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Job 2.

(2015)

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Job 2.

Topics.

- The sons of God and Satan present themselves before the LORD.
- Satan tells the LORD he has been walking up and down on the earth.
- God directs Satan's attention to Job, who fears God and turns from evil?
- Satan tells God Job will curse Him if He inflicts Job's health.
- The LORD gives Job's health over to the power of Satan.
- Satan goes from God and strikes Job with sores from his foot to his head.
- Job's friends, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar come to show Job sympathy.
- Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar see Job and feel sorrow over his condition.
- Summary of Job chapter one and chapter two.

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 (Job 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.

The Sons of God and Satan present themselves before the LORD.

Job 2:1 ----- ¹Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD.

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).

This is the second time the sons of God and Satan come before the LORD the first time is (Gen. 1:6). 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. (Gen. 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).

Satan tells the LORD He has been walking Up and Down on the Earth.

Job 2:2 -----²And the 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.

The expression, "from going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it," in the following verse refers to God: -

- Whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. "These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth." (Zech. 4:10).

The expression, "the eyes of the LORD, run to and fro through the whole earth, carries the idea of travelling around the whole circumference of the earth roving about everywhere throughout all cities and countries; public and private places, houses, and even the house of God with the purpose and intention of observing the actions and behaviour of mankind and their works.

Obviously God does not ask the question because he is ignorant of where Satan has been or where he came from. God is omniscient and as such sees and knows all things and all angels and the good and bad of all men and where they are, where they have been and where they are going.

Satan came amongst faithful believers (sons of God) to appear before God and He asks him to give an account of where he had been and of what he had observed not because God didn't know, but to direct Satan's attention toward a righteous and blameless man named Job.

NOTICE.

God set no blame upon Satan as if it was wrong for him to be roaming the earth, but rather used him as his servant as He does all angels who are commissioned in His service to observe the conduct of mortals and distribute blessings or inflict punishment.

God directs Satan's attention to Job, who Fears God and Turns from Evil?

Job 2:3 -----³ And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, (perfect and upright in the KJV) who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason."

Once again the LORD brings Job to Satan's attention, the statement, "Job holds fast his integrity, means even though he lost his livestock, his servants and his sons and daughters he did not speak against God, but remained faithful (Job 1).

NOTICE: the LORD destroyed Job's livestock, his servants and his sons and daughters, we know this because the LORD said to Satan that he incited God against Job to destroy Job without reason (v3).

Ponder God's great testimony of Job, he is blameless, upright, perfect, fears God, turns away from evil and even though Satan has incited God against him to destroy him without reason holds fast his faith and integrity. God is so impressed with Job He cannot find another man like him on earth.

Blameless: in this context does not mean without sin if it was possible for any of us to achieve the glorious state of a sin-free life while in this mortal and fallen body then Christ died for no purpose rather the word, blameless carries the following two ideas: -

1. To live a lifestyle that honours God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ which means forsaking those things that are against God's will and behaviour that could bring hurt and harm to another human physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, mentally or spiritually and instead of being led by self, ego, pride, lust and greed be filled with the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., love, compassion, kindness, forgiveness, patience, grace, mercy and such like things).
2. By faith we solely trust in Christ's righteousness to be saved and not our own self-righteousness and in God's grace, contrasted to trusting in self-effort or adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions. It means crowning our biblical knowledge in the royal robes of love contrasted to being harsh, dogmatic and legalistic.

It is doing as much as is in our power to maintain the unity of the faith in contrast to causing divisions, arguments, contentions and strife. Being blameless means confessing our sin before the Lord, repenting when we have offended God or hurt another person especially a brother or sister in the Lord and putting things right were possible when a wrong has been done.

Paul told his disciples to do all things without grumbling and questioning so that:-

- They may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom they shine as lights in the world (Philippians 2:14-15).

This is not talking about being without sin we know this because the Lord Jesus Christ is the only man who has ever been without sin. The focus is not being without sin, but being blameless in the world's eyes or by the world's standards. Paul says those who are humble, obedient and do, not grumble, murmur, complain or cause divisions and who without question do what is lawful and right will be counted innocent and blameless in the world.

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.⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.¹⁰ If 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.

God's words to Satan: "Although Satan moved Him against Job, to destroy him without cause" (v3) refer to Satan's words to God in the previous chapter where Satan said to the LORD that the only reason Job worships the LORD, is because the LORD has protected Jobs life, his family and everything he has from harm and abundantly prospered him with riches and everything he has done," and after saying this tells God if He removes his hand of protection and blessing from Jobs life it he is certain Job will forsake his faith and curse Him. (Job 1:10-11).

It is in this sense that Satan has moved the LORD to act against Job to prove to Satan and to the world that this universal mindset is false. It should be highlighted here that though Satan is the one actually bringing about Jobs troubles the LORD credits Himself as being the one that is acting against Job.

The Bible teaches that angels are: -

- All ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14).

It would appear that Satan in this story of Job is not some powerful evil spirit creature that is acting independently of God or against God's will (as many believe), but is one of God's angels who under God's control and permission is acting as an adversary to Job and has therefore been given the title Satan which in the Hebrew language simply means to act as an adversary. Consider the book of Revelation for a moment, God has at least seven angels bringing havoc and destruction to the earth, yet they are all under the authority, power and control of God.

NOTE: certain religions believe that if a brother or sister in Christ is suffering in some great way it is a result of some hidden sin. This story of Job totally destroys this idea since God Himself tells Satan that Job has done nothing wrong to deserve the troubles that have come upon him (v3).

Satan tells God Job will Curse Him if He inflicts Job's Health.

Job 2:4-5 ----- ⁴Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face."

In the previous chapter Job suffered the following five afflictions: -

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. (Job 1:13-19).

Amongst all this loss and affliction Job did not sin or accuse God with any wrongdoing. Here is the glory, beauty and wonder of Job's great faith 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 1:22).

Now having seen Job's great faith and being proven wrong Job Satan basically says, OK, God maybe Job won't curse you yet, but I'll bet if you touch his health it will be a different story, every-man's life is far more precious to them than you are.

The LORD Gives Job's Health Over to the Power of Satan.

Job 2:6 ----- ⁶And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life."

The fact the LORD gives Satan the power to take Job's health, but not the power to take his life, shines a brilliant spotlight upon the fact that it is not Satan, but God who is in total control of every event falling upon Job. This is a picture of the universal battle of faith every brother and sister in every nation of the world faces, when trouble, sorrow and suffering come will we forsake our faith and turn bitter against God or be as Job was and look our troubles and hardships in the face and say as Job did, "Though he slay me yet I will trust in him" (Job 13:15).

Satan goes from God and Strikes Job with Sores from His Foot to His Head.

Job 2:7-10 ----- ⁷So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes. ⁹Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." ¹⁰But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

NOTICE: it is now Satan who strikes Job with the sores, yet Job's wife credits God for Job's troubles and sickness she tells Job to curse God, why wouldn't she say curse Satan? The answer to this question is because neither Job or his wife nor his three friends had any concept or belief in a powerful evil god. Job credits all of his

afflictions as coming from God. At this stage Job has suffered the death of his livestock, his servants and his sons and daughters and now his body is covered in boils and he credits God for all of these disasters and God says of him, "In all this Job did not sin with his lips." (v10) meaning he did not say anything against God.

There is no doubt this is a difficult concept for our fallen, limited, mortal and finite minds to comprehend, especially since it raises the following questions: -

1. If Satan exists as a powerful evil spirit in the way that traditional religion thinks of him and it was this evil spirit who brought all this suffering upon Job, why does God not point out to Job (and to us) that it was not Him that caused all his afflictions, but an evil powerful spirit creature named Satan?
2. If Satan exist as an independent separate powerful evil spirit, but can only do what God gives him permission to do then he has absolutely no power at all outside of what God allows.
3. If Satan does exist as an independent separate powerful evil spirit and can act independently of God then God is not the all-powerful Almighty God who has all things under his control.

Satan is not mentioned any more in the book of Job.

For further information see the title: -

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

Job's wife reacted like many people who believe in God for the benefits. Jobs wife believed in God while Job was prospering and life was good, but as soon as God did not come through with the riches her attitude was, let's forget God and move on, there is no benefit in remaining faithful to Him.

Sadly in some circles of modern day Christianity a one sided Gospel is proclaimed that not only proclaims everything good from the hand of God but also promises success, wealth, health and prosperity, but the danger in teaching a Santa Claus God is that when life goes horrible wrong those who have been taught God is a heavenly sugar daddy are confused when their business goes bankrupt, the marriage falls apart, children turn away, or they are told they have cancer etc. When this happens there are usually two responses.

- People fall away because they are disillusioned and confused.
- People leave the church and begin to seek God for themselves, rather than trust in men to lead them.

Job's Friends, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar come to Show Him Sympathy.

Job 2:11 ----- 11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy (Morn in KJV) and comfort him.

The word morn comes from the Hebrew word (*nuwd*) and literally means sympathy it carries the following three ideas: -

1. Taking pity and being sorry for a person's condition.
2. Consoling a suffering, depressed, or distressed person comfort.
3. In some contexts it can mean to taunt and toss the head in scorn.

Eliphaz: may mean, God is fine gold.

Bildad: was evidently a descendant of Suah (Gen. 25:2), a son of Abraham by Keturah, who became patriarch of an Arab tribe.

Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar see Job and Feel Sorrow over His Condition.

Job 2:12-13 ----- 12 And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven.
13 And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight upon the enormity of Job's suffering. When his three friends Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar see him from a distance he is so covered with sores that they do not even recognize him and when they do they are immediately struck with heartfelt tears. Job's condition is so bad that Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar have no words of comfort, but simply sit with him for seven days. Here is a great lesson for us all, sometimes there are no answers the situation is so terribly sad that words seem empty, in times like this the best comfort is just to be with the person, in times like this a silent hug speaks words of comfort far louder than any word verbally spoken.

SUMMARY: of Job chapter one and chapter two, Job was a righteous and godly man who was not only very rich, but also a very successful business man throughout the land and therefore would have been known by all in the region. When the faithful of Israel gather together at a place of worship on earth and stand before LORD an angel called Satan who by permission of God later becomes an adversary to Job comes amongst them.

This could be an angel appearing as a man on earth with direct access to God in heaven or it could be an angel in heaven that comes into God's presence or before God at the same time as the sons of GOD who have gathered together are standing on earth before God in His presence, much like the angels gather together before God in Heaven when brothers and sisters in Christ gather together in a temple or church or any other place to worship God on earth.

This angel called Satan is not the accuser of the brethren he is not accusing Job of anything, but expressing his thoughts to God as he believes things to be. His mindset is that men and women only worship God because their lives are prosperous, blessed and charmed, this is a universal mindset of much of the world's populations concerning Christians whose lives have been financially blessed and who worship and testify of God's goodness

God trusts Job and uses this angel to show that Job's faith is not dependent on his wealth or status in life or even his health. How thrilled God must have been when Job said, "Though He slay me yet will I trust in Him" (Job 13:15) what an absolute delight to the heart of God Job was.

At this point God's angel becomes a Satan to Job which simply means he is acting as an adversary to Job. The angel does not have the authority or power to inflict Job according to his own will, he makes the suggestion to God and God gives him the permission and the power.

The Bible says the LORD tests and proves the heart of the righteous and in this story of Job we see how God uses one of His angels to test a righteous man's faith. Peter tells us that the testing of our faith will be more precious than gold at the appearing of Christ. This is because enduring faith will result eternal life and everlasting happiness in glory.

Job credits God as the source of all his anguish and sorrow, yet he still continues to worship God. At the end of the book of Job, God greatly rewards Job for his enduring faith and constant attitude of worship, even though Job accused God of being cruel to him (Job 30:21) and acting like a giant to crush him (Job 16:14 KJV).

The story of Job shines a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that faithful Christians who have an honest heart of integrity before God keep the same attitude of praise and worship in their heart during times of blessing and times of suffering. Job's life is a graphic picture of the spiritual journey that all God's servant's will travel to a lesser or greater degree and shines a brilliant floodlight on the truth that a great

reward is stored up in heaven for those that overcome and endure in faith to the end. When the faithful servant of God is standing in the Fathers house, nothing he or she has lost or suffered in this life will matter when they see him who they have loved face to face.

Suffering is common to all mankind: Job's loss of financial wealth and his good standing in the community, his loss of health and all that he loved are common to all mankind though they come in various degrees and forms. The story of Job is showing that no matter how bad a Christian's life may seem it does not mean God is against them regardless of what outward circumstances look like.

Satan simply means adversary so Satan in this context is an angel of God's who God is using to act as an adversary against Job to test his faith and prove to the world that the worship and faith those whose life is prosperous blessed and charmed is independent of their status, fame and wealth in this world (though they should certainly thank the LORD for such blessings and use them for good).

Some in the Christian faith determine whether God loves them by their good or bad circumstances, (i.e., if life is calm and running smoothly God loves them, but if it suddenly takes a turn for the worse and trouble comes they feel God has withdrawn his love), but this is superstition and judging God according to this the fickle things of this world.

When anyone who believes in Christ doubts God's love all we have to do is look back to the cross and see what it cost the Father to save us and how much his Son suffered so that we could have put upon us a royal crown and be clothed with a majestic robe of righteousness apart from the law, self-effort and works and be granted eternal life in everlasting glory.

- God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

For further information concerning Satan, see the title: -

- Satan.

In, Satan and His Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End