Himself.

How thrilled God have must been when Job said, "Though He slay me yet will I praise Him" (Job 13:15) what an absolute delight to the heart of God Job was.

Satan Challenges God that Job Will Turn Against Him.

Job 1:11 ----- ¹¹But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face."

Satan tells God to use His power against Job, Satan does not have the power, but he does challenges God by saying, "I guarantee if you (God) take away all Jobs wealth and his possessions and throw his life into a crisis he would turn against you and forsake his faith. This mindset is universal amongst many people all over the world even today. When people see a rich and famous believer worshipping or testifying to the goodness of God the immediate thought of many is, "Of course it's easy for them to worship and speak good of God when their life is so prosperous and charmed." This is the thought Satan is expressing to the LORD.

NOTICE: Satan does not have the power to inflict Job he makes the suggestion to God and God gives him the permission and the power. God uses Satan now to test Jobs faith and to show that the concept and mindset of the faithful only worshipping God because He materially blesses and prospers them is false. The Bible says, "The LORD tries the righteous" (Psalm 11:5). The word tries from Strong's Concordance carries the idea of testing and proving the heart for its honesty and sincerity.

Peter, an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ said to the faithful: -

- God has an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:6-7).

Peter is saying that the testing of our faith will be more precious to us than gold at the appearing of Christ. This is because the reward of enduring faith and faith that overcomes the hardships and troubles of this life will be salvation to eternal life and everlasting happiness.

NOTE: some circles of modern Christianity seem to think the only testimony to be used to witness to the world is a positive one, a story of success and victory, but often it is when Christians continue to speak-good of God in the midst of adversity that the world stands up and wonders. They are astounded at the power within the believer that enables them to speak-good of their God when their outward circumstances appear so bad.

It is easy for anyone to praise God when life is charmed, but it is a very difficult thing when everything around one's life seems to be saying the opposite. It is in times like this that great faith and love toward God truly shines, before the throne of God and before those in the unbelieving world.

God allows Satan to have Power over Job.

Job 1:12 ----- ¹²And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

The LORD allows Satan to have power over Job's wealth and children, but not over Job's health or life. God gives Satan the permission and the power. There are some in the global Kingdom of God today who believe when hardships come against them they have to enter into some kind of aggressive prayer and spiritual warfare against Satan, but nowhere in the Bible is this type of prayer taught neither can any prophet or apostle be found praying such a prayer. All believers who faithfully followed God in the Old and New Testament had the faith that their lives were in God's eternal and sovereign hands and not in Satan's.

Sabeans take Job's Oxen, Donkeys and Kill His Servants with the Sword.

Job 1:13-19 ----- ¹³Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁴and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁶While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁷While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁸While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

There was a day it does not say how much time has passed between the time Satan left the presence of God and Job's troubles began. These verses show that Satan inflicted the following five troubles and hardships on Job: -

1. Job's oxen and donkeys were taken by the Sabeans.
2. Sabeans struck down Job's servants with the edge of the sword.
3. A fire fell from heaven and burned up Job's sheep and his servants.
4. Chaldeans took Job's camels and struck down his other servants.
5. A great wind struck the house of Job's sons and daughters and it collapsed and killed them all.

NOTICE: the messenger calls the fire, "the fire of God", not the fire of Satan, because the Old Testament saints saw everything as from God whether it was good or bad, it was controlled by God. Though we read of these events very quickly it does not necessarily mean they happened very quickly, it is possible these events could have taken place over a period of many days, weeks, months or even years.

It is also interesting to notice that Satan's works all came about by natural disasters and natural means (i.e., Sabeans and Chaldeans stole and killed, fire destroyed Job's livestock and a great storm killed Job's sons and daughters). If we were watching these events unfold we would think of them as being natural events that were common to all mankind. It is only because we are able to read the story of Job that we know that God is orchestrating the events and is in control of them.

In the Old Testament we often see God using kingdoms and nations to bring about His plans and purposes. To bring judgment on Tyre God not only used Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon, but also paid him wages because his armies performed a great service for the LORD by bringing Tyrus to ruin. God through the prophet Ezekiel said, "Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon was paid no wages for the service that his armies served against Tyrus therefore I will give the land of

Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar for wages for his army because they worked for the Lord GOD (Ezek. 29:17-20). Anyone without faith watching these battles would simply think the stronger and smarter army won, they would not see that God was not only orchestrating the events, but was also in control of them.

NOTE: the fact Job's sons and daughters were drinking wine does not mean that drinking alcohol is a sin or that they were killed because of it. The Bible does not teach total abstinence, nor does it teach that drinking alcohol is a sin, but it does warn against drinking an excess of alcohol many times for the following reasons: -

- It weakens the will and can lead to a lack of moral fortitude.
- It can be dangerous since it often leads to self-indulgence, immorality, shamelessness, violence and drunken driving.
- It has the potential to lead to alcoholic addiction and destroy marriages and lives.
- It results in behavior that is often regretted when the drunken state of the mind sobers up and returns to normality.

Clearly excessive amounts of alcohol can lead to many sins, even the secular world understands this truth and that drunkenness can result in behavior that is often regretted the next day. For this reason it is obviously better to abstain altogether, nevertheless those who do drink in moderation cannot be accused of committing any sin.

King David had the same faith as Job: whether David was in fear, sorrow, joy, stress, worry or crying on his bed, he was always praising God for His steadfast love and his faithfulness. David did not connect God's love and faithful to his circumstances or his emotions. David's faith was such that he believed God was always faithful to him and always loving him even though it may have appeared in his emotions or outward circumstance to be contrary.

David's love for God was never dependant on his outward circumstances or his inward condition (whether they were good or bad). David's faith always soared above his wealth or lack of it, his sickness, his sin, his defeats by his enemies, his despair and his depression etc. It did not matter what emotional or physical condition he was in it did not affect his faith and his love for God or God's love for him. True faith is not dependent on success, good feelings or emotions it soars above all circumstances, trials and troubles. David could be lying on his bed in deep depression with his friends plotting to kill him and his armies defeated, yet his love for God did not fail, neither did he ever think God did not love him (next to God's steadfast love dwelling within him David's greatest desire was to see God's glory cover the earth).

Naked I came Out of my Mother's Womb, and Naked I will Return.

Job 1:20-21 ----- ²⁰Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped.
²¹And he said, "Naked I came from 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."

Here is the wonder and glory of Job's great faith how thrilled the heart of God must have been to see that Job's first response after suffering such enormous hardship, troubles and sorrow was to fall down and worship. This is not only the expression of true faith, but also an expression of great faith.

What a contrast Job's faith is to the modern day Gospel of prosperity and material blessing and worldly riches in this world here and now. Job's great faith is an enormous smack in the face of Satan and totally destroys his mindset that people only believe in God because their life is prosperous, blessed and charmed. So far Job has suffered the loss of all his livestock, the death of his sons and daughters and the death of all his servants. These are all troubles, hardships and sorrows that are common to mortal human life and that can happen to any man or woman at any time (Christian or non-Christian).

NOTICE: nowhere does Job credit any of his hardship, troubles and suffering to a powerful evil spirit creature, but instead sees all his great sorrow as coming from the hand of God. Job even says, "God has become cruel to him: with his strong hand and that God has opposed Himself against him" (v21). Consider: who is Jobs real adversary an angel of God acting as an adversary to Job who is totally under the control of God and acting according to God's will and His permission or to a powerful evil spirit creature that is working against Gods will and who Job, his wife and his three friends do not even know exists?

Jobs Great and Amazing Faith.

Job 1:22 ----- ²²In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

Amongst all Jobs loss and affliction he did not sin or accuse God with any wrongdoing. The glory, beauty and wonder of Jobs great faith is that even though he felt like God was being cruel to him (Job 30:21) and acting like a giant to crush him (Job 16:14 KJV) he did not doubt his faith and always kept his love and faithful attitude toward Him. We often and rightly so give credit to the prophets of the Bible like Moses, Elijah and Paul etc., who did great miracles, but the LORD would have also been enormously thrilled to hear Job's declaration of faith and it is certain that His heart would have soared with delight when he saw the great victory Job had over the angel named Satan.

Job proved to Satan that his faith was not based on his wealth, or his charmed life style, but because God is God, the invisible, immortal, Holy Almighty God the creator of all things and source of all life the, I AM of the Bible and God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (Exod. 3:14-15). Job worshipped and blessed God not because of what he could get from God, but because God is God, and as God He is worthy of praise regardless of our circumstances good or bad. Jobs great faith is also expressed in the following verse: -

- Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him. (Job 13:15).

This statement shines a brilliant light on the truth that Job sees God as the source of all of his afflictions. Generally such great suffering, loss and sorrow do not normally come to one family, but the loss of financial wealth and security, good standing in the community, the loss of health and the loss of all that is loved are common sufferings that do come to individual humans worldwide whether they are religious or secular. This story of Job highlights the following four truths: -

1. Satan and natural circumstances are under the control of God.
2. No matter how bad a Christian's life may seem it does not mean that God is punishing them, because they have some great sin.
3. God's trust in Jobs integrity was so great He knew he could test his faith to the extreme so that this story of faithful devotion and overcoming faith against great adversity would become one that is spoken of throughout all generations.
4. God is often working behind the scenes of what appears to us to be natural events in history and in our own lives.

End.