

JOB'S TESTING (part one)

Since Job is listed first in the Wisdom Literature section of the English Bible, I choose to study it as a seven-act play (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon).

We will study selective passages from the following seven acts rather than each verse and chapter.

- Act 1 – Spiritual Testing (Job 1&2)
- Act 2 – Suffering for Christ (Job 3)
- Act 3 – First Debate of Suffering (Job 4-14)
- Act 4 – Second Debate of Suffering (Job 15-21)
- Act 5 – Third Debate of Suffering (Job 22-31)
- Act 6 – Special Speeches on Suffering (Job 32-41)
- Act 7 – Spiritual Restoration from Suffering (Job 42)

There are two sides to the Book of Job. There is the human side of undeserved suffering and the divine side of the blessing associated with it. James 5:10-11 brought this to light to me and inspired me to teach – Lessons from Job.

Act 1 explains why and how Job was chosen to represent the plan of God through UNDESERVED SUFFERING in the Angelic Conflict. Last week we learned WHY Job was chosen (1:1-5). This week we will learn HOW Job was chosen (1:6-22).

We will learn that Job's undeserved suffering will follow the format outlined in 1:1-3 (fear, fortune, and family).

- Fear (reverent need for God) (1:6-12, 9)
- Fortune (1:13-18)
- Family (1:19-22)

We will study the lesson text (1:6-22) by the following five homiletical points.

- Walking in world (1:6-7) - Satan (1 John 5:19)
- Witness in world (1:8) – Servant of God (1 John 4:4)
- Wickedness in world (1:9-12) – Scheming of Satan (2 Cor.2: 11) cosmos diabolicus.
- Woes of world (1:13-19): Four - 1:13-15 / Sabeen attack; 1:16 / Still speaking; 1:17 / Still speaking; 1:18-19 / Still speaking (John 16:33)
- Worship of Lord in world (1:20-22) – Spiritual mature believer passing ultimate testing in Angelic Conflict (1 Cor.10:13).

Note how the first testing in the Angelic Conflict ended – **“Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.” (1:22)**

There would be no testimony without TEST in it. There would only be I-mony. “You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.” (James 5:11)

We will study SIX aspects of a believer’s testing in the Angelic Conflict in order to understand the divine side of Job’s undeserved suffering.

1. As a member of God's dispensational divine agency, Job is a custodian of God's word and evangelism to the world.

Every Christian is a member of the divine agency, the Church. Therefore every Christian is a custodian of God's word and evangelism to the world (2 Cor.5: 18-20) ambassador.

The Angelic Conflict is the spiritual war between Satan and his forces and God and His divine agency. The angelic conflict began in eternity past when Satan led an angelic revolt against God that resulted in the fall of Satan (Isa.14:12-15; Ezek.28:11-19; Rev.12:4-13).

Satan and these fallen angels were sentenced to the lake of fire at the end of human history (Matt.25:41; Rev.12:4).

2. As a result of the fall of Satan, two categories of angels evolved: fallen and elect.

Fallen angels participated in the fall of Satan and elect angels didn't (Mark 8:38; 1 Tim.5:21).

Later two categories of fallen angels evolved: imprisoned and demons.

Imprisoned angels were involved in fall of the antediluvian civilization (Gen.6; 2 Pet.2:4; Jude 6).

The rest of the fallen angels became disembodied spirits called demons (Mark 5; 1 Cor.10:20-21; 1 Tim.4:1).

3. Demons are Satan's highly organized army engaged in warfare (angelic conflict) against both the human race and God dispensational divine agency (Eph.2: 1-3; 6:11-17; 2 Cor.4: 4; Matt.13: 36-43).

4. The human race was created to resolve the Angelic Conflict due to Satan's appeal of lake of fire sentence (G.U.A.M/ order of creation) (Job 1-2).

The human race was created inferior to angels but with volition (free will) (Heb.2: 6-7). Volition is the common denominator between angels and mankind. Volition makes them both free agents in the angelic conflict with the right of choice. Mankind has the right to accept or reject God's plan for their lives (Adam and Eve/ Gen.2-3; Rev.20: 10-15).

5. The fall of Adam is an example of how the angelic conflict extended to mankind (2 Cor.11: 3; 1 Tim.2: 13-15; Col.1: 13-14; Eph.5: 8).

Through Adam's fall, Satan gained control of the world system but not the volition of man (John 3:16-18; 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 17:15; 1 John 5:19).

6. God chose Jesus Christ to represent the plan of God as the Suffering Servant to resolve the Angelic Conflict for mankind (Luke 1:34-35/ virgin birth; impeccable/ 2 Cor.5: 21).

Jesus Christ resolved the Angelic Conflict by defeating Satan through dying on cross, burial, and resurrection (Col.2:14-15; 1 John 3:8; Heb.2:14-15; John 3:16; Eph.2:8-9).

Grace salvation removes the believer from Satan's dominion into Christ forever (Acts 26:18; 2 Cor.5: 17; Phil.2: 8-10). Every church age believer is placed in union with Christ a position superior to Satan and all angels (Heb.1: 4-14; 1 Cor.6: 3; 12:13; 1 Pet.1: 12-15; 4:1; Luke 15:7,10; 1 Cor.4: 9; 15:57).

Since the fall of Adam, the person and lineage of Christ has been the target of the Angelic Conflict (Gen.3: 15; 2 Cor.10: 3-5; 1 Pet.3: 17-22; 5:7-8; 1 Thess: 8-11; Col.2: 8).

WE ARE VICTOR'S IN CHRIST!