

Introduction: The one true God, the Creator and sovereign Ruler of all that exists, is wonderful beyond human knowledge! David declared Yahweh is great and does wonderful things (Psalm 86:10). Paul quoting the Greek translation of Isaiah asks: who has known the mind of the Lord (Romans 11:34; Isaiah 40:13)? Moses summed up the relationship Yahweh has with His people this way: The things hidden (are) to Yahweh, our God; and, the things having been revealed are to us and our children forever, (for us) to do His instruction (Deuteronomy 29:29). *** Humans have only a limited understanding of the great ongoing conflict in the spiritual realm between Yahweh and His ‘adversary’. It began in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3) and will not end until the serpent, who is the accusing ‘adversary’ is thrown into the Lake of Fire forever (Revelation 20:1-10). *** Meanwhile, Jesus has judged (with condemnation) the ‘prince of this world’, the ‘evil one’, the ‘adversary’ by His Death for people’s sins and Resurrection to give them His life, so that all who are IN Him by grace through faith, share in His victory (John 16:11; 1 John 5:19; Ephesians 2:8-10). But, until Jesus returns for the final judgment, His people will suffer painful personal losses; but, they will be strengthened because the God of grace has called them to His eternal glory (1 Peter 1:5-7; 5:8-11). For this reason, they can still praise God in whatever happens to them. Here is a great truth: ***Yahweh can be praised, even after great losses.*** *** From cover-to-cover, all who read the Bible with eyes, ears and hearts opened by God’s Holy Spirit, will discover the Good News of God’s sovereign glory, grace, goodness and LOVE. *** Let’s begin to uncover for ourselves all of this from our six week survey of the book of Job.

I. Job, a man of godly character and great wealth, is commended by Yahweh before His heavenly council, but the ‘adversary’ accuses Job of self-interest and receives permission to take all Job has. (Job 1:1-12)

A. Job is introduced as a man of godly character and great wealth. (Verses 1-8)

1. Job was in the land of Uz: perfect, upright, fearing God and turning from evil; seven sons were born to him and three daughters. (Verses 1-2)

Job’s character: Job means ‘hated’. People who are blameless ‘straight arrows’, fearing God and avoiding evil, will be hated by all opposing God.

Seven-ten: He had a perfect number of sons (seven) and children (ten – see Exodus 20:2-17).

2. His livestock was: seven thousand sheep and three thousand camels; five hundred yoke of cattle and five hundred female donkeys; and many servants: he was the greatest of all in the East. (Verse 3)

Livestock: Job had three, five and seven large quantities of livestock to be the greatest in the East.

3. His sons made feasts, each on his day, they sent to their three sisters to eat and drink with them; then, Job consecrated them with morning burnt offerings; he said: maybe my sons sinned and cursed God in their hearts; thus Job did all days. (Verses 4-5)

Godly father: Without being overly controlling, Job sacrificed some of his sheep every day so his sons would be right with God.

B. In His heavenly council, Yahweh questions the ‘adversary’ and then commends His servant Job as unique; the ‘adversary’ says Job is acting in self-interest and is given permission to take away everything Job has. (Verses 7-12)

1. One day the ‘sons of God’ came to stand before Yahweh; then came also the ‘adversary’ in their midst; Yahweh said to the ‘adversary’: From where have thou come? He answered: from going to and fro on the earth, and from traversing in it. (Verses 6-7)

Heavenly host: The ‘sons of God’ are the spiritual beings who were created in God’s image before the physical universe was created (Job 38:4-7; Psalm 82:1).

‘adversary’: ‘adversary’ is the English translation of the Hebrew word ‘satan’. This one is in opposition to both God and everything that is good in His creation.

2. Then Yahweh said to the ‘adversary’: Have thou set thy heart on My servant Job? That (is) none like him on earth: perfect, upright, fearing God and turning from evil. (Verse 8)

Yahweh ‘brags’ on Job: Yahweh ‘brags’ to the ‘adversary’ about His servant Job, using the same words the Author used earlier. He also says Job is the best on all the earth!

Application: We must pray to receive God’s grace to be enabled to have a relationship with God so we serve Him by being blameless, upright, living in reverent fear of Him, and putting all evil far away from ourselves.

3. The ‘adversary’ answered: Is it without reason Job is fearing God? Have Thou not put a ‘hedge’ about him, about his ‘house’ (family), and about all he has on every side? The work of his hands Thou have blessed and his livestock is increased in the land; but indeed, Thou must put out Thy hand and Thou must strike all he has; he will surely curse (to) Thy face. (Verses 9-11)

Only worships because blessed: He shows his hatred to Job by confidently asserting Job is only motivated by self-interest. These words of the ‘adversary’ arouse suspicion of his evil intent.

Take away everything: Then he demands Yahweh take away everything belonging to Job because he is certain Job will curse God. With this, he demonstrates his evil intentions toward Job.

Application: We must heed this warning about the ‘adversary’, who is the personification of evil, because he is also seeking to get us to curse God by word or disobedient behavior.

4. Then Yahweh said to the ‘adversary’: Behold! All that (is) his is in thy power (hand), only on him, you will not put out thy power (hand); then the ‘adversary’ went out from the presence of Yahweh. (Verse 12)

Permission granted: Although Job would never know this, the permission granted to the ‘adversary’ is a gift of grace to Job.

II. In four rapid devastating blows, Job loses everything; then Job worships and praises Yahweh;

David waits patiently in hope for Yahweh’s compassion and love in trials. (Job 1:13-22; Psalm 40:1, 11-13)

- A. In four devastating blows, Job loses everything: cattle, camels and servants to invading people; sheep, shepherds and children to fire and wind. (Job 1:13-19)

1. Then came a day his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of the first-born; and a messenger came to say to Job: The cattle were plowing and the female donkeys feeding beside them; then the Sabeans fell on them and took them and the servants and killed them with the edge of the sword: I have escaped, only me by myself to tell thee. (Verses 13-15)

Cattle and servants: A certain day starts with bad news from a messenger servant: all Job's cattle, donkeys and servants were instantly struck down by swords.

Sabeans: The Sabeans were a people who lived on the north shore of the Red Sea as far south, at 300 miles from Uz, as was geographically possible.

2. While this one was speaking, another (messenger) came to say: A fire from God fell from heaven and burned up and consumed the sheep and the servants: I have escaped, only me by myself to tell thee. (Verse 16)

Sheep and shepherds: Now Job hears all his sheep and shepherds were instantly burned to a crisp.

Fire from heaven: The source of this loss was supernatural, not human.

3. While this one was speaking, another came to say: The Chaldeans made three companies and raided the camels to take them; and the servants they killed with the edge of the sword: I have escaped, only me by myself to tell thee. (Verse 17)

Camels and servants: Camels are too valuable to kill so they kept them, but they killed Job's servants.

Chaldeans: Chaldea (Babylon) was 500 miles due east of Uz.

4. While this one was speaking, another came to say: Thy sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of the first-born; Behold! A great wind came across the wilderness and struck the house, and it fell on the young people and they died: I have escaped, only me by myself to tell thee. (Verses 18-19)

All children: Now Job hears all ten of his adult children died while having their daily feast. In rapid succession, he has been told everything he had has been taken from him!

Great wind: This final blow to Job was not of human origin, but also supernatural – spiritual.

The 'adversary', the most evil spirit, was behind it! (Job does not know this.)

B. Job worships and praises Yahweh, and in all that happens, he does not sin against God. (Job 1:20-22)

1. Job arose and tore his robe, and he shaved his head, then he fell to the ground and prostrated himself and said: Naked I came out from the womb of my mother / and naked I will return there // Yahweh has given and Yahweh has taken away / it will be, the Name of Yahweh: blessed. (Verses 20-21)

Job worships: Imagine how surprised and shocked the 'adversary' must have been when Job first engaged in physical worship of Yahweh, and then spoke a four line poetic lament song of worship, that concluded with a blessing to Yahweh, not a curse! Yahweh's people will praise Him in everything.

Yahweh can be praised, even after great losses

2. In all this, Job did not sin and did not assign folly to God. (Verse 22)

Job sinned not: In no way did Job sin against God by charging Him with anything unseemly.

Instead he maintains total trust in God's goodness and glory, in spite of having everything taken away!

Application: We must pray we will be enabled by God's grace to maintain our faith in His goodness and glory, even when we feel our lives are being broken beyond repair. **Yahweh can be praised, even after great losses.**

C. David waits in patient hope for Yahweh to reach out to him in compassion and love in great trials, both external and internal. (Psalm 40:1, 11-13)

1. I have intently waited for Yahweh / He stretched out to me and heard my cry. (Verse 1)

Strong waiting patience: David used a grammatical construction of: 'to wait, I have waited', in order to emphasize his ongoing strong waiting for Yahweh in hope. He used the word Isaiah would later use to declare that hopeful waiting results in being lifted up on eagle's wings (40:31).

Reaches out: The result of his strong waiting was that Yahweh graciously heard his pained request.

2. Thou Yahweh will not keep back Thy compassionate mercy from me / Thy steadfast love and Thy truth will continually keep me. (Verse 11)

Compassion: David is fully confident that Yahweh will never withhold His compassionate mercy.

Strong LOVE: Further, Yahweh's strong life-giving and life-changing love will always keep him in the way of the Truth (John 14:1-6).

3. For evils without number have encompassed me / my iniquities have overtaken me and I am unable to see // they are more numerous than the hairs of my head / and my heart has left me. (Verse 12)

Great trials: David describes great troubles he is experiencing. He is surrounded by external troubles; and, his internal perversion has led him to experience heart failure (emotional breakdown)!

However, he began by declaring his ongoing strong patient waiting for Yahweh in hope.

When troubles surround, wait patiently for Yahweh

4. Thou must be pleased Yahweh to deliver me / Yahweh, Thou must make haste to help me. (Verse 13)

Plea for deliverance: David petitions Yahweh with a strong trust that in His wonderful glory He will deliver His people.

Application: We must always wait in hope and continue to pray to God whenever we are surrounded by both external and/or internal troubles.

Conclusion: Job, a man of godly character and great wealth, is commended by Yahweh before His heavenly council, but the 'adversary' accuses Job of self-interest and receives permission to take all Job has. In four rapid devastating blows, Job loses everything. Then Job worships and praises Yahweh. David waits patiently in hope for Yahweh's compassion and love in trials. **Yahweh can be praised, even after great losses.**