

Character Study: Job

Part 1 – Job Faces Tragedy

Job 1-2

What's happening?

- Job was “blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.” He lived in Uz, and had seven sons and three daughters. He also had many servants and thousands of livestock, making him the greatest man among the people of the East. (1:1-3)
- In a conversation with God, Satan said Job was faithful to God simply because of God's many blessings toward him. If the blessings were removed, Satan insisted Job would curse God. To prove otherwise, God gave all that Job had into Satan's hand, with the exception of his life. (1:6-12)
- In a single day, Job's livestock were stolen, his servants were killed, and all of his children died. Job was devastated, but remained loyal to God, even bowing in worship to Him. (1:13-22)
- Satan spoke again to God, insisting that physical pain would turn Job against God. With God's permission, Satan made Job's entire body break out with painful sores. But even with his wife telling him to curse God, Job remained faithful and did not sin. (2:1-10)
- Job's three friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar) came to comfort him, though at first they could not even recognize him. They sat in silence and mourned with Job for seven straight days. (2:11-13)

What's God doing?

> God allowed Job to be tested for the purpose of showing that Job's devotion to Him was truly sincere and genuine. How different people in Job's day perceived the calamities that occurred, as well as what these tragedies reveal about God, is the focus of the remainder of the book.

What's to learn?

→ Would you still live for God if all the good things in your life were taken away? Would you pass such a test? Job's faith was not based on personal benefits (see 1:21 and 2:10), but on the love of God.

→ Genuine faith is unbreakable. It stands unshaken even when trouble comes, no matter how extreme or undeserving it may seem. Our confidence is not in circumstances, but in the Lord (Rom. 8:31-39)!