

JOB'S STORY
Old Testament Lesson #156

A blameless and upright man named Job (JOBE) "feared God and shunned evil." He had seven sons and three daughters and was very wealthy.

One day, Satan suggested to God that if God took everything from Job, "he will surely curse you to your face." To show Satan this was not so, God gave Job into the hands of Satan. Job's oxen, donkeys and camels were stolen, lightning burned up the sheep, and finally, a great wind killed all of Job's children.

Job responded, "The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." He did not sin. Then God allowed Job's health to be taken away and painful sores to form all over his body. But still Job did not sin.

Three of Job's friends went to comfort him. For seven days, they sat together before anyone spoke. Job finally cursed the day he was born and didn't understand why trouble was happening. His friends argued that God was punishing Job for some hidden sin, but Job refused to falsely confess something. They argued back and forth until a young man named Elihu (e-LI-hu) joined them and acted as a mediator. He said the explanations of the friends were wrong. (Suffering isn't necessarily proportional to a person's degree of sinfulness.) Then he turned to Job and said Job's thinking was also wrong. (Job had elevated his own righteousness and lost sight of the fact that God is in control.)

After Elihu finished speaking, God also spoke to Job, confirming what Elihu had said. Then Job recognized his error and repented of his words. God then told the three friends they had spoken wrongly about God. They should present an offering, and Job would pray for them. The LORD healed Job when he prayed for his friends and gave him twice as many possessions as he had before. He also blessed Job with another seven sons and three daughters.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- The word "Satan" means "adversary" in Hebrew and is really not a name. Jesus calls Peter "Satan" when he is behaving as an adversary to him (Matthew 16:23).
- The power used against Job is God's power. See Job 1:11 (Satan knew this); 2:3,5. God allowed Satan to use God's power to afflict Job.
- Noah, Daniel and Job are referred to in Ezekiel 14:20 as examples of righteous men.
- Job is referred to in James 5:11 as an example of one who persevered and received God's mercy.

Job's Story

- I. Job feared God and shunned evil.
 - A. He had a large family.
 - B. He was wealthy.
- II. An adversary wanted God to take everything from Job so Job would curse God.
 - A. The adversary took Job's animals and killed his children.
 - B. God took away Job's health.
 - C. Job did not sin or curse God when these tragedies happened.
- III. Job and his friends talked about the tragedies in Job's life.
 - A. Job cursed the day he was born and didn't understand why the trouble was happening.
 - B. His friends said God was punishing Job.
 - C. A mediator joined them and said all their reasoning was wrong.
- IV. God spoke directly to Job.
 - A. Job repented.
 - B. God told the friends to present an offering and have Job pray for them.
 - C. God healed Job and blessed him with many possessions and a new family.

ANSWER KEY:

N, A, M, E, L, O, R, D, P, R, A, I, S, E, D

"May the name of the LORD be praised!"