

3 PAIN AND SUFFERING

A STORY ABOUT JOB

There is a story in God’s Word, the Holy Bible, about the life of a man named Job. He was blameless and upright. He feared God and stayed away from evil. God had blessed him with seven sons and three daughters. He owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred donkeys. He also had many servants. Job was a very wealthy man and was known as one of the greatest men among all the people of the East.

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY:

- Job suffered great emotional pain
 - Job suffered great physical pain
 - Reasons for pain and suffering
 - Healing and deliverance through Jesus Christ
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JOB SUFFERED GREAT EMOTIONAL PAIN

But a time of great suffering came into Job’s life. Satan became jealous of Job and despised him because he was faithful to God. Satan went into the presence of God and accused Job of being a hypocrite—of serving God for his own benefit.

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.” “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. “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. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.” (Job 1:8–11)

So God allowed Satan to attack Job’s family and to take away his possessions to prove that Job’s motives were pure. 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” (Job 1:12).

HE LOST ALL HIS POSSESSIONS

Satan left the presence of God and began to destroy everything Job had. This is what the Holy Bible says:

One day when Job’s sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

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!” (Job 1:13–17)

HE LOST ALL HIS CHILDREN

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, when suddenly a mighty wind 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!” (Job 1:18–19)

HE REMAINED TRUE TO GOD

Although Job lost all his possessions, he remained faithful to God.

So it happened that this righteous man Job lost all his possessions and all of his children on the same day. But Job did not turn his back on God. He continued to worship God and remained faithful to Him.

Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship 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.” (Job 1:20–21)

JOB SUFFERED GREAT PHYSICAL PAIN

The Holy Bible tells us that Satan’s jealousy grew worse. He came again into the presence of God, and God spoke to Him.

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. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.” “Skin for skin!” Satan replied. “A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.” (Job 2:3–5)

JOB SUFFERED PAINFUL SORES ALL OVER HIS BODY

Even though Job suffered great physical pain, he did not blame God.

The Lord allowed Satan to attack Job personally but within limits. He could not take his life. The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.” Then Satan left the presence of God and afflicted Job.

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken

pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.
(Job 2:7–8)

JOB SUFFERED REJECTION BY HIS WIFE

Even after being personally attacked, Job still remained faithful to God. But Job’s wife lost all hope. She said to him, “Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!” (Job 2:9).

Job told his wife that she was speaking foolishly. He said, “Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble? In all this, Job did not sin in what he said” (Job 2:10).

JOB’S FAITHFULNESS WAS REWARDED

When Job’s trial was over, and he proved himself faithful, God delivered him from Satan and his suffering. God restored his wealth to him and gave him twice as much as he had before. God blessed the latter part of his life more than the first. He even blessed him with seven more sons and three more daughters.

During the time of his sufferings, Job made this statement about his faith in God. “Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him” (Job 13:15). God will always bless the person whose faith in Him remains strong even in the face of adversity. God is faithful. He has always been and He will always be faithful to the person who trusts in Him.

REASONS FOR PAIN AND SUFFERING

Some people wonder why there is so much suffering in the world today. Sometimes the suffering even seems unjust. Why do some people seem to suffer more than others? The Holy Bible tells us the reasons why there is so much pain and suffering.

THEY ARE CAUSED BY REBELLION

The root of all our suffering is the rebellion of both Satan and human beings. Rebellion against God has turned the world into a place of suffering. The Word of God tells us, “We know that the whole creation

has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time” (Romans 8:22).

THEY ARE CAUSED BY DISOBEDIENCE

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**There are 3
reasons for pain
and suffering:**

- **Rebellion**
- **Disobedience**
- **Satan**

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When people chose to disobey God’s commands, the door to suffering was opened. Satan has taken advantage of humankind’s rebellion against God and has encouraged even more rebellion. Satan now rules this fallen world. He often afflicts the righteous just as he afflicted Job. That is why the Holy Bible calls him the accuser of all who follow God. But God wants to deliver us from Satan and all his afflictions just like He delivered Job. The Holy Bible tells us, “For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down” (Revelation 12:10).

THEY ARE BECAUSE OF SATAN

Satan accuses us before God. He wants to destroy us. He has brought suffering and pain into the world. But in Jesus’ name, Satan is thrown down. God sent Jesus into the world to destroy the works of the devil and to liberate those who are afflicted by him. “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work” (1 John 3:8).

HEALING AND DELIVERANCE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

When Jesus was here on earth, He healed the sick and delivered those bound by Satan. This is what the Holy Bible says about His healing ministry:

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill

with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. (Matthew 4:23–24)

JESUS HEALED A BOY WHO HAD CONVULSIONS

Jesus came down from a mountain, and a large crowd of people came to meet Him. A man in the crowd told Jesus about his son. He said a spirit would often seize his son and throw him into convulsions. So Jesus called for the boy to come to Him.

Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. (Luke 9:42)

JESUS HEALED A CRIPPLED WOMAN

One day a woman came into the synagogue where Jesus was teaching. She had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up.

When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. (Luke 13:12–13)

JESUS IS STILL THE SAME TODAY

Jesus is the same today as when He walked on this earth. He has power to heal you and deliver you from every affliction of Satan. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

The Lord Jesus Christ has power to heal us and deliver us from Satan because of who He is.

- He is the One and Only Son of God
- He is the Word of God
- He is the Love of God

Jesus has the power to heal and deliver us from Satan and evil spirits because of who He is.

- He is the Lamb of God
- He is the Power of God
- He is the Wisdom of God
- He is the Fullness of God

In fact, everything that God is and all His power are found in the Lord Jesus. Jesus was crucified on the Cross for our sins, but three days later God raised Him from the dead. Jesus is alive! And He is just the same today as He always was!

If you will pray to God in Jesus' name, He will save you and heal you. He will crush Satan's power that is afflicting your life. If you want to be healed and free from Satan's power, please pray this prayer from your heart to God.

Prayer

Father God, I thank You for sending Jesus to be my Savior. I ask You to save me and forgive my sins. Please deliver me now from Satan's power, heal me from every sickness, and make me well. I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Please answer these questions.

1. How did Job react to the loss of all his possessions?

2. What did Job say about God when God allowed him to suffer great physical pain?

3. What are the three causes for pain and suffering?

4. Why does the Lord Jesus have power to heal and deliver people from evil spirits?
