

WHEN THE HEDGE WAS TAKEN AWAY

[BIBLE TEXT](#) : [Job 1:1-22](#); [2:1-10](#); [13:15](#); [23:1-17](#);
[27:1-6](#); [42:1-17](#).

LESSON 372 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD" (Job 1:21).

[BIBLE TEXT in King James Version](#)

Job 1:1-22

¹ There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

² And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

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.

⁴ And his sons went and feasted *in their* houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.

⁵ And it was so, when the days of *their* feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings *according* to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

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

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.

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?

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

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.

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

[BIBLE REFERENCES:](#)

[NOTES:](#)

Our Enemy

Satan is our enemy. He may go about "as a roaring lion, . . . seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8). He may transform himself into an "angel of light" to try to deceive people (II Corinthians 11:14). He is always busy. One way or another, he tries to win us away from the Lord. He is not only very clever in his ways but also very deceitful.

There are times when Satan uses a method, which has come to be known as brainwashing. He puts wrong thoughts and ideas into people's heads. Satan uses people to argue with others until they believe a lie. But we must remember that Satan "is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44).

Satan is so bold that he tempted even the Son of God. When Jesus had prayed and fasted forty days in the wilderness, Satan tried to get Jesus to obey him. Jesus quoted Scripture as a weapon against him. Satan quoted Scripture, too, but with the wrong motive. A true statement used in the wrong place is just as bad as a lie. God's promises are a wonderful comfort, but we must use them in the way He meant them to be used.

Jesus did not yield to the temptation of Satan. Neither do we need to yield. God is faithful to us and will not let any more temptation come to us than we are able to bear, and with that temptation the Lord will provide a way to escape from it (**1 Corinthians 10:13** 13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*).

Everyone can expect to be tempted. Jesus, who committed no sin, was tempted and yielded not. Another example of one who withstood temptation is Job. He had many possessions so that he was the "greatest of all the men of the east." He arose early in the morning to worship God. He prayed for his children, and offered sacrifices to God continually in their behalf. Job was "perfect," he feared God, he shunned evil; but he was tempted.

In Church

One day when the people presented themselves before the Lord – like our going to church – Satan came, too, but not for any good. He still comes to church. He gets children and young people to whisper, to play with the songbooks, or write notes so that they disturb others and miss the good that they would receive from the meeting. Sometimes Satan puts people to sleep in church, or reminds them of something else so they do not hear what the minister is saying. When the altar call is given, Satan tells people that they had better go home, that it is getting late, or that they can pray some other time and place. Let us watch when we go to church lest Satan deceive us.

Questioned

The Lord asked Satan where he had been. Satan answered that he had come "from going to and fro in the earth, and from

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.

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:

¹⁹ And, behold, 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; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

²⁰ Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

²¹ And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

²² In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Job 2:1-10

¹ Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

² And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

³ 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? and still

walking up and down in it." He had been busy, looking for some mischief to do. No doubt, what he said was true. Sometimes Satan does speak the truth, to get people mixed up. What would your answer be, if sometime when you went to church the Lord would ask you what you had been doing? Would you have to admit that you had been teasing your little brother, that you had disobeyed your parents, or that you had been naughty in school? Or would you be able to say that you had lived for Jesus and let your light shine, and that you had been good and helpful to others?

A Hedge

The Lord and Satan considered Job, the man who served God. Satan said, "Doth Job fear God for nought?" He told God that there was a hedge around Job — God's hedge of protection. Satan then made the accusation that Job would not be faithful to God if that hedge were taken away. To show that Satan was wrong, God took the hedge away but would not permit Satan to "touch" Job himself. No doubt, the Lord permitted this to prove to Satan, to Job, and to us that God will keep one who is under severe trials.

Loss

This is the way Satan worked against Job. One day a messenger came to Job saying that an enemy, the Sabeans, had taken his oxen, of which he had 500 yoke, and his 500 asses. They had slain his servants, and the one who told the story was the only one left. Before that servant had finished his story, there came one of the shepherders. His message was to inform Job that all his sheep — 7,000 — and the workers who tended them were dead, and only the one who had brought the news had survived. Another messenger came with the news that all 3,000 of Job's camels had been driven away by the Chaldeans, and the camel drivers slain. Only he had escaped. Yet came another of his workmen to tell Job that his seven sons and three daughters had all died in a windstorm. Just one loss after another! What a shock it must have been! What a sorrow must have seized Job!

Faithful

Many people have experienced losses and suffered trials; but has anyone been so much tried as Job was? What did Job do under such severe trial? As was the custom, to show his sorrow, Job "rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground" — and worshiped God. No doubt, Satan was very much surprised. He had said that Job would curse God. Satan was wrong and he was defeated when Job praised God. Job knew that God had given him all his possessions and blessings. He knew, too, that he could not take them with him when he died. He felt that he was a steward to care for these good things so long as God permitted.

Limited Power

God reminded Satan that Job had been true through the trial. Job was still "perfect." Even though Satan had tried "to destroy him without cause" and had tempted him to break his fellowship with God, Job held fast his faith. Then Satan said that it would be different if Job thought that he was going to die. Satan said, "All that a man hath will he give for his life." That might be true about some men, especially those who are not saved. They are afraid to meet God. Let us see what happened to Job.

God agreed that Satan could test Job so long as his life was spared. The power of Satan is limited. Although he has great power, God's power is greater. When God sets a limit, Satan cannot go beyond it.

Boils

he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

⁴ And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

⁵ But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

⁶ And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he *is* in thine hand; but save his life.

⁷ So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

⁸ And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.

⁹ Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.

¹⁰ But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

Job 13:15

¹⁵ Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

Job 23:1-17

¹ Then Job answered and said,

² Even to day *is* my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning.

³ Oh that I knew where I might find him! *that* I might come *even* to his seat!

⁴ I would order *my* cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.

⁵ I would know the words *which* he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me.

⁶ Will he plead against me with *his* great power? No; but he would put *strength* in me.

⁷ There the righteous might dispute with him; so should I be delivered for ever from my judge.

⁸ Behold, I go forward, but he *is* not *there*; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:

⁹ On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold *him*: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see *him*:

¹⁰ But he knoweth the way that I take: *when* he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

¹¹ My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined.

¹² Neither have I gone back from the

Job was afflicted by Satan. He was covered with boils, and must have been a pitiful sight. His wife saw how miserable he was. She told him that he ought to curse God and die — just as though there were no hope, physically or spiritually, for Job. But Job did not sin, and do what she advised. Job spoke that which was in his heart. He said, "What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?"

Three Friends

Three of Job's friends came to comfort him. For seven days and nights they sat with Job and just looked at him. Not one said a word. Perhaps that was as much of a trial as his suffering from boils. They did anything but "comfort" job. His three friends have become a byword to the world: "Job's comforters" are those who accuse rather than sympathise.

No Help form His Friends

Job did complain and wish that he could die. Have you ever had a boil? Maybe you can understand in part how much he suffered when he had boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. Although Job was in pain and in sorrow, he kept his faith and hope in God. He said, "Though he [God] slay me, yet will I trust in him."

Job's friends were no help to him. Job told them that if their places had been reversed, he would have tried to help and strengthen them. That would have been living the Golden Rule: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them" (Matthew 7:12).

No Sin

Job denied the accusations of his friends that he had sinned. He knew that he was right before God. Although he was tried almost to the limit by sorrow, by pain, and by the words of his "comforters," Job determined to keep his righteousness. Job longed to stand before God because the Lord knew the truth about this test. Job knew that this was a test, and that God had permitted it.

Some people think that sorrow, sickness, and trouble come only as judgment for sin. This is not always true. Peter wrote to Christians: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (I Peter 4:12, 13). One day when Jesus met a blind man, he was questioned as to who had sinned, that man or the parents. Jesus said that neither had sinned, but the man was blind that God might be glorified. The man was healed and gave Jesus the glory.

Temptation Without Yielding

It was Job's testimony that he had walked in the way of the Lord, that he had kept His command-ments, and that he considered the Word of God more necessary than his natural food. Job said: "But he [God] knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." How wonderful it would be if each one of us was determined to come through a test with such victory! Job did go through the test without yielding to temptation. As Job considered the greatness of God and His power, he realised how small is man. Job was sorry that he had even complained. Job did good for evil. He prayed for the three friends who had not spoken the truth.

God blessed Job and gave him twice as much as he had had before so that Job's last days were his best days. Do you think that it paid Job to be true to God?

QUESTIONS

commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary *food*.

¹³ But he *is* in one *mind*, and who can turn him? and *what* his soul desireth, even *that* he doeth.

¹⁴ For he performeth *the thing that is* appointed for me: and many such *things are* with him.

¹⁵ Therefore am I troubled at his presence: when I consider, I am afraid of him.

¹⁶ For God maketh my heart soft, and the Almighty troubleth me:

¹⁷ Because I was not cut off before the darkness, *neither* hath he covered the darkness from my face.

Job 27:1-6

¹ Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,

² *As* God liveth, *who* hath taken away my judgment; and the Almighty, *who* hath vexed my soul;

³ All the while my breath *is* in me, and the spirit of God *is* in my nostrils;

⁴ My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit.

⁵ God forbid that I should justify you: till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me.

⁶ My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach *me* so long as I live.

Job 42:1-17

¹ Then Job answered the LORD, and said,

² I know that thou canst do every *thing*, and *that* no thought can be withholden from thee.

³ Who *is* he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

⁴ Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

⁵ I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

⁶ Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes.

⁷ And it was *so*, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me *the thing that is* right, as my servant Job *hath*.

⁸ Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall

1. Why was Job considered the "greatest of all the men of the east"?
2. Who went to church to hinder rather than to worship?
3. What had the Lord put about Job to protect him?
4. What did Satan do when the hedge was removed?
5. What did Job do when everything was taken from him?
6. What did it prove when Job did not do as Satan had said?
7. How did Satan afflict Job?
8. Why did Job's friends come?
9. How did Job come through his trial?
10. What did God do for Job after this test?

pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you *after your folly*, in that ye have not spoken of me *the thing which is right*, like my servant Job.

⁹ So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite *and* Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the LORD commanded them: the LORD also accepted Job.

¹⁰ And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

¹¹ Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold.

¹² So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

¹³ He had also seven sons and three daughters.

¹⁴ And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Kerenhappuch.

¹⁵ And in all the land were no women found *so* fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren.

¹⁶ After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, *even* four generations.

¹⁷ So Job died, *being* old and full of days.