



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Job

BIBLE TEXT | JOB 1:13-22

13 Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, **14** and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, **15** and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants[a] with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." **16** While he was yet speaking, there came another 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 yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." **18** While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, **19** and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you." **20** Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. **21** And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." **22** In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 1:13-22

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Have you ever found yourself in a place where everything falls apart at one time? Even when you are at a place in your life where you are finally living for the Lord and not of yourself? This is where I feel the enemy attacks, trying to



tear down walls you spent time rebuilding through Christ, walls the adversary knows you are vulnerable in (John 10:10)!

This is exactly what happened to Job. Satan was allowed to afflict Job. He maximized his work against the man of God by bringing catastrophe to Job in the span of a few hours. Job lost his oxen, his servants, his sheep, his camels, and his sons and daughters. Satan knew what he was doing. He attacked Job in the most effective way possible. Satan works in ways that target your weakness within your flesh. He is conniving. He accomplishes his evil purposes by working through the evil character of fallen men. He brings about destruction because even the people thought God sent this fire, but that was only true in a very indirect sense. God had allowed it by removing a prior restriction. Sometimes, Satan wants to work in such a way that what he does will be blamed on God. His attack was clearly focused against Job, yet other people suffered because Satan attacked Job and God allowed him to be attacked. Job's animals, servants and children all perished because Job was the target. This can only be justified if we understand that they died sooner than expected, not that they died at all. We are all made for life and death, but this was a shock, given the timing.

"The rightness or wrongness of what God either allows or actively does can only be finally judged by the measure of eternity, not the measure of this life. We can only say that God either did right or wrong by these unfortunates by the eternal picture. Until then we trust what Abraham knew of God: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? (Genesis 18:25)." - David Guzik

This example shows such a sudden and tragic loss. But no matter what we face in this life, we will be SUPREMELY happy WITH HIM forever in the next! (Serenity Prayer). Reading this passage in Job takes what we think is important in this life and shows us the eternal aspect (James 1:12). We are to struggle well, but not forget that struggling well doesn't mean we don't hurt. It means we "feel the feels", then we take a searching and fearless moral inventory of that, align our hearts with the Father to simply see our part in it, and what it has taught us in our own walk with the Lord. That's when I have truly seen eye-opening things revealed in my walk.

Job lost everything except his faith. He embodies both grief – Job tore his robe and shaved his head – and trust in the Lord – he fell on the ground and worshiped. Wow! He worshiped! It is truly a revelation of Job's experiences and the answers carried within his experience. A trial creates a moment in which we don't know how things will work out. It wrecks our plans. But I love how James 1:3 explains how to respond when we face tribulation, because we will! May we see our struggles as a part of being shaped and molded into His image. May we embrace this until the day He returns or the day we are called home.



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Questions:

1. When you are in the midst of a struggle, do you find yourself learning and growing?
2. Do you truly find joy when your faith is tested? If not, what is it you're most concerned about?
3. Do you find direction from the Lord, or is there someone or something you turn to when you are experiencing difficult times? If the answer isn't the Lord, I pray you process through that and walk through it with your Journey Group.