

ADVERSITY IN THE HEDGE (Part #1)

Question: “What other divine provision did Job have once God removed His grace hedge?”

“Have you not put a hedge (suk) around him and his house and everything he has? Satan to The Lord: "You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread through-out the land.” (Job 1:10).

This is the fourth lesson in a series entitled, “The Hedge of God,” taken from the Book of Job (see - doctrinal studies.com).

Lesson 1 – God’s Hedge

Lesson 2 – Living in the Hedge and not the Hood

Lesson 3 – Hemmed in the Hedge

Lesson 4 – Adversity in the Hedge

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of Adversity in the Hedge

It will answer the opening question and explain how categorical bible doctrine is the divine provision for the spiritually mature believer who finds himself under "adversity in the hedge".

1. There are two classifications of tests for the spiritual mature believer associated with God’s Hedge in the angelic conflict (AC).

- **The Prosperity Test:** Chs.1, 29, and 42 (note -29:1-6).
- **The Adversity Test** Chs. 30:1, 9-11, 16-19, 26-31.

Both require the knowledge and application of God’s word to the test.

2. During Job’s first and second Adversity Tests it is revealed that the divine provision for coping with the testing is cycling Categorical Bible Doctrine (CBD) - no matter what the human experience.

In the first adversity test, Job was experiencing the loss of all of his details of life (personal possessions such as children, servants, businesses, wealth, and those things that are attached with these things). How did Job cope with it? (Job 1:20-22).

In the second adversity test, Job loss all his physical health, friends, and reputation in the community. How did Job cope with it? (Job 2:7-10; 17:1-2, 7; 19:17-20; 42:1-3).

One important point of CBD was the Doctrine of the Essence of God:

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|--------------------|------------------|
| (S) Sovereignty | (O) Omniscience |
| (+R) Righteousness | (O) Omnipresence |
| (L) Love | (O) Omnipotent |
| (EL) Eternal Life | (I) Immutable |
| (H) Holy | (V) Veracity |

Elihu makes this point – “It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice.” (34:12)

God reminded Job in chs. 38-41 that the bottom line in the angelic conflict (AC) is attacks upon the character or essence of God (Isa.14: 12-15).

3. **What is really being tested is the spiritually mature believer's application of CBD, through the faith system to the pertinent human experience (test). (Eph.6: 10-13, 16; 1 Pet.5: 6-11).**

Hearing
(Rom.10: 17)

Completing
(James 2:22)

Believing
(Heb.4: 2)

Applying
(2 Cor.5: 7)

4. **Principle: The spiritual mature believer's testing is never greater than the CBD residing in his soul – “Wisdom is proven right by her action.” (Matt.11:19).**

CBD residing in the Believer's soul is a treasure of wisdom, a bank account of divine assets sufficient for every transactional need in the Christian Way of Life (CWL). (Matt.6: 19-21; Col.2: 1-3; 2 Cor.4: 6-10; Job 28:1-11)

“It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.” (Ps.119:71)

James 3:13-18 reminds us that there are two sources of wisdom in the world

- The Word of God, spiritual (Divine Viewpoint)
- Earthly, unspiritual (Cosmos Diablicus),

Job reminds us that the place to find true wisdom on earth is from God (28:12- 28) – “And he said to man, ‘the fear of the Lord – that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.’” (Job 28:28) (Ps.111: 10)

5. **The primary purpose of adversity testing in angelic conflict (undeserved suffering) is to bring the believer into “conformity to the likeness of His Son” (Rom.8: 18, 28-39).**

“And not only this, but we also exult in our **tribulation**, knowing that tribulation brings about **perseverance**; and perseverance, **proven character**; and proven character, hope; and **hope does not disappoint**, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given us.” (Rom.5:3-5)

“Consider (hegeomai / a.m.impv.2pl / command) it all joy, **my brethren**, when you encounter (periptopto / a.a.subj.2pl / to fall around or among) various trials (periasmos / lplm), knowing (ginosko / p.a.ptc.nplm) that the **testing of your faith produces endurance**. And **let endurance have its perfect result**, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (James 1:2-4)

“Behold (pay attention), **we count those blessed (makarizo / p.a.ind 1pl) who endured (tous hupomeno / a.a.ptc. aplm)**. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen (horao / a.a.ind 2pl) the **outcome (to telos / the end or purpose) of the Lord's dealings**, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.” (James 5:11; Job 42)