

Devotional Questions – Job 1:1-22

1. *What do we learn about Job's character (Job 1:1-9)?*
2. *Why do you think we are allowed to overhear the conversation (that was never revealed to Job and his friends) between God and Satan (Job 1:6-12)?*
3. *The name 'Satan' means 'accuser'*. What is the essence of Satan's accusation against Job (Job 1:8-12)?*

*The name Satan means "**The adversary and enemy**" Esther 7:6, 7+6 = 13 as in Isaiah 13, John 13, Revelation 13, Haman being a type of the antichrist, see the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 724, see also Psalm 74:10, Isaiah 50:8, Lamentations 4:12, 1 Timothy 5:14, 1 Peter 5:8. 1 Chronicles 21:1 is the first mention of the name Satan in scripture and as such shows that he is "**The adversary and enemy**" Esther 7:6 because Satan is "**against Israel**" and is indeed "**the anger of the LORD...kindled against Israel**" 2 Samuel 24:1. Satan is "**the accuser of our brethren**" Revelation 12:10 but that term is used of the devil only once, not repeatedly as "**the adversary and the enemy**" Lamentations 4:12 is and obviously not with the first mention of the name Satan.

4. *How does Satan's accusation lead to Job's disaster?*
5. *What is the essence of Satan's accusation against God?*
6. *What can we learn about the hedge around Job (Job 1:10)?*
7. *What did Satan use to attack Job (Job 1:14-19)?*
What can we learn from this?
8. *Was Job the only one to lose out by Satan's attack (Job 1:15-19)?*
What can we learn from this?
9. *What is astounding about Job's response (Job 1:20-22)?*
10. *How does Paul's teaching (1 Timothy 6:7-8) compare with Job's response (Job 1:21)?*
11. *What does James teach us about the trials of Job (James 5:11)?*

Devotional Questions – Job 1:1-22, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentaries *The Book of Job* pp i-xxx, 1-18, *The Books of the General Epistles Volume 1* pp 141-143, the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 729-731 and www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php *Job 1 - Summary Thoughts* for detailed and further comment.

1. What do we learn about Job's character (Job 1:1-9)?

See this extract from *Job 1 – Summary Thoughts* p 2.

Job the Perfect Man, Job 1:1, 8

“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil” Job 1:1 with Job 1:8. Job was **“perfect”** in *doing right, living right, worshipping right and hating evil* as God and the Bible testify. To be **“perfect”** back then was to walk *with God, before God and in obedience to God*, Genesis 6:9, 17:1 as Job did, Job 1:1, 8. Yet *note*, though **“perfect,”** Job only offered sacrifice for others *not himself*. That was self i.e. **“perfect”** does *not* mean *sinless!* Never interpret a Bible term by popular usage. Always compare scripture with scripture, 1 Corinthians 2:13. **“Blameless”** NKJV, NIVs is *not* correct because to be **“blameless”** then was to walk rightly before *men*, Genesis 44:10...

Note further that:

- Job was a God-fearing man. The scripture says that **“Job...feared God”** Job 1:1 and God Himself via the scripture said that **“Job...feareth God”** Job 1:8.
- Job was a family-centred man. **“And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered 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 did Job continually”** Job 1:6.
- Job was a prudent man. **“Job...offered 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.”**
- Job was a disciplined, consistent man. **“Job...rose up early in the morning... Thus did Job continually”** Job 1:6. However, all the above notwithstanding:
- Job was a self-righteous man. See remarks above on **Job the Perfect Man, Job 1:1, 8**. Job offered no sacrifices for either himself *or Mrs Job*. Job appears to have assumed that since Mrs Job was **“bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh”** Genesis 2:23, she was right with God as he perceived himself to be. **“Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food”** Job 23:12. That scripture should be memorized but so should King David's prayer, an absolute necessity **“to all generations”** Psalm 33:11. **“Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults”** Psalm 19:12. God addresses this last aspect of Job's character so that as *Job 1 – Summary Thoughts* p 2 shows, Job becomes:

Job the Purified Man, Job 42:5-6

Job was self-righteous, Job 27:6, 32:1, 35:2, 40:8, *until he saw God*. **“...but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes”** Job 42:5-6, like Isaiah, Isaiah 6:5, like Peter, Luke 5:8. In each case, repentance brought restoration, **“thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged”** Isaiah 6:7 with Job 42:12, John 21:15-17, 19, 22. Paul, who also saw **“Jesus Christ our Lord”** 1 Corinthians 9:1 with Acts 9:3-6, states for *now* what Job foresaw *then*.

“I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord...not having mine own righteousness...but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith” Philippians 3:8-9.

2. Why do you think we are allowed to overhear the conversation (that was never revealed to Job and his friends) between God and Satan (Job 1:6-12)?

This conversation reveals that:

- **“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth”** Hebrews 12:6 with Job 1:8, see *Question 1*.
- The devil has access to both heaven and earth but is not Omnipresent, Job 1:6, 7.
- The devil must tell the truth when God asks him a *direct* question. Job 1:6, 7 with Hebrews 4:13 **“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”**
- The devil is nevertheless **“the accuser of our brethren”** Revelation 12:10 with Job 1:8-11. See *Question 3*.
- The devil thinks that all men think as he does i.e. above all to **“get gain”** James 4:13, as Satan had sought to do, Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28:12-19. However, not all men do or did, even before a man could become **“in Christ...a new creature”** 2 Corinthians 5:17, as David shows. **“As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness”** Psalm 17:15. Though as Solomon says **“the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil”** Ecclesiastes 8:11, Solomon also says of God **“(for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)”** 1 Kings 8:39 with 2 Chronicles 6:30. God therefore knew of Job, Job’s self-righteousness notwithstanding, see *Question 1*, that he would fulfil Psalm 112:7 **“He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD”** as even Job himself saw even in his suffering and that vision was fulfilled, an important lesson for today’s believer. **“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold”** Job 23:10 with Job 42:10-17, especially insofar as **“every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold”** Job 42:11.
- The devil can be **“the rod of God”** Job 21:9 with 2 Samuel 24:1, 1 Chronicles 21:1, Job 1:12 because **“the rod and reproof give wisdom”** Proverbs 29:15 and Job speaks wisely in Job 42:5-6 **“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”**
- The devil is limited in what he can do according to what God tells him, for God’s purposes, although the devil does it immediately, Job 1:12. See *Job 1 – Summary Thoughts* p 2.

Job the Persecuted Man, Job 1:14-19, 2:7-8

Though via Satan* God persecuted Job: **“thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause”** Job 2:3. *Satan obeyed God *instantly* so note Matthew 21:6. Note Satan **“had the power of death”** Hebrews 2:14, Jesus has **“the keys of hell and of death”** Revelation 1:18 *now*.

3. The name 'Satan' means 'accuser'*. What is the essence of Satan's accusation against Job (Job 1:8-12)?

*The name Satan means "**The adversary and enemy**" Esther 7:6, 7+6 = 13 as in Isaiah 13, John 13, Revelation 13, Haman being a type of the antichrist, see the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 724, see also Psalm 74:10, Isaiah 50:8, Lamentations 4:12, 1 Timothy 5:14, 1 Peter 5:8. 1 Chronicles 21:1 is the first mention of the name Satan in scripture and as such shows that he is "**The adversary and enemy**" Esther 7:6 because Satan is "**against Israel**" and is indeed "**the anger of the LORD...kindled against Israel**" 2 Samuel 24:1. Satan is "**the accuser of our brethren**" Revelation 12:10 but that term is used of the devil only once, not repeatedly as "**the adversary and the enemy**" Lamentations 4:12 is and obviously not with the first mention of the name Satan.

Job 1:9 gives the essence of Satan's accusation against Job. "***Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?***" Satan thought that Job thought as he did. Job's self-righteousness notwithstanding, see *Question 1*, Job did not, see *Question 2*, as Job truthfully testified, even though Job had yet to fulfil Psalm 119:59 "**I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies**" with Job 42:5-6. "**Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him**" Job 13:15.

4. How does Satan's accusation lead to Job's disaster?

See *Question 2* and last two bullet points.

- The devil can be "**the rod of God**" Job 21:9 with 2 Samuel 24:1, 1 Chronicles 21:1, Job 1:12 because "**the rod and reproof give wisdom**" Proverbs 29:15 and Job speaks wisely in Job 42:5-6 "**I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.**"
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5. What is the essence of Satan's accusation against God?

See *Question 3*.

6. What can we learn about the hedge around Job (Job 1:10)?

It is impenetrable, even for the devil, unless God gaps it. See *Job 1 – Summary Thoughts* p 4:

Note Job 1:12, 2:7 "**So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD**" and the contexts where Satan is permitted to afflict Job. He does exactly what God tells him and no more. Noting that the Devil is "**a king over all the children of pride**" Job 41:34, note Psalm 105:14-15 "**He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes; Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.**" Every Christian is God's anointed. "**Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God**" 2 Corinthians 1:21. *The Devil must still obey the command "Touch not mine anointed."* Use it, and defeat the Devil.

Note John's promised hedge for today's believer as "**the new man**" Ephesians 4:24, Colossians 3:10. "**We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not**" 1 John 5:18.

7. *What did Satan use to attack Job (Job 1:14-19)?*

- ***“The wickedness of man”*** Genesis 6:5 with Job 1:15, 17
- ***“The fire of God”*** Job 1:16
- ***“A great wind”*** Job 1:19

What can we learn from this?

Today’s believer should understand, as Job did, ***“the hand of God”*** 1 Samuel 5:11, 2 Chronicles 30:12, Job 2:10, 19:21, 27:11, Ecclesiastes 2:24, 9:1 i.e. 7 occurrences in all, three in the Book of Job, and ***“his word”*** Psalm 147:15 in operation in Job 1:15, 16, 17, 19 as David testified.

“Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword: From men which are thy hand, O LORD...” Psalm 17:13-14.

“Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word” Psalm 148:8.

Only thus can the devil have power to inflict suffering as in Job 1:15, 16, 17, 19 as God, *now in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ in that* ***“Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth”*** Matthew 28:20, allows him to exercise it.

“And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword” Revelation 6:4.

“And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth” Revelation 6:8.

“And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months” Revelation 13:5.

“And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations” Revelation 13:7.

“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men...And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed” Revelation 13:13-15.

8. *Was Job the only one to lose out by Satan’s attack (Job 1:15-19)?*

No. Job’s servants and his children died, Job 1:2, 15, 16, 17, 19, the servants’ families and Job’s friends grieved. Elihu grieved over his loss, *especially Jemima, Job 1 – Summary Thoughts* p 1.

What can we learn from this?

Excruciating – see below- though it may be, the lesson is, *though you be an innocent party,* Job 1:21 ***“...the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”***

A man on the way to crucifixion loses everything. The Lord’s admonition to today’s believer is therefore sobering, which is no doubt why modern versions such as the 1984, 2011 NIVs omit it.

“Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me” Mark 10:21.

9. *What is astounding about Job's response (Job 1:20-22)?*

In spite of the immense tragedy that Job had suffered, it can be said of Job's response that:

- *It was worshipful.* **"Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped"** Job 1:20.
- *It was humble.* **"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"** Job 1:21.
- *It was reverential.* **"In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly"** Job 1:22.

The lesson for today's believer is daunting but must be faced, as Paul expressed it, *because it is God's will for today's believer.* **"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you"** 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

10. *How does Paul's teaching (1 Timothy 6:7-8) compare with Job's response (Job 1:21)?*

1 Timothy 6:7-8 state **"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."**

1 Timothy 6:7 matches the first part of Job 1:21. Nothing has changed there in a mortal sense but both yesterday's believers, like Job, and today's believers can look forward to departing **"this world"** from *mortality* to *immortality*, a great encouragement, as Isaiah and Paul explain.

"Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead" Isaiah 26:19.

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.

11. *What does James teach us about the trials of Job (James 5:11)?*

James 5:11 states **"Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."**

James 5:11 shows that **"the patience of Job"** was used of God:

- **"that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end"** Deuteronomy 8:16
- wherein God was **"very pitiful, and of tender mercy"** to Job in that *especially resurrecting Job's sons and daughters*
- **"the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before...the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning"** Job 42:10, 12
- **"He had also seven sons and three daughters"** Job 42:13 so that finally
- **"After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations"** Job 42:16.

In the light of Job's patience as James has expressed it, today's believer should therefore aim as Paul expressed it **"by the grace of God"** 1 Corinthians 15:10 to put into practice Peter's exhortation.

"Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator" 1 Peter 4:19.