**Central Baptist Church /Bible Study/ June 3, 2020**

**The Fidelity of Job!!!!**

The storm begins for Job with a great many atrocities coming upon Job.

**1. The Coming of the Atrocities (**[**Job 1:12-15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A12-15)**)**

[**Job 1:12-15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A12-15) **(KJV)**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.
13  And there was a day when his sons and his daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:
14  And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them:
15  And the Sabeans fell *upon them*, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

Scripture gives a detailed description of the coming of the atrocities upon Job. It is a painful picture.

***•*** *"The Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand"* ([Job 1:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A12)). We note three things about the permission for the coming of these atrocities upon Job. **First,** the sovereignty in the permission. God had to give permission or the atrocities would not have come upon Job. The trials of Job were not a result of Satan overpowering God and God losing control. The trials came because God permitted them. God is still running the show. No affliction that comes to us is apart from God's permission.

 **Second,** the purpose in the permission. God's permission means God has a purpose. God does not act capriciously but purposefully. The purpose here primarily involved the honor of God which Satan had challenged. **Third,** the stipulation in the permission. *"Upon himself put not forth thine hand."* Satan could not touch Job's health; that will come later after Satan is proved wrong in the first of his two attacks upon Job.

***• .*** *"So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord"* ([Job 1:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A12)). Satan did not wait around to do his evil but immediately began afflicting Job. Evil is zealous. Saints need to be as zealous for doing God's bidding as Satan was for doing evil.

***• .*** *"Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord* [to do evil]*"* ([Job 1:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A12)). One would think that after being in the presence of God, Satan would want to act better, but evil is not inspired by Divine influence. Evil knows no bounds, recognizes nothing as sacred. It can go to church and after a service head out to do mischief.

***•*** *"There was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house"* ([Job 1:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A13)). Satan's attack came during a time of pleasure. Satan not only would take away Job's possessions but would also take away any pleasures he might have. Any pleasure Satan gives has a hook in it, and the pleasures of the saints he will try to remove. That explains why when the pastor is rejoicing after a great service at church some dissident comes up to the pastor and makes some disparaging remark.

***• .*** *"There came a messenger unto Job… I only am escaped alone to tell thee"* ([Job 1:14, 15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A14-15); cp. [Job 1:16, 17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A16-17), [19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A19)). Satan allowed at least one of the servants to escape each atrocity in order to inform Job of the sad news. Satan makes sure there are bearers of bad news around. He has them in every church—people who are always hanging crepe on every effort by the church to do God's work.

**2. The Consecutiveness of the Atrocities (**[**Job 1:16-18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A16-18)**)**

[**Job 1:16-18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A16-18) **(KJV)**16  While he *was* yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.
17  While he *was* yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.
18  While he *was* yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

*"While he was yet speaking"* ([Job 1:16-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A16-18)). Job's troubles came one on top of the other. It is a common to experience troubles in bunches. Even Shakespeare said they "come not single foes, but in battalions." Satan would overwhelm Job and not give him a chance to recover from any trial before another one comes upon him. Satan would aggravate every trial as much as he could to give Job as much pain as possible.

**3. The Catalog of the Atrocities (**[**19**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A19)**)**

Four great atrocities befell Job because of Satan's work.

***• The Sabeans.*** *"The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them; And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away… they have slain the servants"* ([Job 1:14, 15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A14-15)). The Sabeans lived in Arabia and where cruel plunderers. Here they attacked when the servants were off guard plowing, when the asses were feeding and they stole the livestock and killed the servants except the one who escaped. The Sabeans were indeed of the character of Satan.

***• The fire.*** *"The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants"* ([Job 1:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A16)). The fire was either lightening but more like burning brimstone that fell upon the sheep and servants caring for them and killed them all except the one who escaped to tell the bad news.

***• The Chaldeans.*** *"The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants"* ([Job 1:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A17)). These early Chaldeans were predatory like the Sabeans. Using three bands was their evil strategy and killing the servants would facilitate their escape.

***• The wind.*** *"There came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead"* ([Job 1:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+1%3A19)). The wind was probably a tornado which destroyed the house and the occupants. Though the occupants are called *"young men,"* they also included the daughters of Job. The wind wiped our Job's progeny.