

JOB 1: SUFFERING



Job sits on the ground and holds a sign "**Suffering is job #1**".

+ At first glance it seems not right that God would hold up a righteous man to assault from Satan. Then again, God is omniscient, whereas Satan is not; God would know the outcome of the “wager” between himself and Satan. When the Lord more than compensated Job for his suffering, and kept him spiritually intact, at the end of the book it seems Job is content with the outcome.

It is disturbing to our minds that God would hand over, if temporarily, control of a person’s earthly estate to Satan! There is no indication whether this was a unique event, or if this happens with regularity. We cannot know in all cases whether Satan is directly involved in trying circumstances, but we can know that God tests us, while Satan tempts and assaults us.

+ Can you imagine saying, “The Lord has given, the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord”? Oh, that God would grant us all the faith that we could lose nearly every earthly possession and still bless God’s name! Many times when people have tragedy they curse the world, or life, which is dangerously close to cursing the God who made these! Especially the Christian, who has assurance of eternal life in Christ, is to bless God’s name despite any catastrophe.

+ Some scholars consider Job 40:8 to be the key verse in the book, when the Lord confronts Job, “Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself?” As sinners we tend to justify ourselves, even if it means blaming others. When life doesn’t go our way we are tempted to blame God. The Lord required Job to hold that he is good, even when Job’s life was in shambles. God justifies the sinner through his grace, not through current circumstances. God’s ways are higher than our ways, and we accept that he loves us and can do with us as he wishes, for we are his servants. His will for us is always good, even when circumstances appear to indicate otherwise. So, our duty is to praise him and trust in his will for us.