

BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2024 – WEEK 2

Job 1:6-2:10: The Fickleness of Life in a Fallen World

*“Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return.
The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”*
– Job 1:21 ESV

- **When we last left Job...**
 - ...He was blessed by God
 - With prosperity
 - a stellar reputation
 - a large and happy family
 - and good health
 - ...He was a servant of God
 - Who was blameless
 - upright
 - feared God
 - and turned away from evil

“As a sterling example of biblical wisdom, Job loves what Yahweh loves, and he avoids what displeases Yahweh. This is not a claim that Job is morally perfect as Yahweh is perfect, but rather, within the bounds of human fallenness, the righteousness of Job is commended by Yahweh.” – Daniel J. Estes, *Job, Teach the Text Commentary Series*

- **When bad things happen to good people**
 - Job's conceptual theology was about to get real
 - His concept of God was going to be tested

- His idyllic and idealistic world would implode
- And he will never know the reason why
- But we will

- **A shift of scene** – Job 1:6-12

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. – Job 1:6 ESV

- This passage raises all kinds of questions
 - What is Satan doing in heaven?
 - Why is God having a conversation with him?
 - How can Satan negotiate with God?
 - Is God somehow being coerced by Satan?
- The author takes us from Uz to heaven
- To the throne room of God

“This abrupt change in locations provides the reader with a stark reminder of the spiritual and supernatural scope of this entire story. In every man’s life, there is always far more going on behind the scenes than meets the eye. As Job lives out his seemingly blessed but rather pedestrian life on Earth, there are events taking place in the heavenly realm to which he is completely oblivious.” – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on the Book of Job*

sons of God – bēn 'ēlōhîm

- Generally used to refer to angels
- They are supernatural but created beings (sons)
- Describes their close relationship with God
- They are summoned to appear before God

satan – haśśātān

- Literally “the satan”
- “the accuser” or “the adversary”
- We automatically assume this is Satan
- The same Satan that tempted Adam and Eve
- And failed to tempt Jesus in the wilderness

- **A not-yet-fully-developed theology**

- The original audience had no concept of Satan
- Their view of the demonic realm was limited
- At no point in the story do Job or his friends blame “Satan” for anything

“If Yahweh alone controls the destiny of the children of Israel, then Yahweh receives the credit when things go well for them. The reverse is also true, however. Misfortune, when it occurs, is thought to come from Israel’s one true God.” – Ryan E. Stokes, *Satan: How God’s Executioner Became the Enemy*

- The author doesn't identify "the satan"
 - o **Who he** is appears to be irrelevant
 - o But **what he does** is vitally important
 - He questions God's testimony about Job

"Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless — a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil."
 – Job 1:8 NLT

- He raises doubts about Job's integrity

"Does Job fear God for no reason?" – Job 1:9 ESV

"Does Job reverence God for free or without a guarantee of compensation?"

- He accuses God of **unjust favoritism**
- He accuses Job of being **an opportunist**
 - ~ He's in it for what he can get out of it
 - "you...put a hedge around him and his house"*
 - "You have blessed the work of his hands"*
 - "his possessions have increased"*
- He's nothing more than a "gold digger"
- A fair weather God-follower

"Cynicism is the essence of the satanic. The Satan believes nothing to be genuinely good – neither Job in his disinterested piety nor God in His disinterested generosity." – Lloyd Anderson, *The Hidden Beauty of Hebrew Genealogies*

- **Two possible outcomes of suffering**

"But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." – Job 1:11 ESV

1. Judge God based on your circumstances
 - ...and curse Him for failing to come through
2. View your circumstances based on His character
 - ...and trust that He has a purpose

"God's action in fact overshadows major issues in the book. God is sovereign and he can treat people as he will, blessing them or afflicting them for his own purposes. It also suggests a deeper game that YHWH is playing, one that seeks to manage and finally overcome evil in a way that none of the other participants can imagine. In short, God quickly yields to Satan's challenge about Job not because he has been tricked into abusing Job, but because he has his own purposes for bringing such sorrows upon Job." – Duane A. Garrett, *Job: Evangelical Exegetical Commentary*

- **Job and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**

Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and there came a messenger to Job... – Job 1:13-14 ESV

- A day of devastating loss
 - He loses...
 - ...all of his livestock and their caretakers (his source of income)
 - ...all of his children (his source of joy)
- A day of disturbing trials
 - Job didn't see it coming
 - It was **unexpected** and **undeserved**
 - None of it made any sense
 - But he was willing to accept it

- **A two-fold response to unexpected suffering**

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong. – Job 1:20-22 ESV

- He **mourned** and he **worshiped**
- He **grieved** and he **gave glory to God**
- He **displayed sorrow** and **declared God's sovereignty**
- He was **confused** and yet **confident**

"He admitted his belief that his sovereign God was behind it all. He wasn't blaming God; he was simply declaring his unwavering belief in God's ultimate control over all things. His wealth and his children had been gifts from God. He had not deserved or earned them. And Job understand that it was the height of hypocrisy to accept the good things that God gives but then curse Him when those things were taken away." – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on the Book of Job*

- **Job and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day – Part 2**

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. And the Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." And 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, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason." – Job 2:1-3 ESV

- There was a **purpose** behind Job's suffering
 - It wasn't pointless or arbitrary

- God never wastes our suffering
- But there was no **reason** behind his suffering
 - He had committed no sin
 - His circumstances were not **punitive**

Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” – Job 2:4-5 ESV

- The enemy accuses God **buying allegiance**
 - Wellness for worship
- He accuses Job of **using God**
 - His health was what he really worshiped
 - Physical comfort trumps spiritual zeal
 - The temporal takes priority over the eternal
- He suffered the loss...
 - ...of his health
“loathsome sores”
 - ...of community
“sat in ashes”
 - ...of his wife’s respect

*Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? **Curse God and die.**” – Job 2:9 ESV*

- A mind of her own
 - Job’s wife had a poor concept of God
 - She didn’t share his godly mindset
 - She discredited Job’s faith
 - She dismissed God’s faithfulness
- When man’s mind can’t grasp God’s ways – Matthew 16
 - Jesus announces His pending death
 - Peter refuses to accept it and rebukes Him
 - Jesus responds:

*But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me. **For you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.**” – Matthew 16:23 BSB*

- **Shaken but not stirred**

But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips. – Job 2:10 ESV

- Job didn’t understand **God’s ways**

- But he was willing to trust **God's faithfulness**

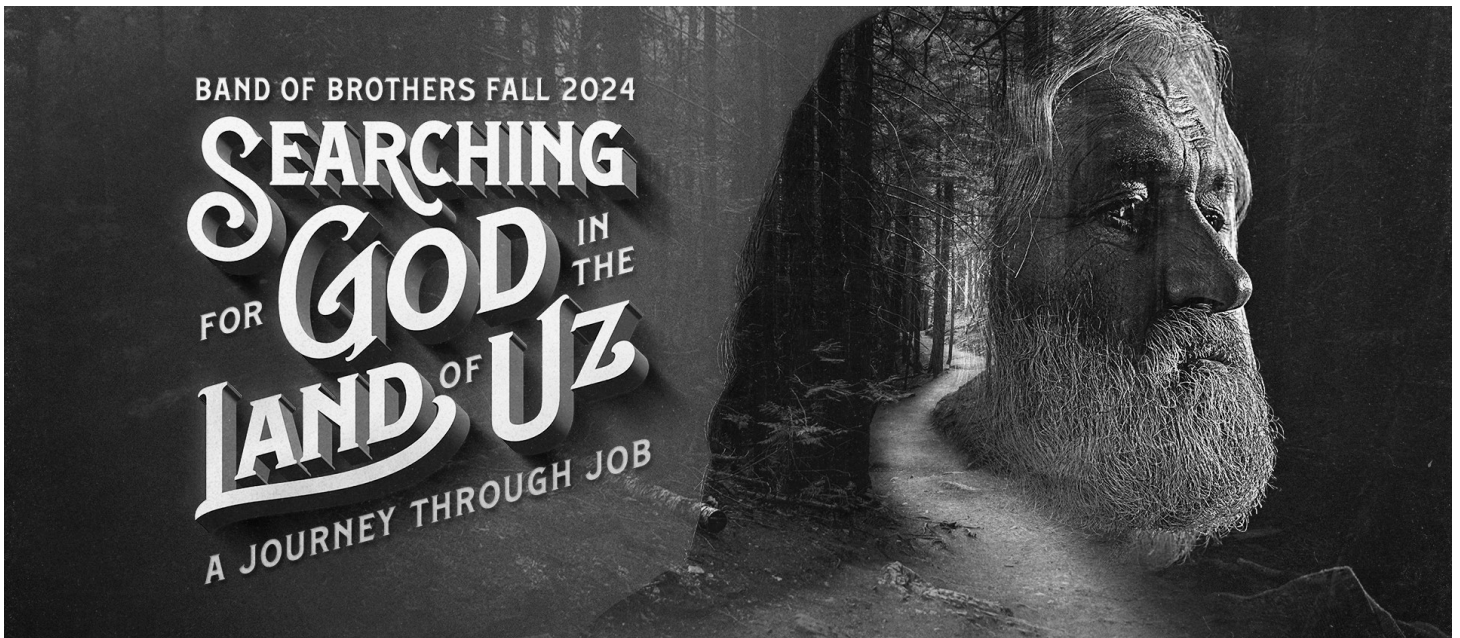
"True worship is not a form of payment for services rendered. It is a willing response to the goodness of God that shows up in times of tragedy as well as blessing. God's people are not fair weather friends, but faithful followers who strive to trust and obey even when God's presence seems unapparent and His power seems insufficient." – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on the Book of Job*

- **Discussion questions**

Look back at Job's responses in 1:21 and 2:10. Discuss whether this is how most Christians respond to suffering.

What is the difference between Job's view of God and that of his wife?

Look at Matthew 16:21-23. How was Peter guilty of misunderstanding the ways of God?



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FALL SERIES 2024 – WEEK 3 HOMEWORK

WEEK 3 – Job 2:11-3:26: The God-in-a-Box Syndrome

This lesson will attempt to provide a summary of the three rounds of dialogues between Job and his friends. Before unpacking the various contents of their individual speeches, we will strive to see how their views provide an incomplete or erroneous picture of God. It will be important to consider their lack of personal revelation from God and the absence of any written revelation of any kind. All these men knew about God had been passed on to them through word of mouth. With little or no direct revelation from God, they were left to fill in the blanks using their fallen and flawed human reasoning.

- Read Job 2:11-3:26. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.

- Now read pages 23-30 of Ken's Devotional™ on Job.

- In verses 11-13 of chapter 2, three of Job's friends show up to comfort him. What did they do to minister to Job and why was this important?

Look closely at verse 13. What evidence does this verse give that indicates the weight of Job's suffering?

- Now read Job 3:1-10. How does Job’s response in verse 1 differ from what he said in Job 1:21 and Job 2:10?

In these 10 verses, Job uses the terms “gloom,” “night,” “darkness,” and “dark” seven different times. What does this tell you about the depth of his grief?

If you had been there when Job shared these despairing thoughts, how would you have responded?

- Verses 11-19 record Job’s continuing lament over his unexpected and unbearable circumstances. What do you hear Job saying in these verses and how does it reflect his growing desperation?
- In verses 20-26, Job seems to be expressing his desire to die to put an end to his misery. What kind of advice or spiritual counsel would you give to someone like this?
- Read the following Psalms of Lament and write down how they reflect the heart of Job.

From the depths of despair, O Lord, I call for your help. Hear my cry, O Lord. Pay attention to my prayer. – Psalm 130:1-2 NLT

Have compassion on me, Lord, for I am weak. Heal me, Lord, for my bones are in agony. I am sick at heart. How long, O Lord, until you restore me? – Psalm 6:2-3 NLT

You know what I long for, Lord; you hear my every sigh. My heart beats wildly, my strength fails, and I am going blind. My loved ones and friends stay away, fearing my disease. Even my own family stands at a distance. – Psalm 38:9-11 NLT