

b. But how DID Job respond? ²⁰ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹ and said: “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.” ²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

- i. **Job expressed great OUTWARD sorrow** – by tearing his robe and shaving his head!
- ii. **Job saw the BIG PICTURE in a proper manner** – Regardless of what had just happened, Job saw himself as a weak, mortal, sinner; *but the LORD as almighty, eternal, and holy!* Therefore, *Job bowed down to the ground to worship*; even though he didn't understand why so many terrible things had just happened, *he was NOT going to allow his circumstances on earth to hurt his relationship with the LORD!*
- iii. **Job understood about possessions** – The LORD gave them *AND had every right to take them!* Therefore, rather than blame God, *he praised God!* Though greatly tempted, *he did not fall!*

Conclusion: **Salvation in Christ is important, not possessions!** Therefore, *no matter what we are given OR what is taken away*, let us continue – *by grace through faith* – to ♥ trust alone in Jesus, ♥ be content, and ♥ look forward to our heavenly home! And all God's people said: *Amen!*

Job was Tempted, But He Did Not Fall!

Based on Job 1:1-22 NIV

3rd Sunday in Lent – 2010

March 7 → 8:15 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, as we continue on the topic of **temptation**, *let us realize that it comes in a multitude of ways!* We can be tempted: ✦ to give-in to our felt needs, ✦ to take the easy way out, ✦ to misinterpret the Bible, ✦ to doubt the Bible, and ✦ to believe the devil.

TODAY we come to yet another way in which people are tempted: When possessions are received, we SHOULD give thanks to God (James 1:17). But when possessions are suddenly lost, *we ARE TEMPTED to blame God!* We now turn to job chapter 1 to see Job's temptation and his response:

1. **Job's Possessions** – ¹ In the land of Uz [*a large territory east of the Jordan River*] there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil [*he was not sinless, but an OT Christian*]. ² He had **seven sons** and **three daughters**, ³ and he owned **seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen** and **five hundred donkeys**, and had a **large number of servants**. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

2. **Job's Concern for His Children to be Right in God's Sight**

–⁴ His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.⁵ When a period of feasting had run its course [*probably a whole week*], **Job would send and have them purified.** Early in the morning **he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them**, thinking, “Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” This was Job's regular custom.

3. **A Difference of Opinion between the LORD and Satan** –

⁶ One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.⁷ The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the LORD, “From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it.”⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? **There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.**”⁹ “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied.¹⁰ “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.¹¹ But **stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.**”¹² The LORD said to Satan, “**Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.**” Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

4. **Satan's Dirty Work** –¹³ One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house,¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and said,

“The oxen were plowing and the **donkeys** were grazing nearby,¹⁵ and **the Sabians attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword**, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The fire of God [*lightning*] **fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants**, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “**The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword**, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”¹⁸ While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “**Your sons and daughters** were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house,¹⁹ when suddenly a mighty wind [*a tornado*] swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of **the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead**, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

5. **Job's Response** – Can you even begin to imagine how YOU would feel if you *suddenly* and *shockingly* lost all of your livestock, servants, and children to *theft* or *death*?
- a. **Job COULD HAVE** prayed like this: “LORD, You know about me – ✦I have tried to live a blameless and upright life; ✦I feared You and shunned evil; and ✦I sacrificed burnt offerings for my children. ✦I tried to do everything right, *but You have done everything wrong!* You are almighty; You could have prevented everything, *but You prevented nothing!* Now it looks like I am the righteous one and You are the sinner!” **With far less loss, we are tempted to say the same!**