

Comments About Job 1:6–22

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss the book of Job. There will be times when we talk about (1) a group of chapters, (2) one chapter and (3) a portion of a chapter. Today, we will discuss Job 1:6-22.

I hope this project encourages you to review the valuable history and lessons found in the book of Job.

Two trials

In the first two chapters of the book of Job, we read about two trials that came upon Job and his wife. We will talk about the first trial (found in chapter 1) today, and we will talk about the second trial (found in chapter 2) next week.

- The angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan was among them (Job 1:6).
- The Lord asked Satan where he had been, and Satan mentioned that he had been on the earth (verse 7).
- Next, the Lord asked Satan if he had “considered” His servant Job (verse 8).

Job 1:8—“Then the LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil’ ”

Considered for what?

Based upon Satan’s response, Satan knew that the Lord had meant considered for a trial (verses 9-10).

Job 1:9-10—“So Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.’ ”

Did you notice that the “hedge” protected Job from Satan? It is apparent that God would have to adjust the hedge for Satan to consider Job.

- It was God’s idea to adjust the hedge to give Satan room to provide a trial for Job.
- We see that Satan came up with a proposal—the details of a trial that would afflict Job (verse 11).

■ We see that God approved of Satan's proposal—maintaining ultimate control by limiting what Satan could do (verse 12).

Job 1:11—" `But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face! ' "

Job 1:12—"And the LORD said to Satan, `Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.' So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD."

Major losses

Job and his wife experienced four episodes where they suffered major losses (verses 13-19).

■ The sons and daughters were eating and drinking in the house of the oldest brother (verse 13).

■ Sabeans stole oxen and donkeys, and they killed the servants overseeing those animals (verses 14-15).

■ Fire from God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants watching them (verse 16).

■ Chaldeans stole camels, and they killed the servants overseeing those animals (verse 17).

■ A strong wind caused the house of the oldest son to fall and to kill the sons and daughters (verse 18-19).

■ Job's initial reaction was to worship God (verses 20-21) and to avoid any inkling of casting blame upon God (verse 22).

Job 1:20-22—"Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: `Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.'" In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong."