

## ....And Satan Answered the Lord ~

### **Job 1:6 – 2:3**

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~ What things make you feel safe and secure in this world? Perhaps you have a safety deposit box full of valuables. Maybe you have a magnificent home and a wonderful family. It may be your business is prosperous and profitable. Well, irrespective of material possessions – or a lack thereof – we’re going to leave it all behind someday. We may not lose our riches – but – someday, our riches are going to lose us. Job had everything he needed; and more than a man could want or ask for: he had wealth, luxury, healthy children, and he walked with God. Then, in just one day, the Lord permitted Satan to remove all of that from Job’s life.

In our last report from our Spiritual Safari, we watched scene one; somewhere in the vast fertile crescent region of the Near East — in the land of Uz — wherever that was — and Job was enjoying a very wealthy, trouble-free, prosperous life. Everything was wonderful for this extremely rich man. Things seemed so right, in fact, that Job couldn’t detect even a hint of wrong in his own life. Job worshiped God, and regarded God as high and holy – and Job hated evil. He was quite different from modern man, obviously. The only fear troubling Job was that his children might have somehow departed from obeying God. We saw Job offer the burnt offerings for them; and we know burnt offering speak of the Lord Jesus Christ in Scripture.

So, make no mistake, we’re considering a true man of God here; but, in this report, we’re also considering a drama in Heaven that Job was completely unaware of. In fact, none of the characters in the Book of Job knew anything about what was taking place in Heaven concerning them. These first two chapters explain the entire book and it also explains *SOME* of what happens to God’s people when they suffer on earth. This isn’t the *TOTAL* explanation of suffering – not by any means – but it sure is a *BIG* part of why many dear saints suffer today....

**I**

***6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.***

~ So, welcome to Heaven. The created intelligences come now before the Lord God Almighty. Interestingly, we aren't told much about them. I believe they are numberless. These are not human beings; and they don't belong to a race. What we do know is they are *creatures* who are responsible to God. They, apparently, report to the Lord as a matter of routine. I don't know about you – but – to me, the fact that Satan comes along with them is shocking. See, Satan has to make a report to God, also. If you do not find that utterly amazing, then I just don't know what you would find amazing....

***7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.***

~ And it seems the devil could have added, “.... *devouring whomever I can get ahold of....*” — Satan didn't come out of hell to make his reports, friends; oh, no — hell is a place prepared for the devil and his angels — but hell isn't open for business — yet; not in the day we are studying, nor in our present day. No one is in hell at this moment. Hell is only opened for business *after* the Millennium takes place on the earth. Satan will be “.... *going to and fro on the earth and walking up and down in it*” until that day. Only after the judgment at the Great White Throne are people cast into hell. Actually, Satan has *MORE* access to and freedom on this earth right now than *YOU* or I do! This is the domain of the devil right now as I type and as you read. Satan is called the “*god of this world*” and “*the prince of the power of the air.*” Satan goes up and down seeking whom he may destroy.

**1 Peter 5:<sup>8</sup> *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour ~***

That's a present tense warning to us from Peter, friends. Remember, Satan offered the Lord the kingdoms of this earth; and Jesus didn't rebuff Satan saying the kingdoms of the earth weren't his to offer. Jesus simply declined

the offer. Satan has power over more people, places and things than we might care to acknowledge. God is overruling, as we just learned in the Book of Esther, but the initial rule and control over this earth belongs to the devil. Satan can be overcome *BUT* only by the Blood of the Lamb. I'm sure that's quite a revelation for some readers; it is certainly contrary to most modern-day religious teaching and thinking....

***<sup>8</sup> And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?***

~ Well, God made a good report of Job. Apparently, Satan had been trying to get at Job for a long time. As we read on, the devil couldn't attack Job because there was a "*hedge*" around Job. That gave Satan the opportunity to cast a slur against mankind. See, the devil despises mankind wholesale; and he will suggest that you and I are only serving God because of the good things – and the protection – God offers. The devil has absolutely no use for you or me; and he despises us – even those who serve him. Why anyone would *want* to serve Satan I do not know. What I do know is that there is a "*hedge*" around every believer today; put there by a Master Who is loving and sympathetic to us. Satan can only get to us if God permits it to happen. If God does permit our hedge to be breached, then it will be for a very productive and helpful purpose. With Job it was severe. That can be very bitter truth to accept.

Those who believe they can "*bind demons*" and "*fight the devil*" are totally ignorant of the Word of God; and they have some very bad lessons that await them in the course of life. If God took away the hedge from most of us — we would curse God to His Face — no question about that. Quite frankly, I hear God being cursed every single day; and I mean by some who go to church on Sunday and carry a Bible so big it causes them to lean to one side. Mankind just isn't rightly related to God, my friends – they're anything *BUT* rightly related to God! Now, don't bother writing me and trying to straighten me out on this, because this just happens to be *EXACTLY* what the Book of Job is teaching us....

***<sup>9</sup> Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?***

***10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.***

***11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.***

***12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.***

~ Alright, sometimes God permits Satan to take away those things that we lean on and depend on. When that happens, there is *NOTHING* in the world you can say, claim or do to stop it from happening, either. This is another truth that isn't popular; because the Bible doesn't happen to be popular when it is taught properly, correctly and completely. My intention in these reports is very definitely *NOT* to try to make friends and influence people. If you don't believe the Bible, then that is *YOUR* problem – not mine; but don't try to tell me it teaches anything other than what I am teaching you here; because you will simply be wrong. I know unequivocally — from experience — that when our personal security blankets are taken away, we feel helpless, incapable, and lost in this world. Sometimes we are devastatingly ashamed. That's when a man comes to the end of himself, friends. In those times, one of two things happen: we either cry out to God for mercy and worship Him — or we curse Him to His Face.

I sure hope you are all reading this *VERY* carefully because this is *CRITICAL* for your life. If you haven't had these experiences yet – you will – you can just write that down. I had a good friend growing up who was very much a Christian, even when she was young. Her father was killed one night by a random gunman. She later said to me, "... *everyone's life is a tragedy waiting to happen.*" Again, I'm sure *MANY* of you will *STRONGLY* disagree with that statement – but you'll be wrong – because that is as real as rain is wet. So, now God has given Satan permission to take it all away from Job – and the devil doesn't hesitate to get started. The devil will destroy everything if he is permitted to, friends. That should make us drop down

and worship God on our knees right this minute – but I doubt it will – maybe I’m wrong about you....

***13 And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:***

~ The camera in Heaven suddenly pans back on earth! Apparently, Job’s kid’s had a high-old time every day of their lives. It seems they spent their days going from one house party to another. That’s how the elite live today, too. This is *PRECISELY* how lives are lived in Hollywood behind the walls of gated communities. They “*take it easy*” all the time — while simultaneously taking it to the limit — until the enemy comes along. I doubt Job even realized the Sabeans were his enemy. Job likely did business with them and interacted in their community regularly. And as if that weren’t enough, the “*fire of God*” then came down from Heaven!

Why do people always want to blame God for everything bad that happens? We act as if God doesn’t exist — until a catastrophe strikes. Then, we conclude He must be to blame. We know this is the act of Satan happening here — because God tells us. It’s interesting that modern day insurance policies exclude coverage due to “*acts of God.*” My question is: what about acts of Satan? Who makes that determination? Well, that question makes people question me – but – I just happen to know I am the one who possesses the more accurate question; because the Word of God tells me I am. Alright, if you want to talk about a stock market crash – just read on here – because the stock is now all gone....

***14 And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them:***

***15 And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.***

***16 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.***

***17 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.***

***18 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:***

***19 And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.***

~ This is certainly a tragedy beyond tragedies. If ten of your children are slain at the same time, in the same place, it is likely to have a severe adverse effect upon your life, my friends. I wonder how many of us would be apt to do what Job is going to do in response to this: fall down and worship God. Job's testimony in verse twenty-one isn't the natural reaction of mankind. Job had a philosophical viewpoint of life's material things that Christians desperately need to get a hold of today. You and I arrived one day on this earth with absolutely nothing. We were naked and as helpless as one could ever be. That's the way we're going out of this world someday soon, too! If you are rich, then your relatives are likely to ask your lawyer how much you left when you die. Well, you're going to leave it *ALL*. It's pretty important to get this all straight while we are still alive; otherwise, you're in for quite a shock on the other side.

Whatever we have in this life really isn't ours; we're just temporary stewards of said things. Remember, in second Corinthians, Paul called us all stewards. A steward handles those things that belong to someone else. When Job lost everything and his children, I think you could have heard him weeping a half a mile away – but – that didn't stop Job from worshipping or believing God. Job didn't lose his faith in the face of these calamities the Lord was permitting. What would you do? If God has taken certain things away in your life then, may I say? – He took it away – but He will still hold us responsible for the way we use things down here. You and I are going to

answer for how we used and appropriated all of His stuff. Again, this is rather important – in fact, it's ALL important....

***20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,***

***21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.***

***22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.***

## **II**

***1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.***

***2 And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.***

***3 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.***

~ Our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition returning to Heaven for scene three. Everyone and everything — all creatures — report to God, friends. All, as believers, will appear at the Bema Seat of Christ where we will give an account of our stewardship down here. That is *NOT* the Great White Throne where the lost will be judged, though. Believers aren't just operating freestyle and willy-nilly according to our personal whims and desires. I hear people talk about their liberty; well, how much liberty do you think you have? A grasshopper can jump higher than you in relative terms! If you could jump in the same ratio as the grasshopper you could leap the

tallest skyscraper on the planet. See, we don't have freedom – we're creatures of God. Ask yourself: what kind of report are you turning in today? What kind of report would God make about *YOU*? What truthful accusations does the devil have against you?

Let's make sure we understand that what happened to Job happened without a cause; we know that because God Himself tells us in verse three. People are forever asking, "*.... why does God allow this to happen to me?*" My question is: why not? From God's point of view, there is a purpose; but from Satan's point of view, the reason is that he hates you – and the devil hates you just because – no reason. Period. God wants us to repent, friends; that's the point. Sometimes, God isn't whipping us or punishing us – but He wants us to come up a little bit higher! Sometimes, it seems like there is just no reason for our suffering – because there isn't. Sometimes we suffer for the glory of God – and that, my friends, just doesn't happen to be popular theology, either. When bad things happen to a believer, the overwhelming response of others is to say, "*.... oh, God is punishing you.*" Well, maybe – maybe not. God wasn't punishing Job for anything. Either way, I hope you and I never have to experience what this man experienced in order for us to repent ~

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