**Job Loses Everything**

**A Bible Story From**

**Job 1:1–2:10**

**Bible Story Number: 1010110**

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**Job Loses Everything**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

The life of Job is real. He was a real person facing real life hurts and challenges.

These events provide a rare view into the spiritual world. They give one answer to one of life’s most haunting questions: Why do bad things happen to good, even godly, people?

This answer does not apply to every situation; yet, it provides an important view of God and His interactions with one very real man. God lifts the curtain and allows us a glimpse behind the scenes. This account reveals who God is, His complete power, limitless control and incomprehensible ways. We gain a better understanding of what He means when He says: “For as heaven is higher than earth, so My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa. 55:9).

A word of warning is in order. Quotes from Job can be misleading sometimes. His friends (and even his wife) told Job things that are conventional religious wisdom but not godly advice. For example, on one occasion, Job’s wife told him: “Do you still retain your integrity? Curse God and die!” (Job 2:9). She spoke out of frustration and clearly gave Job ungodly advice.

Job’s friends had a sincere desire to help. However, they gave him advice based on widely held beliefs, rather than sound theology. One friend said, “If you are pure and upright, then He [God] will move even now on your behalf and restore the home where your righteousness dwells” (Job 8:6). His friend’s intentions were good, but his advice was not. Much of the book of Job is actually this ungodly advice from his friends.

Context is always essential to understanding the Bible. Job is filled with examples. Therefore, beware of any Bible verse presented in isolation. It is always wise to check it out yourself. Acts 17:11 commends the believers in Berea who did just that with the preaching of Paul and Silas: “The people here were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, since they welcomed the message with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” God will help you when you have a genuine desire to hear from Him.

The question of when Job lived is not directly addressed in the book. His place in the chronology of human events is clearly not the focus. An educated guess about when these events occurred is, in the final analysis, just that, a guess. It is likely that Job lived sometime after Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but even that is not known with certainty. The stories about Job are included here in this volume because of what we learn about God.

**Story from the Bible**

**Job 1:1–2:10**

This is what the Bible says.

Job was a wealthy man. He lived in the country of Uz. He was a man of integrity. He feared God and turned away from evil.

His wealth included 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and a large number of servants. He was a wealthy and influential man.

He had ten children, seven sons and three daughters. His sons took turns hosting banquets in their homes. They invited their sisters to the banquets.

After each round of banquets, Job would send for his children and purify them. He would offer burnt offerings for them, because he thought that perhaps his children might have sinned in their hearts. This was his faithful practice.

One day the sons of God came to present themselves before God. Satan came with them. God asked Satan where he had been. Satan answered that he had been roaming the earth.

God asked Satan if he had met Job. God told Satan there was no one like Job. Job was a man of integrity. He feared God and turned away from evil.

Satan challenged God and said that Job only feared Him because He protected him. He claimed that Job was faithful because everything was going well. Satan went on to say that if God were to take all that away, Job would curse God to His face.

God then gave Satan permission to take everything away from Job. He said he could take it all away but he could not touch Job directly. So Satan left God’s presence.

Then on one of the days when Job’s sons and daughters were having a party at the oldest son’s house, Satan struck. The first messenger came to Job and reported that the Sabeans had stolen all his oxen and donkeys. They also killed all his servants except the one who brought the news.

While he was reporting what happened, a second servant came and reported that a lightening storm had struck and all of Job’s sheep and the servants attending them had been burned up. He said he was the only one who had escaped.

Before the second messenger had finished a third came. He said that the Chaldeans had formed three raiding parties and took all of Job’s camels and killed the servants that were tending them. He reported that he was the only one to escape.

Even before the third messenger was through, a fourth came. He told Job that all of his sons and daughters were killed when the house they were partying in collapsed. The messenger was the only survivor.

After hearing all this bad news, Job tore his robe and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and worshiped. He said he had entered this world with nothing and he would leave with nothing. He proclaimed that God gives, and God takes away. He concluded by praising God.

Even in all his loss, Job did not sin or blame God.

There was another encounter between God and Satan where Job was discussed. It was much like the first. Again, God asked Satan where he had been. Satan answered the same way. He said he had been roaming the earth.

God asked Satan to consider Job. Again he told Satan there was no one like him. Job was still a man of integrity even though Satan tried to turn him against God. Job still feared God and turned away from evil.

Satan responded with another challenge. He said, “Skin for skin! A man will give up everything he owns in exchange for his life. But stretch out Your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse You to Your face.”

God told Satan he could do anything to Job except kill him. So Satan left God’s presence and caused painful boils to break out all over Job’s body. Job was covered with boils from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet. He took a piece of broken pottery and scraped the boils as he sat in ashes.

Job’s wife saw his pain and asked if he still had his integrity. Then she told him to curse God and die.

Job told her she was speaking foolishness. He rhetorically asked, “Should we accept only good from God and not adversity?”

In spite of all his pain and suffering, Job did not sin in what he said.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* How do we know that Job was a wealthy man?
* Who was the first to mention Job in the conversation between God and Satan? Why do you think that is important?
* What was the first agreement between God and Satan concerning Job?
* What happened to Job as a result of this first encounter?
* What was the second agreement between God and Satan concerning Job?
* What happened to Job after this second encounter?
* What advice did Job’s wife give him?
* Did Job sin? How do we know?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.