

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOES

A study of the lives of Joseph, Jonah, and Job

Job - Chapters 1 & 2

Lesson 1

*Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful (James 5:11). As we embark upon this study of the story of a man who lost all but his life and his wife, may we learn from his *perseverance* and come to a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Lord's *compassion and mercy*.*

OBSERVATION: Read Job 1

1. Read Job 1 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God*, *Job*, or *Satan*.

Key Words: *God (LORD)*, *Job*, and *Satan*

3. Describe the following as revealed in this chapter.

God

Job

Satan

4. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 11. Mark the word. Record what is being contrasted.

READ JOB 1

1. Job 1 begins with a description of Job's character. List the four traits mentioned in verse 1.

a. What is the difference between being *blameless* and being sinless?

b. Use synonyms to define the word *shunned*.

2. Job was a man with many possessions. In Old Testament times, possessions were viewed as blessings from God. The apostle Paul would have considered himself blessed by God. Yet, record the words of 2 Corinthians 11:27 that describe some of the things he endured.

a. What does this say to you about who God blesses?

3. Job *regularly sanctified* his children (verse 5). He set them apart for God's purposes. What are some things godly parents can do as they raise their children today?

a. What is the significance of the word *regularly*?

b. Although Job raised his children to fear God, what was his concern? Verse 5

4. Job 1:1-5 describe the scene of Job's life on earth. Verse 6 begins with the words *Now there was a day*. On that day, Satan came before God. According to verse 7, what had he been doing?

a. Using 1 Peter 5:8, explain what Satan does as he *walks about*.

5. Summarize the conversation between God and Satan. Verses 8-12

a. What was Satan's goal? Verse 11

6. God placed all but Job's *person* into Satan's hands. Write the words Jesus said to Simon (Peter) before Peter denied Him. Luke 22:31

a. What are your thoughts when you consider the fact that Satan must get God's permission?

b. Return to Luke 22:31 and reflect upon the words of the following verse, verse 32.

7. Job 1:6 begins with the word *now*, marking the transition from the scene on earth to the scene in heaven. Verse 13 begins with the word *now* returning to the scene on earth. The blessed scene of the first few verses of chapter 1 was about to change. What was reported to Job by:

the first messenger

the second messenger

the third messenger

the fourth messenger

8. How did Job respond? Verses 20-22

a. What truths about God did Job acknowledge?

b. What truths about God do you remind yourself of during difficult times?

c. Verse 22 ends with the words, *In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong*. What are some ways Job could have *sinned*?

1.) Job did not *charge God with wrong*. Write your own paraphrase of the following verses.

James 1:17

Romans 9:20

OBSERVATION: READ JOB 2

1. Read Job 2 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God*, *Job*, or *Satan*, and each of Job's three friends.

Key Words: *God (LORD), Job, Satan, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar*

3. Describe the following as the chapter reveals them:

God

Job

Satan

Job's friends

4. The contrasting word *but* is used three times in chapter 2. Mark the words. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

READ JOB 2

1. With what word does Job 2 begin?

2. Note the similarities in the conversation between God and Satan in Job 1:6-8 and Job 2:1-3. God added to His description of Job as recorded in the last sentence of verse 3. What did God say about Job?

a. What does it mean to *hold fast to your integrity*?

b. The fact that Job *held fast to his integrity* was meaningful to God. When you are tempted to sin and curse God, what do you do to *hold fast to your integrity*?

3. Summarize Satan's response in verses 4 and 5.

4. God then gave Satan permission to do what he could not do in chapter 1, *lay a hand on Job's person*. What was Satan's limitation now?

5. *Satan struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head* (verse 7). Who appeared on the scene in verse 9?

a. Along with Satan, what did she encourage Job to do? Verse 9

1.) What might be some better ways to come alongside our loved ones who are troubled?

b. Have you ever been in a place where you wanted to *curse God and die*? If so, reflect upon that time and record one thought.

6. What was Job's response to his wife's "encouragement"?

a. What does it mean practically to *accept adversity*?

b. Consider the words written by Jeremiah in Lamentations 3:38-41. What did he encourage the people to do?

7. Job's three friends *heard of all this adversity*. According to verse 11, what did they intend to do?

a. They did not recognize Job when they saw him. What did they do?

b. Although Job's friends will fail to comfort Job many times in the chapters that follow, in what ways were their actions in this chapter a *comfort*?

REVIEW: Job 1 and 2

1. What questions has the study of Job 1 and 2 provoked for you?

2. What have you learned about Satan?

3. What did you learn from the example of:

Job

Job's wife

Job's friends

4. In what ways have you been challenged by this lesson?

*that the genuineness of your faith,
being much more precious than gold that perishes,
though it is tested by fire,
may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
- 1 Peter 1:7*

Observation Worksheet

Job 1

¹ There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. ² And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. ³ Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East. ⁴ And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly. ⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." 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?" ⁹ So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" 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. ¹³ Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house; ¹⁴ and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ when the Sabeans raided them and took them away--indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" ¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" ¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" ¹⁸ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" ²⁰ Then

Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. ²¹ 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." ²² In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

Job 2

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 to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." ³ 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? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause." ⁴ So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵ But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" ⁶ And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life." ⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes. ⁹ Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" ¹⁰ But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. ¹¹ Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, each one came from his own place--Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had made an appointment together to come and mourn with him, and to comfort him. ¹² And when they raised their eyes from afar, and did not recognize him, they lifted their voices and wept; and each one tore his robe and sprinkled dust on his head toward heaven. ¹³ So they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great.