

Misconceptions part 2

Misconceptions with Job

God told Satan to persecute Job

Job 1:6-8 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." ⁸ 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?"

Almost every believer at some point feels something is wrong with verse 8.

- Most translations say something akin to "Have you considered Job."
- When we feel like something is wrong, we should ask God about what we are reading. It may be our interpretation, or we may learn something new about God's character.
- What are the "Red Flags" with this idea that God suggests that Satan harm Job?
 - It is uncharacteristic for God
 - God would use Satan to carry out His purposes
 - It conflicts with New Testament verses where Satan is defeated by God
 - Satan, while subject to God because of God's power, is not a servant of God

So what is the truth of this passage?

- It is the translation in part, and our lack of understanding spiritual authority in part

- **Job 1:8 (LITV)** And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you set your heart on My servant Job because *there is* none like him in the earth, a perfect and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil?
- **Job 1:8 (LSB)** Then Yahweh said to Satan, "Have you set your heart upon My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."
- In reality, God is not suggesting that Satan harm Job, He is calling out Satan and revealing that He already knows Satan's intentions.

Job 1:9-11 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

- Then in verse 11 Satan suggests that God harm Job. Satan wants God to attack Job. Satan was gunning for Job.
- God responds with vs. 12 - And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has *is* in your power; only do not lay a hand on his *person*." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.
 - Was God granting permission to Satan to attack Job?
 - No! God was stating a fact that the authority that was given to people in the garden was handed to Satan when they sinned.
 - By restricting Satan's hand, God is actually protecting Job.

What problems arise when we look at this passage incorrectly?

- We develop a bad thinking about who God is. That He persecutes people to test their loyalty
- We may believe that God and Satan team up.
- We may lose trust in God, especially that He has good in store for us.
- God gives Satan permission to harm us

What should we actually learn?

- God is all-knowing, even of the enemy's plans and schemes
- There is a real thing as Spiritual Authority
 - BTW – Jesus reclaims that authority when He resurrected
- Satan intends us harm
- God intends us Good
- God was protecting Job all along. Without God the enemy is in a no holds barred attack state of being.

How does this affect the way we read Luke 22:31-34?

Luke 22:31-34 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren." ³³ But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death." ³⁴ Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me."

- The word asked = exaiteomai = to demand
- **Luke 22:31 (LSB)** Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded to sift *all of* you like wheat.

Number 2

Does God Give and Take Away?

Job 1:20-21 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."

What is wrong with the idea that the Lord gives and the Lord takes away?

- **James 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.
- **Romans 11:29** For the gifts and the calling of God *are* irrevocable.
- Who actually takes away?
- **John 10:10** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

What is actually happening here?

- Job is having up to this point, the worst day of his life. He is distraught.
- This passage is Job, a godly man, trying to make sense of a situation in which he does not know what is happening.
- Job was not privy to the aforementioned conversation
- Who actually took away?
 - Job is ascribing to God something Satan did

So, is the Bible wrong where this verse is concerned?

- No. If we read this verse in context to the whole chapter, we realize this is just the story of a bad day for someone, their reaction and finally, 42 chapters later, God's answer to it.
- Job had the right attitude – no matter what God is to be praised, but he had the wrong doctrine.
- This is us looking at the life of someone. It is a moment of transparency and vulnerability. It is not a place to look at for accurate doctrine. The lives of people are shown to us so we can see real life and relate to those times. Then, real doctrine is provided for us to interpret that with.

- **Job 42:3** Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.
 - Job regrets many of the things he said.

What does a wrong interpretation of this verse do?

- It gives us the wrong idea of who God is.
- It lessens our faith in His promises
- We may not trust things in our lives to God

What does a right interpretation do for us?

- We see others struggling and know that we sometimes struggle
- We see that it is possible to misinterpret what is happening in the spirit and that we can trust God
- We see how the enemy is working behind the scenes to get us to doubt God
- We see we can trust God even when we don't understand
- We see that even when we get it wrong, God is there to bring us back to a right place and understanding.

Number 3

We can pick any verse out of Job that describes God and learn about Him

(Eleazar) Job 5:17-18 ¹⁷ "Behold, happy *is* the man whom God corrects; Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. ¹⁸ For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole.

- God came to give us abundant life. He does not smite us with the things He has redeemed us from.
- And of course, in Job, we have already seen that this came from Satan, not God.

Job 23:3 Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, *That* I might come to His seat!

Job 23:8-9 "Look, I go forward, but He is not *there*, And backward, but I cannot perceive Him; ⁹ When He works on the left hand, I cannot behold *Him*; When He turns to the right hand, I cannot see *Him*.

- God is not hidden from us nor difficult to find.
- **Psalms 139:7-10** Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰ Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.
- **Jeremiah 29:13** And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Job 2:9-10 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" ¹⁰ 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.

- Again, the adversity was not from God.
- Why did Job get so much wrong?

1. "Job had no written Word of God so he had no references to teach him about God. Job had no Bible.
2. Living east of Palestine in the days of Isaac and Jacob means that Job was not a member of the chosen family.
3. Job had no preacher or prophet to instruct him.
4. Job had no covenant because he was not of Abrahams seed.
5. Job did not have the Holy Spirit to lead or guide him.

We cannot read Scripture without looking at what is really happening. To pick random verses out of the Bible and build doctrine is foolish.

Job is the account of what happened. When we read the full book including the conclusions drawn after God speaks, then we can begin to build doctrines and beliefs from this book.