



## Lesson 3 Q4 2016

### Does Job Fear God for Naught?

#### SABBATH

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“But he said to her, ‘You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?’ In all this Job did not sin with his lips” (Job 2:10, NKJV).

From the Teacher’s Lesson:

“Key Concept for Spiritual Growth: The dialogue between Satan and God in the heavenly court showcases the big issue at stake in the great controversy, namely, the character of God. Is God a tyrant who manipulates human beings, either by fear or bribery, into submission and obedience—as Satan wants to make Him out to be—or is He a loving Father who sends His own Son to die on the cross in order to pay the price for our sins? *Your image of God will determine your stand in this cosmic battle and your reaction toward pain and suffering.*” (emphasis added).

Yes, indeed our image of God will determine our stand in the cosmic battle for hearts & minds.

#### SUNDAY

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##### God’s Servant, Job.

From the lesson:

“ ‘Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land’ ” (Job 1:10, NKJV). The book of Job opens by referencing not only Job’s righteousness and good character but also his material blessings and fruitful household. These were the specific things that helped make Job revered as “the greatest of all the men of the east” (Job 1:3, NASB). And these, too, are the specific things that Satan hurls in God’s face, saying basically, “Only because You have done this for him does he serve You.”

What, then, is implied in Satan’s charge that if God were to take these things away from Job, Job would “ ‘surely curse You to Your face’ ” (Job 1:11, NKJV)?

The attack, really, is an attack against God Himself. (This is what the whole great controversy is about anyway.) If God were so wonderful, so good, then Job would obey and fear and worship Him out of love and appreciation alone. After all, who wouldn’t love a God who had done so much for him?

In a sense, Satan was saying that God had all but bribed Job into being faithful to Him. Thus, he claimed, Job served God not out of love for God but out of his own selfish motives.



This is a great summation of Satan's allegations.

Unselfishness, the principle of God's kingdom, is the principle that Satan hates; its very existence he denies. From the beginning of the great controversy he has endeavored to prove God's principles of action to be selfish, and he deals in the same way with all who serve God. To disprove Satan's claim is the work of Christ and of all who bear His name. Ed 154.3.

## MONDAY

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### Skin for Skin

Round II. Back to the Heavenly meeting of the "Sons of God." Satan has, thus far been proved wrong about Job. He now states that if Jobs own person were threatened/injured, he would curse his Creator.

3 Then 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, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause."

4 So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. 5 But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

6 And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life."

7 So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job 2: 3-7.

Note that in verse 4, Satan states "... all that a man has he will give for his life." And verse 5, "But stretch out *Your* hand, now..." In the midst of all of the Sons of God, Satan tries to make it appear that God is the source of destruction/pain.

Who's hand was stretched out? Verses 6, 7.

## TUESDAY

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### Blessed be the Name of The Lord

20 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

21 And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1: 20, 21.

The lesson asks us to consider Job's response to the initial onset of calamities.

Also from the lesson:

"Central to God's government, *a government based on love, is freedom of choice.* God wants



us to serve Him because we love Him, not because we are forced to serve Him. “Satan insinuated that Job served God from selfish motives. . . . He attempted to deny that true religion springs from love and an intelligent appreciation of God’s character, that true worshipers love religion for its own sake—not for reward; that they serve God because such service is right in itself, and not merely because heaven is full of glory; and that they love God because He is worthy of their affection and confidence, and not merely because He blesses them.”—The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 3, p. 500.” Emphasis added.

I believe that the Law of Liberty is the most misunderstood and misapplied of all of God’s Natural Laws.

We are, also, encouraged to compare/contrast Job’s dealings with temptation with that of Adam & Eve and the relationship to “free will.”

What about Lucifer’s fall?

## WEDNESDAY

### Job’s Wife

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What, if any, significance is given to the phrase “hold fast to your integrity”? Do God and Job’s wife use the phrase with the same intent?

Our memory text is Job’s response to his wife’s question “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die.” Job 2: 9 NKJV

This is one of the very few recorded instances in Scripture, where a man said “NO” to his wife/Mother/daughter. Consider what would have happened if Abraham, Lot, Jacob, Samson, Herod, and Adam had followed in Job’s footsteps ...

“No, Sara. I will NOT take your handmaid, Hagar as a wife.” No Islam as we know it.

“No, girls. I don’t want any wine.” No Moabites. No Ammonites.

“No, mother. I will not participate in your deception of my father, Isaac.” No dueling sister wives for Jacob. No estrangement from Esau. Rebecca would have seen her son again.

“No, Delilah. I will not tell you the secret of my strength. Stop asking.” Who knows?

“No, Herodius. I will NOT give you the head of John the Baptist on a plate.” Who knows?

**“No, Eve. I will NOT take that fruit. I’m sorry you did. Good Luck.”** No sinful world as we know it.

Learn to say “NO”. And let your NO mean NO. Anything else is from the devil, according to our Savior.

From the memory text, we can conclude that Job wasn’t used to hearing foolish advice from his wife, and I credit him for recognizing foolish advice even in the position of pain/impaired health.



## **THURSDAY**

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### **Obedience Unto Death.**

What does the phrase “obedience unto death” mean?

Is this moving any gears in your brains? Revelation 12: 11, or all of the Gospel’s accounts of the Crucifixion, perhaps? Any others?

How was Job “obedient unto death”?

Did he have such a deep relationship with God that he trusted God to do what is right, even if it meant Job needed to die?

The teacher’s lesson describes a vague parallel between Job’s experience and that of Christ. What similarities/differences can we note?

Also ponder Satan’s access to Heaven during the time of the Old Testament. Did anything limit his access after Christ’s death/resurrection? What was it?