

## **FOUR MISTAKES IN THE BOOK OF JOB!**

**TEXT:** Job 1:6-12 & 2:4,5

**THESIS:** To reveal and correct the mistaken view of God and the fiery trials we often have.

**INTRO.:** A. The Bible is the Word and words of God. It contains no mistakes in its record, however it does contain a record of the mistakes made by men and others.

B. In the book of Job there is a record of at least 4 mistakes. These mistakes were made in Job's day and are often repeated today by people in this room. See if you can identify YOUR mistakes...

### **I. SATAN'S MISTAKE: 1:9-11**

***(HE ASSUMED JOB SERVED GOD BECAUSE OF HIS BLESSINGS!)***

A. Satan's Accusation: (He is limited in his knowledge!)

1. The implication is clear...Job is good because he is rich and secure...take away those material blessings and he will no longer be good!
2. The assumption is that possessions produce piety and that security prompts service.

**ILLUS.:** Have you ever been through something and couldn't figure out **"IS IT THE DEVIL OR THE LORD?!"** Note how closely the hand of God and the hand of Satan work so closely together that apart from Divine revelation and the illumination of the Holy Spirit, you cannot discern one from the other. When **disease, disability, death, debt, divorce, desertion, drug abuse or discouragement** show up we scratch our heads! Every dedicated child of God asks: ***"Is this obstacle THE LORD warning me to stop something or THE DEVIL trying to get me to quit?!"***

3. God **permits** Satanic opposition to Job to PROVE him!

B. God's Answer:

1. God had said "Check Job out." V.8a
2. God had given Satan His evaluation of Job: v.8b
  - a. **"perfect"** – personally righteous
  - b. **"upright"** – "straight" (consistency and loyalty)
  - c. **"feared God"** – feared His power but also feared displeasing Him
  - d. **"eschewed evil"** – avoided sin, led a separated life

**NOTE:** Job's character was not a veneer which might be scratched to reveal a shameful interior stained with secret sins. His righteousness was both public and private.

3. God says to Satan: ***"Sic em!"*** vv.11,12: 2:5,6

## II. JOB'S WIFE'S MISTAKE: 2:9,10

***(SHE THOUGHT MATERIAL LOSS WAS EVERYTHING!)***

**NOTE:** Job had lost his herds of oxen & asses & his hired hands thru rustlers, his flocks of sheep and shepherds thru an electrical storm, his camels and camel drivers thru bandits, his sons and daughters thru a tornado and for the piece de resistance he came down with the worst case of painful boils in history!  
***(And you think you have troubles!!!)***

A. Job's Wife's Counsel: v.9 ***"curse God and die"!***

1. The implication is clear...Job is good because he was rich and had a great family...take them away and he will curse the God he served.
2. Job's "help meet" becomes his worst nightmare!

**NOTE:** Shirley knew my faults and my strengths, my highs and lows, even my shortcomings and sins and never once criticized me or ridiculed me or belittled me! ***Be careful who you chose as friends or partners!!!***

3. Job didn't have enough problems, he now had a materialistic, situation ethics, "serve God as long as the sun shines and there is money in the bank" nagging wife!

**NOTE:** His wife's mentality is that of those who equate "success" with spiritual power, "position" with spirituality, "attendance records" with God's blessings, "wealth" with God's approval, "health" with God's

love, etc. She is akin to Mrs. Adam, Mrs. Abraham, Mrs. Moses, Mrs. David and Mrs. John Westley who followed him to preaching engagements and openly accused him of immorality, etc. She was Satan's tool. One of the worst trials Job faced was inflicted on him by his wife...the closest person left to him now!!!

## B. Job's Counter: v.10

1. He labels her a fool!
2. He responds with a classic statement!
  - a. Job is willing to take the blights with the blessings (but not without response).
  - b. Job knows that material loss is not the worst loss.

**NOTE:** Someone objects: ***"God could have lessened Job's sufferings by at least letting Job know what was going on."*** True, but He did not choose to do so. In fact, Job was not meant to know the explanation of his trials. If Job had known there would be no place for faith. **(The Scriptures are as wise in their reservations as in their revelations!)** Enough is revealed to make faith intelligent. Enough is reserved to give faith scope for development. - Baxter

## III. JOB'S FRIEND'S MISTAKE: 22:9-11

***(THEY BELIEVED THAT SUFFERING WAS THE RESULT OF JOB'S SIN!)***

### A. Right Motivation: 2:11-13

1. At first they were a blessing.
2. They wept with him and fellowshiped in his suffering.
  - a. They sat silently with him for 7 days.
  - b. They empathized with him.

#### B. Wrong Evaluation:

***Job 22:5-6 Is not thy wickedness great? and thine iniquities infinite?*** (Blabbermouth Eliphaz summarizes what they believed)

**NOTE:** Their collective opinion was that Job's calamities were in proportion to the depth of his sin. They believed that Divine favor or what appears to be God's disfavor is indicated by material prosperity or adversity. Job calls them "***miserable comforters***" - "***physicians of no value***" (16:2) & "***forgers of lies***" 13:4.

#### IV. JOB'S MISTAKE: 10:18,19

**(JOB THOUGHT GOD WAS BEING UNKIND!)**

##### A. Job's Failure:

1. Because of his calamities he fails to see God's grace and mercy in the PRESENT!

**Ps 77:7-9** *Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more? 8 Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore? 9 Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah.*

2. His eyes are so dimmed w/tears he cannot see God's hand and his voice is so weakened he forgets God's ear is opened to his children, his body is so racked with pain his mind doesn't think clearly.

**NOTE:** It is always a bad time to make decisions or make statements when you are in the midst of a trial. When you can't read His Word or pray or go to church...you need to trust in His wisdom, kindness & grace!

#### B. Job's Faith:

1. Some of the most sublime thoughts and revelations of the person of God are spoken By Job as he answers his "friends".
2. He speaks of the great works of God in the PAST and what God will do in the FUTURE.

**Job 19:23-27** *23 Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book 24 That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever! 25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: 26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: 27 Whom I shall see for*

*myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.*

**CONCL.:** God wonderfully blesses Job at the end of his miseries (42:10-13). He restores everything Job lost and he lived another 140 years!

*[Mrs. Job not so much...she spent the next 90 months pregnant with 10 more kids, craving peanut butter and pickles and having contractions and birth pangs!]*

Don't ever believe or think that God has forgotten YOU in troublesome times! If he doesn't see fit to relieve your sufferings or pain or your rewards are waiting for you in Heaven if you just trust Him! **He makes no mistakes!!!**