



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Job

BIBLE TEXT | JOB 1:6-12

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** The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." **8** And 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, who fears God and turns away from evil?" **9** Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? **10** Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and 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 stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." **12** And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 1:6-12

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In this passage we see Satan and the Lord conversing about Job. In verses 9-11 of the passage, notice the charge that is laid against the Lord by Satan. Satan charges God with this problem: People only serve God selfishly. People only serve God because of what you do for them. Mortals only worship God out of self-interest. We see this in Satan's words: "You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land." Job serves you because you have put a hedge around him. You bless whatever he does. You are too good to him. If you were not good to him, then he would not serve. "Touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face."

Why do you serve God? This becomes the life question for Job. It's the essence of the trial that Job is about to face. It is also our life question and the essence of every trial and obstacle we face. To put the question another way: Is it God himself that Job cherishes, or is it the earthly pleasures that God gives that Job cherishes? It becomes obvious in



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later verses that Job truly loves the Lord. Job never turns against the Lord and he never blames the Lord for the trials he is about to go through. It boils down to the question Satan poses: is it God that we love, or do we merely love what he does for us? So many people who think they are followers and lovers of God follow for what God does for them and not for who God is.

Later in Job, you will see that Job's wife is a prime example of this. Job's afflictions began from the malice of Satan, by the Lord's permission, for wise and holy purposes. There is an evil spirit, the enemy of God, and of all righteousness, who is continually seeking to distress, to lead astray, and, if possible, to destroy those who love God (John 10:10). How far Satan's influence may extend, I cannot say; but probably much unsteadiness and unhappiness in Christians may be ascribed to him. While we are on this earth we are within Satan's reach. Hence it should concern us to be sober and vigilant (1 Peter 5:8), Satan has no power to lead us to sin, nor any power to afflict us, but what is given him from above. The Scripture speaks to teach us that God directs the affairs of the world, as we have read in this passage.

Questions:

1. Why do you serve God? Do you only serve Him during the good times?
2. Do you love God for who He is or only what He does for you?
3. Are you being vigilant and putting on the whole armor of God in your everyday life to protect yourself from the schemes of the enemy? (Ephesians 6:10-18)