

Series: Stand Fast In the Lord

HAST THOU CONSIDERED MY SERVANT JOB (PT. 1) JOB 1:6-12

Text: Job 1:8

Job 1:8

⁸ And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Introduction:

In this text we learn what prompted the great sufferings of Job—it was the accusation by Satan against Job regarding what motivated the noble character of Job.

Thus it was not Job's sin which brought about his great suffering.

It was Job's righteousness that caused the suffering.

Unless we learn this text well, we will not understand properly the rest of the book of Job.

To examine this accusation against Job by Satan, we will consider the place of the accusation (Job 1:6), the prompting of the accusation (Job 1:7,8), the particulars of the accusation (1:9,10), and the proposal after the accusation (Job 1:11,12).

Note:

Sermon Content:

1. THE PLACE OF THE ACCUSATION

The place of the accusation is Heaven. This text draws back the curtains of the unknown and gives us a scene that occurred there.

We note two features about this place of accusation.

A. The Presentation in the Place

Job 1:6

⁶ Now ***there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD***, and Satan came also among them.

This presenting spoken of in our text is a giving of accountability by the "sons of God" of their work.

We are certainly reminded that there will be a day that everyone will give an account to God.

For the believer – we will be accountable for our service and opportunities that God gives us.

We note not only the Presentation in the Place but also:

B. The Persons in the Place

Job 1:6

⁶ *Now there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the LORD, **and Satan** came also among them.*

Satan came among the sons of God.

For those that think this is strange, remember Judas was among the other disciples and in the presence of the Lord.

Even though Satan is a fallen angel and has a terrible curse upon him that will be fulfilled in the days to come, he still accountable to God.

We have considered the Place of the Accusation, not secondly:

2. THE PROMPTING OF THE ACCUSATION

The accusation against Job by Satan was prompted by two questions from God to Satan.

These questions required Satan to give an account of some of his doings on the earth.

The two questions for Satan from God concerned the activity of Satan and the attentiveness of Satan.

Note:

A. The Question about the Activity of Satan

Job 1:7

⁷ *And the LORD said unto Satan, **Whence comest thou?** Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.*

The first accounting for Satan had to do with Satan's whereabouts.

Satan's answer said he had been "going to and fro in the earth and... walking up and down in it"

We get some enlightenment about Satan in 1 Peter:

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, **walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.***

The word “going” in verse seven means to run to and fro which shows the zeal of Satan for doing evil.

We note not only the Question About the Activity of Satan but also:

B. The Question about the Attentiveness of Satan

Job 1:8

⁸ *And the LORD said unto Satan, **Hast thou considered my servant Job**, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?*

God becomes more specific in the accounting of Satan.

He asked Satan if he had observed and thought upon God's servant Job.

As we consider this question asked of Satan we note:

- The Person – “My Servant Job.”

Job is called a “servant.”

All believers are to be servants of God.

Man often doesn't like being a servant, but being a servant of God is the highest position man can have.

No position on this earth is equal to it.

We see not only what Job is “Called” but we also see the Care of Job.

The fact that God called Job by his name is encouraging.

Note John 10:3:

John 10:3

*³ To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and **he calleth his own sheep by name**, and leadeth them out.*

This shows a special care.

We may be insignificant in the world and few people know our name, but God knows your name as well as everything about you and me.

Psalm 139:1-4

*¹ O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me.
² Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. ³ Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.*

Matthew 10:30

³⁰ *But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*

We note not only the Person In the Question but also:

- The Praise in the Question – There Is None Like Him In All the Earth

Job 1:8

⁸ *And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that **there is none like him in the earth**, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?*

In verse three we see it said of Job:

Job 1:3

³ *His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that **this man was the greatest of all the men of the east**.*

Thought:

I wonder what God would say to Satan about you and me?

We have considered The Place of the Accusation and The Prompting of the Accusation.

Note also:

3. THE PARTICULARS OF THE ACCUSATION

Job 1:9

⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

Understand:

Satan is the accuser of Job as well as the brethren.

Revelation 12:10

*¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for **the accuser of our brethren** is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

The accusation dealt with Job's fear or reverence of God.

Satan was questioning Job's devotion to God.

Understand:

It is our spiritual life that matters most to Satan.

All other areas of our life are secondary compared to our spiritual life.

Thought:

Sadly, Satan makes our Spiritual life more of a priority than some Christians do.

It seems that many today who claim to be Christians makes everything more important than their spiritual life.

Sadly, Satan knows what is important.

Satan's main accusation of Job was that Job's motivation in his spiritual life was carnal.

Job 1:9

*⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God **for nought?***

The word “nought” is a reference the the earthly well-being of Job, his good circumstances, his material prosperity.

This skepticism about the noble character of Job's motivation is one of the most heart-searching parts of the whole book of Job.

A noble motivation is vital in our spiritual life.

Illustration:

Churches often ignore the need for noble motivations when they use promotional schemes filled with carnal gimmicks to induce people to bring others to church, ride the bus, give offerings, etc.

The fact that these schemes have worked to increase the crowd and offerings at church is evident by the attendance and financial growth of many churches that use these schemes.

These schemes really encourages carnal motivation.

If we cannot be motivated to do God's work by the fact of Calvary and by the fact of all that God is and has done for us in salvation, our faith is shallow and sick to say the least.

Understand:

Motivation is important.

Why do you serve God?

Why do you worship at church on Sundays?

A carnal motivation exposes a lack of spiritual genuineness.

Satan then accuses God of placing a hedge about Job.

Job 1:10

¹⁰ Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

Satan was criticizing God in this accusation as much if not more than he was Job.

It was God's fault, implied Satan that Job feared God; because God treated Job with great favors.

He referenced God's Protection and God's Prosperity.

Satan said God had built a fence around Job to protect him from affliction and Satan concludes that is one of the reasons Job fears God.

True God had protected Job, not to cause Job to be devoted but as a reward for Job's devotion to God.

Understand:

Exemption from trial promotes faith, claims Satan.

But he will find out that trial will actually increase Job's faith.

Many believers who have undergone severe affliction have also grown in faith in such times contrary to Satan's accusation.

Illustration:

David said affliction increased his godliness.

Psalm 119:67

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

Satan then says that the prosperity of Job caused Job to honor God.

Satan puts blame on God by saying that God's blessings on Job have made Job fear God.

Remember that while Satan attacks the saints, the real enemy of Satan is God; and it is God Who Satan wants to dishonor and discredit.

God had indeed blessed Job. When we prosper, we must thank God for it.

He is behind all the prosperity of the saints.

But, as Satan will learn, it was not prosperity that promoted Job's faith in God.

Now we have considered The Place of the Accusation, The Prompting of the Accusation and The Particulars of the Accusation.

Note also:

4. THE PROPOSAL AFTER THE ACCUSATION

To prove his accusation true, Satan made a proposal to God.

But the proposal did not prove Satan right, rather it proved that Satan was wrong and that Job's faith was genuine.

Job 1:11-12

¹¹ But ***put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.*** 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.

Satan proposes that if God removes His hand of protection and prosperity that Job will curse God.

Satan wants God to be cruel to Job, to hurt him, to smite him, to bring bad times to him.

God grants permission to Satan's Proposal.

Job 1:12

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.

As soon as God granted permission Satan immediately leaves God to go afflict Job.

Understand:

This promptness to do evil shows the wicked character of Satan.

Thought:

Sadly, Satan is more zealous about his work than believers are serving God.

Close:

When God gives us orders, we too often dilly-dally and round and delay in doing our work.

We should be zealous about doing good as other are about doing evil if we expect to have victory over evil.

What motivates us?