

## TRUSTING IN HARD TIMES AND LOSS

June 30, 2019 Job 1:1-22 by Bob Branch

Thinking About Suffering with Faith and Truth, part 1

**BIG IDEA: We introduce Job—a righteous man—who’s motives [and beliefs] are challenged thru loss and suffering and he responds in surrender and trust.** [He’s a model of trust in loss.]

<sup>1</sup> In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

<sup>2</sup> He had 7 sons and 3 daughters, <sup>3</sup> and he owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen and 500 donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

<sup>4</sup> His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. <sup>5</sup> When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, “Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” This was Job’s regular custom.

<sup>6</sup> One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered, “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.

“*the satan*”—accuser, adversary, provocateur

<sup>8</sup> Then the Lord said to [the] satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.”

<sup>9</sup> “Does Job fear God for nothing?” [the] satan replied. <sup>10</sup> “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. <sup>11</sup> But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

*Do you love God because of his blessing or because of who he is? Why do you do what you do?*

<sup>12</sup> The Lord said to [the] satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.” Then [the] satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

**1. The invisible realm directly INTERACTS in the visible realm and causes suffering.**

“we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” **Ephesians 6:12** NLT

**2. God’s PERMISSION and LIMITATION are also at work.**

<sup>14</sup> “The oxen... and donkeys... Sabceans... made off with them...”

<sup>16</sup> “The fire... burned up the sheep and the servants...”

<sup>17</sup> “The Chaldeans... your camels and made off with them...!”

<sup>18</sup> “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, <sup>19</sup> when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead...!”

<sup>20</sup> At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship <sup>21</sup> and said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.” <sup>22</sup> In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

**3. We can experience DEVASTATING LOSS and still trust God and his goodness.**

“Dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not *grieve like people who have no hope.*” **1 Thessalonians 4:13** NLT