

WHAT ABOUT JOB?

2 Tim. 3.16

Whenever we begin to discuss God's willing to heal the sick, one of the first questions raised is "what about Job?" The Book of Job raises questions in the mind of the sincere seeker after truth. What is the lesson of the book? Why does God allow suffering and disaster? Did God put Job in Satan's hands? If so, why? Does God "allow" sickness and trials to teach us? If it was God's will for Job to suffer for some mysterious, divine purpose, can we be sure we're not "another Job?" According to 2 Tim. 3.16, we can profit from the book of Job.

Let's consider some facts about this book and Job:

1. THE BOOK PREDATES THE LAW.

- a) Job was still offering personal sacrifices. (1:5, cp. Lev. 1:1-9).
- b) Genesis 4.3-5, 8:20, 21; 12:8 "altar" Hebrew "place of sacrifice"

2. CONSEQUENTLY, THERE WAS LITTLE REVELATION OF GOD.

- a) We can't judge Job in the light of the truth we possess John 1.14-18 (Progressive revelation/restoration)
- b) The Old Covenant provided Divine protection and healing Ex. 15.26, 23:25 (v.22) Lev. 26:3-13 - cp. 14-17, 25, Duet. 7:12-15

3. HAD JOB LIVED UNDER THE OLD COVENANT, THESE THINGS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED.

- a) Job. 1:1 blameless (KJV "perfect") cp. Ps. 37:37-40
 - a. upright Ps. 37-.14, 18, 19, 37
 - b. feared God Deut. 5:29
 - c. shunned evil Prov. 16:6
- b) God said so – ch. 1:8, 2:3

4. IT WAS JOB'S FAITH THAT PLEASED GOD.

- a) Heb. 11:6 - cp. V. 4, 7, 8,17 - Rom. 10:17
- b) Job was walking in all the light he had (Hos. 4:6, Is. 5:13, Ps. 119:130)

5. JOB KNEW NOTHING OF SATAN.

- a) He thought God was behind his suffering (ch. 1:21, 22; 2:10; 6: 2-4, 8-9; 7:20, 21; 23:10)
- b) God tells us who it is ... and what to do (Job 1: 12-22; 2:109; Zech. 3:1,2; Rev. 12:10)
- c) Eph. 4: 27; 6:10-13
- d) James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5: 8-9

- e) Luke 22:21
- f) Luke 4:6; Jn. 12:31 (cp. 16:11) Job 2:6, with Heb. 2:14; 2 Cor. 4:4, 1 Jn. 5:19; Eph. 2:2
- g) 1 Thess. 3:4, 5; Matthew 8:28, 9

Summing up: Job didn't have a written covenant with God, even the Old Covenant. He had no revelation of Satan or how to resist him. God was pleased with Job. No New Covenant believer can be "another Job."

WHAT ABOUT JOB? Part 2

Why did God allow Job to be tested?

Refresher: Job lived before the Old Covenant - he had no covenant with God. Consequently, he had little revelation of God. He had no revelation of Satan or how to resist him. Job pleased God because he walked in all of the light he had. He pleased God by faith (Heb. 11:6). Job began to operate in fear (3:25). Let's look at some reasons why God allowed Job to be tested.

1. NOT BECAUSE OF SOME FLAW IN JOB.

- a) God said he was blameless, upright, feared God, and shunned evil (1:8; 2:3)
- b) God said there was no cause (2:3)

2. THE AUTHORITY OF THE EARTH WAS GIVEN TO MAN.

- a) Gen. 1:26
- b) Ps. 8:4-6; Ps. 115:16

3. ADAM SOLD MANKIND OUT TO THE DEVIL.

- a) Lk. 4:6 "Delivered" - Greek, "to give into the hands of another, to give over into ones power or use, to deliver up treacherously, to betray." "Handed over" (Weymouth, NASB) "To me it has been given and is now in My possession" (Wuest) "All this dominion will I give to you ... for it has been put into my hands and I can give it to anyone I choose (NEB)
- b) Jesus called him the ruler of this world (Jn. 12:31; 16:11) (Note: Jesus saw His upcoming defeat at Calvary)
- c) Paul - 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2
- d) John 15:19

4. SATAN HAD LEGAL RIGHTS IN THE EARTH.

- a) Job 1:6-12
- b) Zech. 3:1,2

- c) Dan. 10:2,3,11-13, 20.
- d) Luke 4:31-35 cp. Mt. 8:28, 29
- e) Luke 22:31 (Note how Jesus prayed!) f) Rev. 12:10
- f) Rom. 5:12-14; Heb. 2:14

5. GOD'S COVENANT GRADUALLY PROVIDES MORE PROTECTION.

- a) Ps. 91
- b) 2 Tim. 1:7
- c) Rom. 10:17

WHAT ABOUT US?

1. JESUS GOT BACK ADAM'S AUTHORITY.

- a) Mt. 28:18; 1 Jn. 3:8
- b) Luke 10:19; Mark 16:16-18

2. BELIEVERS ARE INSTRUCTED TO FIGHT!

- a) Eph. 4:27; 6:10-13
- b) James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8, 9
- c) 1 John 5:4; 1 Tim. 6:12