Motivation: Why do bad things happen to good people? Job gives us the best perspective on suffering in the Bible. All of us will suffer at some time; the difference will be made by how we react to it.

Examination:

I. Wealth Test (1:1-22)

A. Job the Man (1:1-5)

1. Job’s Character (1) – “a man of perfect integrity who feared God and turned away from evil.” (1) It is crucial to the book to understand Job as a truly good and righteous man.

2. Job’s Family (2-4) - The title of “the greatest man among all the people in the east” (3) seems to be based on God’s blessings:

   a) a large and close family “He had seven sons and three daughters” (2)

   b) great material possessions “7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels” (3)
c) impeccable character “perfect character” (1)

3. **Job’s Relationship with God** (5) – Job’s character is based on his relationship with God. Not only did he turn away from evil, he offered sacrifices to protect his children.

4. **Job’s Time** (5) - Since offering sacrifices by anyone other than a priest was proscribed by Mosaic law, we can place him in the Patriarchal period, sometime between Adam and Abraham. HCSB, p. 825: 1:1 “The English rendering of Job’s name comes from the Septuagint (LXX), the Greek translation of the OT. The Hebrew form reflects a name that is common in the ancient Near East, meaning ‘where is the (heavenly) father.’ The name carries a double significance for the story. Not only will Job wonder whether God has abandoned him, but it suggests the deeper questions: Is God really sufficient for every aspect of life? Will He be there when I need Him? Uz could name a place east of the Jordan River anywhere from Aram to Edom (Gn 10:22-23; Lm 4:21). Job’s devotion to God was wholehearted. He had perfect integrity (lit. he was ‘blameless and upright’) and walked wisely before the Lord (28:28). This indicates that Job had a consistent spiritual walk, not that he was sinless.”

**B. Satan’s First Accusation** (1:6-12)

1. **Things We Learn About God:**

   a. God takes interest in our specific actions “Have you considered my servant Job?” (8)

   b. God is pleasded by our righteous actions “a man of perfect integrity who fears God and turns away from evil” (8)

   c. God is more concerned with our spiritual growth than our physical comfort.
2. **Things We Learn About Satan: HCSB**, p. 825: **1:7-8** “The Lord’s questions suggest that Satan came to the meeting uninvited but do not indicate that God was ignorant of Satan’s activities. God’s omniscience is attested throughout the Scriptures (Ps 139:7-12). Instances in which he asks questions are acts of accommodation that allow Him to relate to humans via dialogue.”

   a. God knows what is in the mind of Satan (8)

   b. Satan is behind the evils on earth. Eph. 2:1-3 **HCSB**, p. 825: **1:9-11** “Satan challenged Job’s motives for fearing God. He suggested that Job’s devotion to God depended on his life circumstances.”

   c. Satan is not omnipresent. 1 Peter 5:8-9

   d. Satan does nothing constructive. John 10:10

   e. Satan can do nothing without God’s permission. (v. 12) Eph. 4:27

   f. God’s permission is always limited (v. 12; I Corinthians 10:13). **HCSB**, p. 825: **1:12** “The limitation God imposed on Satan’s testing demonstrated the Lord’s desire that Job be a trophy of God’s grace even in his suffering.”

   g. Satan does have amazing power (vv. 13-19). Satan’s power is seen in verses 13-19.

**C. Tragedy Strikes Job (1:13-22)**
1. **Job’s Reaction to Trouble:** Although the servants ascribe the events to God (16), we know that it was Satan who sent the raiders, the fire and the wind. Even though we might expect negative emotions like anger, fear, worry or doubt, Job worshiped God, staying true to his character. (20)

2. **Job’s Relationship to Material Possessions:** (20-22) “Then Job stood up, tore his robes, and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and worshiped, saying: Naked I came from my mother’s womb and naked I will leave this life. The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Praise the name of Yahweh. Throughout all this Job did not sin or blame God for anything.”

   a. Job realized that we enter life empty-handed and will leave the same way. Possessions are a means to an end rather than a basis for security, significance or a means to keep score.

   b. Job realized that wealth comes from God. As the story develops, this is an accepted principle of all Job’s friends. However, Job states something entirely new: since God gives wealth, it is also His to take away regardless of our actions.

   c. Job realized that the ultimate issue is not our money but our relationship to God. Job represented an idea: we should be so attached to God and so detached from material possessions that their loss or gain only strengthens our reliance on God. Having lost all his possessions and his children, Job blessed God, exactly opposite the reaction Satan expected!

HCSB, p. 826:
1:20
“Tearing one’s garments (Gn 37:34; 2 Ch 34:19) and shaving one’s head (Am 5:10) were symbolic acts of grief. Job’s falling to the ground to worship God reflected a traditional method of showing reverence” (Jos 5:14; Rv 1:17).
1:21-22
“Job recognized that ultimately the Lord determines all things, so he submitted himself to God’s sovereign will. The word praise occurs in verse 11 where it is translated ‘curse’. Rather than cursing God as Satan had predicted, Job blessed his
name and did not blame God. The word ‘name’ reflects the revealed character and reputation of God (Jl 2:26). The term name came to be a surrogate for God (Dn 9:18-19) and was later applied to Christ (Ac 5:41; 3 Jn 7).”

II. Health Test (2:1-10)

A. The Second Accusation The scene before the heavenly council is repeated almost verbatim from chapter 1. Satan didn’t admit to being wrong; instead he leveled another challenge against Job’s character: namely that he would do anything to preserve his life. HCSB, p. 826:
2:4-5 “Satan’s second test suggested that Job was callous and concerned only for himself. The proverbial saying skin for skin could indicate Job’s willingness to give up all he had, including his family, in order to save his own life; or that if the Lord allowed Satan to afflict him bodily, Job would in turn deny the Lord.”

B. Tragedy Strikes Job Again (2:7-10) Job’s wife reacted the way that Satan predicted Job would react! Job did not call his wife a fool; instead, he said that her attitude reflected the attitude of foolish people. A wise person doesn’t have to act according to wisdom. Notice the importance of words in the narrative: “Throughout all of this, Job did not sin in what he said.” (9b) In times of trouble, we must be careful of the words we use around our spouse, children and friends. Our words are a testimony of our relationship to God. Eph. 4:22-29

III. Effective Sympathy (2:11-13) HCSB, p. 826-27: 2:11 “Eliphaz came from Teman, a principle city in Edom (Ezk 25:13; Am 1:12-13). Bildad (‘son of Hadad’ the storm god) probably came from the tribe of Shuah, descended from Abraham through his second wife Keturah (Gn 25:1-2; 1 Ch 1:32). Zophar may have been from northern Arabia.” 2:12-13 “Job’s three friends responded to his gruesome appearance with actions symbolic of deep
mourning: weeping (2 Sm 18:33), tearing their robes (Jb 1:20), sitting on the ground (Lm 2:10; Nah 1:4), and throwing dust on their heads (Jos 7:6; 2 Sm 13:19). A seven-day period was observed in times of mourning for the dead (Gn 50:10; 1 Sm 31:13). With due propriety Job’s friends remained silent, waiting for Job to speak first. It is often best in sympathizing with those who are hurting just to be there and be ready to listen.

Application:

1. We should have a proper perspective toward material possessions. (1 Tim. 6:6-10)

2. We should realize that Satan wants to accuse us and harm us. (John 10:10, James 4:7)

3. We should understand the importance of words both for good and for evil. (Matt. 12:37)

Explore the Bible Leader Pack Item 1: Poster: Modern States and the Ancient Near East; Item 2: Poster: Unit 1; Item 3: Worksheet: Character Award


**You may access David’s Lesson Preview in MP3 format at: www.hfcbiblestudy.org**
Dates: 5/27 – Memorial Day Holiday – Church offices closed; 5/30-8/1 – MetroLIVE in worship center; 5/31 – HCHS Graduation;
5/31
– Recreate Date Night;
5/31
– HUB Summer Kickoff Children and Students;
6/5-7/3
HUB Summer Rush;
6/6-9
– Camp Intersect;
6/9-10
SBC Pastor’s Conference @ GRB;
6/11-12
– SB Convention@ GRB;
6/12
- Camp Reflection Party;
6/16
– Father’s Day;
6/16
– SPF – Father’s Day Luncheon in FSC;
6/22
– Men: Serve;
6/24-28
– VBS;
7/4
– Holiday, church offices closed;
7/6
– Men: Pray;
7/7-11
– Houston Project;
7/17
– RUSH Rally/Prayer time;
7/15-19
– SWOC.