

Job said: "The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." (Job 1:21)

Faithful God, you are the source of all peace and comfort. In times of suffering, may we be reminded of the glory that is to come because of your steadfast love for us. Thank you for giving us your Holy Spirit to intercede on our behalf and for continuing to give us hope, no matter what we face. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Introduction

Job was a wealthy and prosperous man who was faithful to the Lord in all his ways. But Satan claimed that Job's faithfulness was only due to the favor God had shown him. Satan proposed that if he was stripped of all his blessings, Job would turn away from God.

Read: Job 1:1, 2:1-13

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

The Biblical Context

Throughout the Old Testament you can find instances of poetry, proverbs, and songs. But there are some books in the Bible written entirely in this style. In addition to the Law and the Prophets, the Jewish people referred to this third category in the Bible as the Writings.

The Bible is honest in reflecting the real-life experience of faith in our lives — both good times and bad. The people of Scripture were not so different from us; they experienced joy as well as pain, happiness as well as hardship. This is seen very clearly in the Book of Job, in how he struggled with his great misfortune and yet remained faithful to his God. The book ends when God speaks to Job from a whirlwind.

The period in which Job lived is hard to place on a historical timeline. It has a timeless quality about it, exploring questions of good and evil and the reality that even good people can experience suffering.

Discussion Questions

1. Skim through Job 1. What did Satan do to Job in this chapter? What did Satan do in our lesson for today from Chapter 2?
2. Read Job 1:8 and 2:3. What did God say about Job? Read Job 1:9-11 and 2:4-5. What explanations did Satan give for why Job was faithful to God? Was Satan right or wrong?
3. Do you think Satan is at work in our modern day? What kind of evidence do you see in the world that evil is real?
4. How do you think Job felt when all this happened to him? Why did he not blame and curse God? Do you think that you would have reacted like Job?
5. Read 1 Peter 5:6-11. What advice does Peter give us for how we should face evil and suffering in our own lives? What is God's promise to us?
6. From what you see in the story of Job, does being a faithful person mean that nothing bad will ever happen to you in life? How does knowing God is with us help us deal with suffering and get us through the difficult times we face?
7. Read Romans 8:18-26. How does the whole Creation suffer the effects of evil? Can you give some examples? Will the world always be this way?
8. In the midst of his suffering, Job never stopped praying and talking to God. Why is prayer so important? In what way is God's Holy Spirit at work when we pray?