



October 23, 2016

Job 1

“Satan and Suffering”

Pastor Gary Hamrick

Suffering is a real part of life. Many people will experience trials and difficulties to one degree or another in the course of a lifetime. What role, if any, does Satan play in our suffering? Pastor Gary answers this question in today’s introduction to the book of Job, and the overarching question: “Why do people suffer?”

Historical Background

1. The book of Job focuses on the tragic but resilient life of one man: Job.
2. Job probably lived just after the Flood, and before Abraham.
 - a. Several clues point to this understanding: there is no mention of things concerning Jews, and [Job 22:16](#) provides a reference to the Flood.
3. The timeline from Adam to today looks like this:
 - a. Adam to Abraham was approximately 2,000 years.
 - b. Abraham to Jesus was approximately 2,000 years.
 - c. Jesus to our day is approximately 2,000 years.
4. The book of Job, whose author is not known, was written about 2,000BC, and is considered to be the oldest book of the Bible
5. The events of the book of Job took place in the *“land of Uz,”* which was most likely located in Northern Arabia, somewhere east of the Dead Sea.
 - a. [Job 1:1a](#) - *“In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job.”*

6. Job was a godly man whose life demonstrated character and integrity.
 - a. [Job 1:1b](#) - *“This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.”*
7. Job was married and had 10 children (seven sons and three daughters).
8. The Bible tells us that Job had servants and an abundance of livestock, which help us to understand more about his great wealth.
9. His name in Hebrew is Iyyov, which means, persecuted one, which is fitting considering the suffering, trials, difficulties, and discouragement he experienced.
10. In Pastor Gary’s series on the book of Job, he will answer the age-old question, “Why do people suffer?”
11. Pastor Gary will use this outline in the coming weeks:
 - a. Satan and suffering - What role, if any, does Satan play in my suffering?
 - b. Friends and suffering - How can a person be a true friend to someone who is suffering?
 - c. God and suffering - Where is God in my suffering?
 - d. Perspective and suffering - How can I get through my suffering?

Sources Of Suffering - Satan

12. What role, if any, does Satan play in my suffering?
13. When we read [Job 1](#), we naturally have two questions:
 - a. What is Satan doing in heaven?
 - b. Why would God offer Job up to Satan?
14. We read that Job’s 10 children were at a family gathering, and at the same time, God was having a “staff meeting” with his angels, including Satan.
15. Satan, whose name means, accuser, has a number of titles in the Bible, including:
 - i. Lucifer - [Isaiah 14:12](#) KJV
 - ii. The devil - [Matthew 4:1](#)
 - iii. The accuser of the brothers - [Revelation 12:10](#)
 - iv. The god of this age - [2 Corinthians 4:4](#)
 - v. The ruler of the kingdom of the air - [Ephesians 2:2](#)
 - vi. The dragon - [Revelation 12:9](#)
 - vii. The serpent - [Genesis 3:1](#)

viii. The prince of this world – [John 12:31](#)

16. Satan was created as a guardian angel, and he was included in the highest rank of angels, and his frame or being, was comprised of precious gems!
 - a. Satan was filled with pride, which caused him to rebel against God, according to [Isaiah 14:12](#).
 - b. It wasn't that he just envied God; Satan's pride caused him to want to be God!
 - c. [Revelation 12:4](#) tells us that 1/3 of the angels followed him!
 - d. [Luke 10:18](#) – “[Jesus] replied, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.’ ”
 - e. We know these angels as demons.

17. Satan hates us and his mission is to see that as many of us as possible go with him into hell.
 - a. [John 10:10](#) – *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I [Jesus] have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*
 - b. [1 Peter 5:8](#) – *“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”*

18. This account is the second time in the Bible that we read about Satan speaking; the first, recorded in [Genesis 3](#), was in the Garden of Eden.

19. Satan has limited access to God in heaven, and he cannot present himself without permission from God.

20. [Job 1:7-8](#) – *“The Lord said to Satan, ‘Where have you come from?’ Satan answered the Lord, ‘From roaming through the earth [looking for someone to harm] and going back and forth in it.’ Then the Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.’ ”*

21. God gave Satan limited permission to attack Job, but it's important to understand this situation from a biblical perspective.
 - a. First, there is suffering, tragic events, heartache, trials, and difficulties in the world in which we live.
 - b. Second, God selected Job, a man with singular character and integrity, whom God knew would get through these situations eventually, because of God's help, who would then be the example for everyone who goes through terrible times of suffering.
 - c. In the midst of his suffering, it's remarkable to note that Job never lost his integrity, never blamed God, nor was ever angry with God!

22. This book is included in the Bible because it was written for our benefit so we would know how to deal with times of suffering and loss.
 - a. [James 5:10-11](#) - *“Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”*
23. Satan has limited access to people on earth, and he cannot harass someone without permission from God.
24. Because Satan has limited access, Pastor Gary encouraged us to remember that we need not worry about Satan harming us, our children, families, etc.
 - a. [Luke 22: 31-32](#) - *“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I [Jesus] have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”*
25. Satan must get permission from God before he can inflict harm upon people, which is not to say that he won’t harass or tempt Believers.
26. Pastor Gary said: “In terms of harming [us or] laying a hand on [us], that first has to go across the desk of God first. And by the way, don’t read this story and think that God is in the habit of doing this [as though he just] gives out a name or two so Satan can have his way. This book is not be a pattern of the way things happen; it’s to be a word of encouragement about a unique thing that happened, so that we can face suffering with the same integrity and character [as Job].”
27. Satan wreaked havoc in Job’s life by taking away all of his livestock, killing his servants, and causing the death of all ten of his children.
28. [Job 1:22](#) - *“In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.”*
29. What’s more incredible is that we read that Job fell to the ground and worshiped God!
 - a. [Job 1:20](#) - *“At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship...”*
30. Pastor Gary said: “Now, don’t misunderstand... [It] would be a twisted view of worship if you think that [Job] was actually thanking God that his kids had died and he had lost everything. That’s not the worship [being spoken] of here. The worship [being spoken of] is the worship of God, [whom Job was] trusting in

and leaning on, because he [didn't] understand all of [the] stuff that [had] happened. When you try to make sense of [things] that can't be made sense of, you are just going to torment yourself. There are some things, this side of heaven, that we are just going to have to recognize [don't] make sense."

31. **Romans 8:28** - *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."*

Sources Of Suffering - Our Fallen World

32. Satan is probably not the source of our suffering, at least not directly, because his is not omnipresent.
33. If Satan is not directly responsible for our suffering, he is at least indirectly responsible.
 - a. **1 John 5:19** - *"We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one."*
34. There is no question about the fact that Satan is at work to wreak havoc on the earth!
35. Some of the things that happen to us may not be our fault; they are simply the result of living in a sinful world.
36. Pastor Gary encouraged us to remember these things so that we would not torture ourselves with the idea that God is punishing us and that's the reason why we are suffering.
37. **John 16:33** - *"I [Jesus] have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*
38. Pastor Gary said: "God sees, and God knows, and God cares. Sometimes the things that happen in our lives are not [our] fault, [and they] aren't the punishment of God; it's just that we live in a fallen world."

Sources Of Suffering - Our Sinful Choices

39. **Proverbs 13:15** - *"... the way of the unfaithful is hard."*

40. [Galatians 6:7](#) - *“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”*
41. [Hosea 8:7a](#) - *“They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind.”*
42. When we willfully and deliberately violate God’s laws and rebel against his ways, we will open the door for suffering in our lives.
43. The good news is that if we will recognize that we have sinned against God, we can ask his forgiveness and get right with him.
44. [1 John 1:9](#) - *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*
45. It’s important to remember that even though the Lord forgives us, that doesn’t mean all of the mess and the consequences of sin will go away.
46. We should be motivated to holy living, so we don’t invite hardship and suffering into our lives.
 - a. [1 Peter 5:9](#) - *“Resist him [the devil], standing firm in the faith...”*
 - b. [Romans 12:2](#) - *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [Job 1](#) to provide the foundation for this study.
3. Why would God “recommend” Job to Satan?
4. What is the reason or reasons why God would describe Job’s strengths of character, integrity, etc.?
5. Read and discuss [John 10:10](#) and [1 Peter 5:8](#).
6. Are you consciously aware the schemes of the devil or do you find that you fall victim too often?

7. Are you vigilant when it comes to being “*self-controlled and alert*” and ready to thwart the stated mission of the devil, which is to cause you to sin, turn away from God, and spend eternity separated from God?
8. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary’s remarks about God allowing Satan to have limited permission to attack Job. (See #21 above)
9. Read and discuss [James 5:10–11](#), and focus on the biblical perspective we need to have when we experience times of suffering and loss.
10. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s remarks about the fact that we shouldn’t see Job’s story as a pattern of the way things work, but to look at his story as an encouragement to help us when we go through difficult times with integrity and character like Job. (See #26 above)
11. Read and discuss [Romans 8:28](#).
12. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s comments about the fact that there times we will experience difficulties that are not our fault nor are they a punishment from God. (See #38 above)
13. Read and discuss the following Scriptures that help us understand that sinful choices we make can lead us to a place of suffering. (See #39 - #40 - #41 above)
14. Spend time talking about [1 Peter 5:9](#) and [Romans 12:2](#), and how we should be motivated to holy living.
15. Read and pray [1 John 1:9](#) and [John 16:33](#) as you close your study in prayer.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).