

Insight for the Issues

Prov. 4:23

NE → XT STEPS

Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart** with all diligence; for **out of it are the issues of life.**

“The Sovereignty of God and the Free Will of Man”

Tonight, we continue looking at a controversial issue that directly, or indirectly, affects many churches across America and around the world...

“The Sovereignty of God and the Free Will of Man”

The foundational principle to guide us in understanding this issue is to consider...

I. THE CHARACTER OF GOD

II. THE COMMANDS OF GOD

- ❖ Man’s disobedience to the Creator is an exhibition of free will.

III. THE COMPASSION OF GOD

- ❖ Freedom in Christ = freedom to serve Him AS A CHOICE.

Summary

God is in control of EVERYTHING.

- ❖ In the midst of His omnipotence, He allows mankind to exercise free will.
- ❖ In the midst of His omniscience, He knows the choices mankind will make.
- ❖ In the midst of His omnipresence, He establishes the boundaries of man's limitations.
- ❖ God's foreknowledge of man's decisions does not abrogate His sovereignty.

The Book of Job, acclaimed to be the oldest book of the Bible, gives us an overview of a man's life from two perspectives – (1) from God's perspective and (2) from man's perspective.

- ❖ The Book of Job is an overview of God's sovereignty, Satan's accusations, and man's frailty in discernment.
- ❖ Job's life is a revelation of a man's thinking and reasoning during confusion times in his life.
- ❖ In spite of the confusion, Job retained a righteous testimony for the glory of God.

Ezek. 14:14 Though these three men, **Noah**, **Daniel**, and **Job**, were in it, they should deliver *but* their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD. ...

20 Though **Noah**, **Daniel**, and **Job**, were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall *but* deliver their own souls by their righteousness.

Jas. 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. **Ye have heard of the patience of Job**, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

Original Word: ἰώβ

Transliteration: Iob

Definition: Job, a patriarch

"the cry of woe" or "I will exclaim"

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G2492&t=KJV>

יָבֹא = "hated" <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=H347&t=KJV>

– i. e. harassed, afflicted (but questioned;) <https://biblehub.com/greek/2492.htm>

Transliteration: Iyob

Phonetic Spelling: (ee-yobe')

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/347.htm>

❖ Job's life is interesting upon earth, but also, his life stirred interest in heaven.

We will look at God's sovereignty in regard to the life of Job.

I. THE INTEREST IN JOB FROM THE HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE

A. The Spiritual Perspective

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

Job 1:8 And **the LORD said** unto Satan, Hast thou considered **my servant Job**, that ***there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?***

❖ The Lord described Job as one who had an extraordinary testimony.

B. The Satanic Perspective

Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for **the accuser of our brethren** is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Job 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, **Doth Job fear God for nought?**

10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

- ❖ Satan described Job as one fearing God for nothing, i. e. “nought.”
- ❖ Satan described Job as on being totally protected by God.

Job 1:10a Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side...”

❖ Satan described Job as one being blessed, materially, by God.

Job 1:10b “...thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land”

❖ Satan knew, and understood, the sovereignty of God.

C. The Suffering Perspective

Job 1:11 But put forth thine hand now, and **touch all that he hath**, and he will curse thee to thy face.

- ❖ Satan accused Job of faithfulness due to materialism and acclaimed the loss of it would move Job to blasphemy.
- ❖ Satan later accused Job of rejection of the Lord if his health was destroyed.

Job 2:4 And Satan answered the LORD, and said, **Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.**

5 But put forth thine hand now, and **touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.**

- ❖ Job's wife was an intimate tool of discouragement and suffering, urging Job to blaspheme God.

Job 2:9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? **curse God, and die.**

Summary

❖ Job suffered the loss of everything:

- His family.
- His livelihood.
- His health.
- His wife's respect.

D. The Security Perspective

Job 1:12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath *is* in thy power; **only upon himself put not forth thine hand**. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he *is* in thine hand; **but save his life.**

❖ God's sovereignty is displayed by what He does and does not allow Satan to do.

1 Cor. 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but **God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able**; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

II. THE INTEREST IN JOB FROM THE EARTHLY PERSPECTIVE

A. The Perspective from the Friends

Job 2:11 Now when **Job's three friends** heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; **Eliphaz** the Temanite, and **Bildad** the Shuhite, and **Zophar** the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.

Eliphaz

Job 4:1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said,
7 Remember, I pray thee, who *ever* perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off?

Job 15:1 Then answered Eliphaz the Temanite, and said,
5 For thy mouth uttereth thine iniquity, and thou chooseth the tongue of the crafty.

6 Thine own mouth condemneth thee, and not I: yea, thine own lips testify against thee. ...

12 Why doth thine heart carry thee away? and what do thy eyes wink at,
13 That thou turnest thy spirit against God, and lettest *such* words go out of thy mouth?

Job 22:1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said,
5 *Is* not thy wickedness great? and thine iniquities infinite?

Bildad

Job 8:1 Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,
3 Doth God pervert judgment? or doth the Almighty pervert justice?
4 If thy children have sinned against him, and he have cast them away for their transgression;
5 **If thou wouldest seek unto God** betimes, and make thy supplication to the Almighty;
6 **If thou wert pure and upright**; surely now he would awake for thee, and make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous.

Job 18:1 Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,
2 How long *will it be ere* ye make an end of words? mark, and afterwards we will speak. ...

21 Surely such *are* the dwellings of the wicked, and this *is* the place of *him that* knoweth not God.

Job 25:1 Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said, ...

4 How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean *that is* born of a woman?

Zophar

Job 11:1 Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said,

2 Should not the multitude of words be answered? and should a man full of talk be justified?

3 Should **thy lies** make men hold their peace? and when thou mockest, shall no man make thee ashamed? ...

20 But the eyes of the wicked shall fail, and they shall not escape, and their hope *shall be as* the giving up of the ghost.

Job 20:1 Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said,

4 Knowest thou *not* this of old, since man was placed upon earth,

5 That the triumphing of the wicked *is* short, and the joy of the hypocrite *but* for a moment?

6 Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds;

7 **Yet he shall perish for ever like his own dung:** they which have seen him shall say, Where *is* he? ...

27 The heaven shall reveal his iniquity; and the earth shall rise up against him.

28 **The increase of his house shall depart, and his goods shall flow away** in the day of his wrath.

29 **This *is* the portion of a wicked man from God, and the heritage appointed unto him by God.**

❖ Job's friends missed God's sovereign dealings with Job!

Job 42:7 And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, **the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me *the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath.***

❖ God, who is sovereign, has a plan for our lives, and sometimes, we are not exactly clear in our understanding on what that plan is =
WALK BY FAITH!

Rom. 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good to them that love God**, to them who are the **called according to *his* purpose.**

B. The Perspective from Job

Job 1:20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

22 **In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.**

Job 2:10 But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? **In all this did not Job sin with his lips.**

Job 9:20 **If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.**

Job 13:15 **Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:** but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

Job 16:1 Then Job answered and said,

2 I have heard many such things: **miserable comforters are ye all.**

20 **My friends scorn me:** *but* mine eye poureth out *tears* unto God.

Job 19:1 Then Job answered and said,

2 **How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words?**

3 These **ten times have ye reproached me:** ye are not ashamed *that* ye make yourselves strange to me. ...

14 My kinsfolk have failed, and **my familiar friends have forgotten me.**

15 They that dwell in mine house, and my maids, **count me for a stranger:** I am an alien in their sight.

16 I called my servant, and he gave *me* no answer; I intreated him with my mouth.

17 **My breath is strange to my wife**, though I intreated for the children's *sake* of mine own body.

18 Yea, **young children despised me**; I arose, and they spake against me.

19 All **my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me. ...**

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:**

Job 23:10 But he knoweth the way that I take: **when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.**

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, **Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.**

Summary

- ❖ Satan's experiment on Job's free will was an assault upon God's sovereignty and Job's consequential fidelity.
- ❖ The whole Bible is a record of God's will and man's freedom to obey or disobey it, and the resultant consequences, both good and bad for mankind.
- ❖ If man does not have free will, why would the Creator give any opportunities to disobey, i. e. commandments, etc.
- ❖ The Book of Job clearly demonstrates God's sovereignty, love, mercy and grace.
- ❖ Job is an example of prosperity, loss, suffering, depression, patience, and restoration while in the midst of "controlled" challenges.
- ❖ The Book of Job is an encouragement to any believer facing unbearable challenges in life = WALK BY FAITH – TRUST GOD.



Prov. 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart**; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**

Conclusion

Job 42:1 Then Job answered the LORD, and said,
2 I know that thou canst do every *thing*, and *that* no thought can be withholden from thee.

10 And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. ...

12 So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

13 He had also seven sons and three daughters.