

=SMALL BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 3

Job

INTRODUCTION: The Scofield Reference Bible reminds us that Job is in the form of a dramatic poem. It is probably the oldest of the books of the Bible. It was written before the giving of the law. Let us notice the teachings of the book of Job.

I. JOB BEFORE HIS CATASTROPHE.

1. He was perfect. Read Job 1:1. The word “perfect” means “mature,” “completely developed,” “well-rounded,” etc. It is likened unto a man who has both his legs, both feet, all his toes, both arms, both eyes, both ears; in other words, his body is “complete.” Job was a “complete” man, a “well-rounded” man, an “appropriate” man. (Teacher, stress the importance of this to your class members.)
2. He was upright. The word “upright” means he “walked a straight line.” He did not veer to the right or to the left.
3. He feared God. The word “feared” here in verse 1 means that he respected and revered God. In other words, there was respect as long as he lived right, and there was fear when he did wrong.
4. He hated sin. At the end of Job 1:1, notice the words, “eschewed evil.” This means Job had a bitter hatred for sin. The word “eschewed” is actually a stronger word than our word “hate.”
5. He had ten children. See Job 1:2.
6. He had 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys. Notice Job 1:3. He was the richest man of the east. In other words, he was a wonderful Christian man and a very prosperous man.

II. JOB’S ATTACK FROM SATAN. Read Job 1:6-12. The best man will always receive the biggest attack from Satan. The higher we go, the more dangerous the Christian life is and the more careful we ought to be. Satan attacks us in direct proportion to our Christian growth.

III. JOB’S TRAGEDY.

1. He lost his riches. Job 1:13-17.
2. He lost his children. Job 1:18-20.
3. He lost his health. Job 2:1-8.
4. He lost the loyalty of his wife. Job 2:9, 10.
5. He lost the faithfulness of his friends. Job 2:11, 12. The following chapters of Job teach us that these were not “true” friends. They blamed Job for his condition. They did not stay true. (Teacher, take some time to teach the class the importance of staying true to one’s friends.)

Job suffered so much that he cursed the day he was born. He wished that he had died as an infant, and he wanted to die even then.

IV. JOB’S SIN. Yes, Job sinned! What was Job’s sin? Notice Job 3:25, 26. Job was afraid he would lose what he had. Notice the words, “The thing which I greatly feared is come upon me.” In other words, Job did not have faith to believe that things would work out all right. He was afraid what had happened would happen. In verse 26 he says, “I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came.” In other words, he did not trust God to keep him as he was.

There is still another sin of Job. If one reads Job 38 and 39, he will find this sin. Job became proud after he had stood the test. His sin before he stood the test was fearing that things would get worse. His sin after he stood the test was being proud of the fact that he did stand the test. He said in Job 13:15, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.” Again he said, “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth,” Job 19:25. After Job had stood, he became proud, so the Lord came in chapters 38 and 39 and talked to him. (Teacher, read some of these things the Lord said to Job.) The Lord was saying, “Job, you’re not so hot. Where were you when I did all of these things? How many of these people have you made?” He was trying to lower Job in his own estimation. His

effort succeeded. After the Lord reminded Job of his own littleness, Job learned his lesson. We can see in Job 42:1-6 that he is a new man. Notice verse 6 especially, "Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

- V. JOB'S REWARD. Read Job 42:12-16. Job received exactly twice what he had before: twice as many sheep, twice as many donkeys, twice as many oxen, twice as many camels, and God gave him ten children. Why didn't God give him twenty children? This is the reason: When donkeys die, they're dead; when camels die, they're dead; when sheep die, they're dead; when oxen die, they're dead; but when children die, they are not dead! Job did have twenty children! He had ten in Heaven and ten on earth.

CONCLUSION: There are several things to learn. The first one is that what we have, God gives us. We need to trust Him not to take it away, or at least to do what is best. Then we also ought to be mature and walk straight before God. When we do stand the test for the Lord, we should not become proud. We should stop to realize that if we stand the test, God will reward us in the end.