

Accused by the Adversary

Job 1:6-12

April 14, 2002

SERMON NOTES]

A. *The Lesson of Job*

✘ Job is described as a man of I_____ (“perfect”)

✘ Gives an answer to question:

B. *The “Venue” (where today’s drama took place)*

✘ this was in H_____

C. *The Entrance of the Adversary*

✘ those coming before God were the “sons of God”, or A_____

✘ also attending was S_____, whose name means “Adversary”

✘ he is a P_____, but defeated foe

D. *The Nature of the Adversary*

✘ he has authority, being called the P_____ of this world, or of the air

✘ he is preoccupied with P_____ about his domain, the earth

✘ his is occupied with A_____ God’s people

E. *The Character of the Adversary’s Accusation*

✘ the attack by the Adversary was P_____ by God as His champion

✘ also shows that the Adversary is subject to God’s W_____

✘ the Adversary’s attack was focussed on Job’s I_____, his strength

✘ he said everybody has his P_____; Job’s was all that he got from God

✘ the Adversary understands man, but not as well as man’s C_____

F. *Given our Adversary, What are Our Options?*

✘ I can prepare for him by:

“How to Build a Hedge” (Job 1:10) Dr Gene Pritchard ⁻⁽¹⁾:

✘ God Has Given Us Angels For Protection — Psalm 34:7 & 91:11; Hebrews 1:13-14; Exodus 23:20; II Kings 6:16; Daniel 10; Acts 12; Acts 27

✘ Fervent, Earnest, Intercessory Prayer — Isaiah 59:16; Job 1:5; Nehemiah 1:3-10; Ezekiel 22:30; Genesis 18; I Samuel 12:23

✘ The Word of God — Psalm 119:11; Hebrews 4:12; Isaiah 59:19; Deuteronomy 6:4-12

1. when weak — I Corinthians 10:13; Phil. 4:13

2. when afraid — II Tim. 1:7; Psalm 56:3; Psalm 50:15; Proverbs 3:24-26

3. battling with Satan — James 4:7-8; I John 4:4

4. needs — Phil. 4:19; Psalm 37:23-28

5. when worry strikes — Matt. 11:28-30; I Peter 5:7; Phil. 4:6-7

6. enemies — Romans 8:31

7. problems — Romans 8:28; II Corinthians 2:14

✘ Build a Hedge Between You and All Evil — I Thess. 5:22; Psalm 1:1-3; Proverbs 1:10 & 4:14; Matthew 6:13; every prayer should bind Satan

✘ Stay Under Your God-given Earthly Authority — Hebrews 13:17; I Samuel 15:23; I Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 6:1-3

✘ The Name and Work of Jesus Christ — Luke 10:17,19; Revelation 12:11; I John 3:8; Proverbs 18:10; Matthew 21:22; John 14:12-14

Scriptures referenced in this message:— Christian in heavenly places: Ephesians 2:6; Satan’s expulsion from heaven: Revelation 12:7-9; Satan defeated: Luke 10:17-18, Col 2:15, 1 John 3:8; Adversarial work of Satan: Zechariah 3:1-2, 1 Chronicles 21:1; Satan’s authority curtailed by work on cross: John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, Ephesians 2:2; Satan’s preoccupation: 1 Peter 5:8-9; Satan’s occupation: Revelation 12:10; God is sovereign working all things to His will: Psalm 76:10, Ephesians 1:11, Romans 8:28; Demons (and Satan) know the truth: James 2:19; We have a sufficient warning against Satan: 2 Corinthians 11:14, Mark 13:22, John 10:10; God provides protection from Satan: 1 John 4:3-4, 2 Corinthians 10:4, 1 Corinthians 10:13, James 4:7

A. The Lesson of Job

1. last week, we discovered the character of Job
 - a. a man of *integrity*
 - (A) consistent in thought, word and deed
 - (B) one who knew and revered God
 - b. a caring father, concerned for his children

2. but the book has lots more in store for us
 - a. addresses one of the fundamental questions of all human experience: as expressed by title of ...
 - (A) Rabbi Harold S. Kushner wrote a book on this “When Bad Things Happen to Good People”
 - (1) death of son, Aaron, of “rapid aging”
 - (2) but many of the conclusions in book are
 - (a) non-orthodox Judaism
 - (b) unacceptable to the Christian
 - (c) inconsistent with inspired word of God
 - (B) and also by title of C.S. Lewis’ “Problem of Pain”
 - (1) inspired, as I recall, by illness of his wife
 - (C) so question is, “*Why do God’s people suffer?*”
 - b. so I pray that may God’s Holy Spirit may enlighten us as to a partial answer, at least, as we study this book

B. The Venue

1. we are taken into *heaven*
 - a. so we may understand earthly events
 - (A) NT: Christian already in, literally, the “heavenlies” [Ephesians 2:6 AV: And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:](#)
 - (B) the place of invisible, spiritual realities
 - (C) the domain of our new, spiritual life in Christ

- b. relatively few places in Bible where heaven is described
 - (A) most times portrayed by symbols, pictures
 - (B) but here a clear, though brief, description of goings-on
- c. so we hear lots of speculation and fantasy about heaven

2. but here, a very clear, non-sensationalist narrative, taking us into a special place in heaven – God’s throne-room

C. Entrance of the Adversary

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

- 1. the first-named attendees in the throne-room are sons of God
 - a. only place in Bible that this term is applied to *angels*
 - (A) application of Genesis 6:2 to angels is a misinterpretation
 - (B) this is shown by Jesus’ teaching
 - (1) *angels* created as spiritual beings
 - (2) no such thing as marriage with them
 - (C) but in this one place the term clearly applies to *angels*
 - b. the occasion
 - (A) *there was a day* - literally “it was the day”
 - (1) anthropomorphic use so not 24-hour earthly period
 - (2) indicative of a set occasion
 - (B) *came to present*
 - (1) imperfect tense — frequentative use?
 - (2) “used to come to take their station or to stand before”
 - (C) overall implication — but only an implication — it was
 - (1) an appointed time
 - (2) for *angels* to report on their ministry

2. the other attendee: *Satan*

a. "also" – in addition – no longer part of God's angelic host

(A) Satan's origin

(1) hints in Old Testament prophecy as part of

(a) Isaiah 14: 12ff — against king of Babylon

(b) Ezekiel 28: 2ff — against king of Tyre

(2) possibly [Revelation 12: 7-9 NKJV](#) And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

(a) can be interpreted as

⌘ speaking about Satan's origin

⌘ speaking about Satan's defeat at cross

⌘ speaking about some future defeat of Satan

(B) Satan, a *powerful* being with powerful followers

(1) struggle of Satan with Michael over Moses (Jude 9)

(2) Michael's help with "Prince of Persia," one of Satan's angels, to permit messenger to reach Daniel (10: 13)

(3) and, his access to God's presence here in Job

(C) but remember, this Satan, this serpent, is a *defeated* foe

(1) when 70 returned from preaching — [Luke 10: 17-18 NAS](#): And the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning."

(2) [Colossians 2: 14b-15 NAS](#): ... the cross, when He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

(3) [1 John 3: 8 NAS](#): the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

b. the name, "Satan," literally means adversary, and that is the role at which we keep finding him

engrossed; here in Job and

(A) in Zechariah 3:1-2, he opposes the high priest, Joshua

(B) in 1 Chronicles 21:1, he stands against Israel, causing David to number the people against God's will

(C) and the word "Satan" is used in the Hebrew to refer to the adversary raised up in 1 Ki 11:14,23, as well as being the root of the word "accusation" in Ezra 4:6

D. **Nature of the Adversary**

1. authority: prince of this world and prince of the power of the air

a. but we see that he is a usurper from the passages to which we referred earlier

b. his rule is permitted only by the graciousness of God

c. John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11 — he was judged at the cross

d. Ephesians 2:2 — domain is now the children of disobedience

2. his preoccupation — *prowling* his domain

Job 1:7 NAS: And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From *roaming* about on the earth and walking around on it."

a. the media's portrayal of Satan, not as wicked, but as a mischievous, humanized being; our Satan is too small if ^{-(3)}}.

(A) he is merely a personification

(B) he is consigned to long-ago times and faraway places

(C) we assume he leaves Christians alone

(D) we decide he is not capable of performing miracles and feats of power

(E) we think we can recognize him without God's help

(F) we think we are smart enough, quick enough, strong enough, or holy enough to resist him on our own

b. 1 Peter 5:8 NAS: Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, *prowls* about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

c. but, note therefore, that Satan is NOT omnipresent

(A) though he has many helpers

- (1) know that, strictly speaking, there is one devil: Satan
 - (2) his helpers, the fallen angelic beings, are “demons”
 - (B) not all temptation from these: many times the Bible warns against our being led astray by our own lusts
3. his occupation — *accuser* of the brethren
- a. Revelation 12:10 NAS: And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the *accuser* of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.”
 - (A) I understand this defeat to have happened at the cross
 - (B) follows verses we read previously from Revelation 12
 - b. two very clear portraits of Satan at work in the Scriptures
 - (A) one is in the account of temptation of Jesus
 - (B) this is the other: as the adversary of God’s man, Job
 - (1) making accusations against him
 - (2) testing him so that accusations might prove correct

E. Character of the Adversary’s Accusation

Job 1:8 NAS: And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.”

1. God *provokes* this attack — and God does not make mistakes!
 - a. this reveals the relationship that God had with Job
 - (A) God’s confidence in Job as His champion
 - (B) God’s plan for Job
 - (C) God chooses Job as His instrument to win this battle
 - b. also reveals that even Satan’s workings fall within God’s *will*
 - (A) Satan’s — and sin’s — freedom a problem for most of us
 - (1) *theodicy*: a vindication of divine justice in allowing evil to exist [Webster]
 - (2) we fail to understand God’s graciousness
 - (a) He did not create mankind as robots

- (b) He allows this affront to Himself
 - ⌘ for the greater good — for our salvation
 - ⌘ for a season — patient, but holy
- (B) this is part of God's sovereignty
 - (1) will shew mercy on whom He will shew mercy
 - (2) it does not negate man's responsibility
 - (3) here faith accepts what mind cannot contain
- (C) the Lord God is God because
 - (1) Psalms 76: 10 NAS: For the wrath of man shall praise Thee; With a remnant of wrath Thou shalt gird Thyself.
 - (2) Ephesians 1: 11 NKJV: In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His *will*,
 - (3) Romans 8: 28 NAS: And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.
- c. so God puts Job on display ^{-(4)}}.
 - (A) Job is a trophy in whom God delights
 - (B) Rev John Piper: It's as though a diamond thief should meet the owner at the back of a jewellery store late at night. The owner says, What are you doing? And the thief answers, Just walking around in your store. And then the owner says, Did you see our most precious diamond up there at the front?
 - (1) Owner: "I trust my security measures"
 - (2) God: "I trust Job"
 - (C) God chooses to get clear victory over Satan through Job

2. Satan: the fundamentals of his attack

Job 1: 9-11 NAS: Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Hast Thou not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But put forth Thy hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse Thee to Thy face."

- a. hence, Satan is aroused by God's citing Job's example

- (A) Satan cannot tolerate a righteous man
 - (B) especially a righteous, caring father
 - (C) so he sets down to business
- b. now, note how Satan works within the limits of his power
- (A) in the temptation of Eve: "Hath God said ...?"
 - (B) in temptation of Jesus: "If Thou be ...", "If Thou wilt ..."
 - (C) Satan cannot state God is wrong or untrue:
 - (1) James 2:19 NAS: You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.
 - (2) so he rather asks doubting questions
 - (3) and so he rather deals with hypothesis, not fact: "But [if You were to] stretch out your hand ..."
- c. next, look at his attack is on Job's *integrity* — that Job
- (A) fears God for selfish reasons
 - (1) Satan: yes, God, I have tempted him — but how can I tempt a man to whom you have given everything?
 - (2) would deny that Job was a good man: Good men avoid sin from the love of virtue; wicked men avoid sin from a fear of punishment ^{-(5)}}. [John Wesley]
 - (B) serves God because God protects him
 - (1) Satan: yes, God, I have tempted him — but I can't get through to him because you have hedged him in
 - (C) is faithful because God is generous to him
 - (1) Satan: yes, God, I have tempted him — and I would be successful if ...
- d. Satan: "every man has his *price*" ^{-(6)}}.
- (A) manifests itself even in Christians
 - (1) wealth comes and spiritual life wanes
 - (2) power and prestige make approval of man more important than that of God
 - (3) our physical desires outweigh our spiritual
 - (4) priorities: "He came out of the world for Christ; he returned into it for his family."
 - (B) Satan understands man
 - (1) since man's fallen nature was his work

- (2) but attributes to man his own character
- (3) doesn't understand us like the *Creator*
- (4) and he didn't understand Job; God did

3. Now God's plan is set in motion — not Satan's!

Job 1:12 NAS: Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

- a. Now God will prove that He, God, is true though every man — and Satan — be a liar
 - (A) how? through the power from the righteous work He has done in the person of Job

F. **Given our Opponent, What are Our Options?**

1. understanding who Satan is

- a. Satan seeks that
 - (A) people don't believe in him — then he works unhindered
 - (B) or, that people believe in him, and accord him greater power than he indeed has — so, then he can defeat them
- b. Satan is fighting in an unequal war
 - (A) in all he does, he works within limitations set by God
 - (B) he was defeated *de facto* at the cross of Calvary
 - (C) though he is active in this age of grace, his doom is sure

2. but we need know his wiles

- a. should not be deceived, because we have information
 - (A) we know his disguises: 2 Corinthians 11:14 NAS: And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.
 - (B) we know his power: Mark 13:22 NAS: for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray.
 - (C) we know his purpose: John 10:10 NAS: The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have *it* abundantly.
- b. should not be surprised

- (A) in hockey
 - (1) when Pavel Bure comes to town to play
 - (2) Pat Quinn will select his best defensive forward from the Leafs to play opposite and inhibit Bure's effectiveness
 - (B) so increased walking with God
 - (1) as God increases our spiritual appetite
 - (2) we become a more desirable target for the opposition
3. as well as our means of protection, hedged by God
- a. victory through faith and trust - 1 John 4:3-4 NAS: and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the *spirit* of the anti-Christ, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.
 - b. we have weapons -
 - (A) spiritual - 2 Corinthians 10:4 NAS: for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses
 - (B) you can find these weapons listed in Eph 6:10-18
 - (1) God's whole armour: truth, gospel, faith, salvation
 - (2) pray, supplicate, watch ("keep an eye out for")
 - c. God keeps Satan on a short leash respecting the believer 1 Corinthians 10:13 NAS: No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it
 - d. as we sing our closing hymn, "Fight the Good Fight", let us do so considering this final instruction from James 4:7 NAS: Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

1. Dr. Gene Pritchard, First Baptist Church of Central Florida, Holwick sermon #7953
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Various English versions of the Holy Bible are used in this sermon. Some (for example, the AV, ASV, and NAS) seek to be strictly translations, while others (and especially PHIL) contain paraphrasing which involves a certain amount of subjective interpretation. Nevertheless, there is little material difference in meaning among these. Some prove slightly clearer on some verses than others. Looking at more than one version sometimes sheds additional light on any particular verse. Explanatory additions to the Bible text are shown in [square brackets]. The versions are identified as:

ASV	American Standard Version of 1901
AV	Authorized (King James) Version
NAS	New American Standard version © 1975 The Lockman Foundation
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers
PHIL	New Testament Translation © 1972 by J. B. Phillips
RSV	Revised Standard Version © 1946, 1952 by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.
WEY	The New Testament in Modern Speech © 1902, 1912 R. F. Weymouth

Further sermons and illustrations may be found at the web-site, www.holwick.com. Materials in this sermon from Rev. David Holwick's database are identified by "Holwick" followed by a sermon or illustration number.

3. William D. Eisenhower, "Your Devil Is Too Small", Christianity Today, July 15, 1988 - Holwick illustration #1287
4. Thoughts from Rev. John Piper, "Reverent in Suffering", Holwick sermon #3637
5. John Wesley, in "The Almost Christian", quoted by Rev. Dennis Marquardt in his sermon, "Job's Job", Holwick sermon #5063
6. An interesting enlargement of this idea is to be found in an article by Marvin Rickett, P.O. Box 159, Bay, AR 72411 - Holwick illustration #16081