

# Vindicating God: Job

There are always gainsayers against the truth. These people love sin, and as such are looking for any reason to justify their love of sin, even to the point of blaming God for their plight. Jude says:

8 Likewise also these [filthy] dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of God. 10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves...

The account of Job's plague in Job Chapter 2 is such a case. Many people falsely believe that it was God's intent that Job should be plagued by Satan. Many people believe that God purposed by this plaguing, that God would be provided with an opportunity to heal Job from his infirmities/sufferings, and hence God would worthy to be glorified for healing Job.

However, any such belief, thought or premise is totally inconsistent with God's true character, love. Let us examine the case more closely in order to vindicate this false view of God's character mistakenly held by people today.

## God is Love

The basis, foundation of the truth, the fundamental principle which refutes all their sophisms is: God is love.

1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we

have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

Psalm 145:9 The LORD [is] good to all: and his tender mercies [are] over all his works...17 The LORD [is] righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. Isaiah 27:4 states Fury [is] not in me:

Jer 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Psalm 92: 15 To shew that the LORD [is] upright: [he is] my rock, and [there is] no unrighteousness in him.

Deut 32:1 Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth...3 Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. 4 [He is] the Rock, his work [is] perfect: for all his ways [are] judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right [is] he.

Ezekiel 18:32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn [yourselves], and live ye.

## God Tests our Faith

Psalm 11:5 The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. Psalm 105:16-22, Psalm 7:9, Prov. 17:3.

Lucifer had rebelled in heaven. Lucifer attempted to "exalt his throne above God, ascend above the heights of heaven, to be like the Most High" (Isaiah 14:12-14). The universe has witnessed the untold misery that has resulted from Lucifer's rebellion. The universe needed an assurance that this rebellion would never be repeated. Therefore, we know that it was God's

purpose from the beginning to test man's faith regarding obedience to His word.

The Bible accounts the sad history of man's failure to exercise faith in God's word. This history began when Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the tree which God forbade them to eat off of.

## Jesus in All Points Man

If the view held by people of God today is true, for Jesus to glorify God on the earth, Jesus would have been born blind, plagued with a plague worse than Job, which only Jesus could endure, and Jesus being in this plagued state, God the Father would heal and deliver Jesus, and by this healing, would bring glory and honor to the Father. The thought that God purposed you to be sick, that He may heal you, that you may glorify Him for healing you is utterly from the Devil. Hopefully we can all agree this conclusion is utterly ridiculous. This treatise is not disputing the purpose was for God's glory, but the false belief held by many of the manner in which God was/is glorified.

Romans 1:3, Gal 4:4, Phil 2:7, Heb 2:14-18, 4:15 clearly state that Jesus was made exactly and tempted in all points as any man was. Jesus had no advantage above any other man that walked the earth. Hence, we can conclude that Jesus was tempted as Job was tempted, yet Jesus was not overcome by devil. The devil could not plague, overcome Jesus. The same means and power by which Jesus

overcame the devil, was also available to Job (and to every person today).

The account in Job Chpt 2 is similar to when Jesus was tempted of the Devil in the wilderness (Mark 1:13, Matt. 4:1-11), Satan had access to tempt Jesus, but Satan did not have absolute control over Him. Jesus (as well as Job) still had the power of choice. Ephesians 6:10 states:

6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood...13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand...16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

God never leaves His people defenseless in our battle with the devil. Verse 16 states “quench (subdue, overcome) the fiery darts of the wicked one” (Psalm 11:2 and 64:4-7). The darts are false doctrines, questions that bring doubt and unbelief itself.

## Job Re-examined

God always brags on his children before the Devil, such as in Job Chapter 1. Satan could not overcome Job’s faith in Satan’s first assault. Job demonstrated that Satan’s first accusation against Job (and God) had been false. Job was victorious against Satan’s first accusation. Regarding the Satan’s second accusation consider:

Job 3:23 [Why is light given] to a man whose way is hid, and whom God hath hedged in? 24 For my sighing cometh before I eat, and my roarings are poured out like the waters. 25 **For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.**

Romans 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because [he eateth] not of faith: for whatsoever [is] not of faith is sin.

1 John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.**

1 John 4:18 states “fear hath torment.” Job stated that the one thing he feared is come upon me (Job 3:25). Job had a fear. It was this fear that allowed Satan access to Job to plague Job in the manner which Satan did. Job had a doubt, a mistaken fear based upon his misunderstanding of God. What was Job’s fear? Consider:

17 For he breaketh me with a tempest, and multiplieth my wounds without cause. 18 He will not suffer me to take my breath, but filleth me with bitterness...He destroyeth the perfect and the wicked. 23 If the scourge slay suddenly, he will laugh at the trial of the innocent. 24 The earth is given into the hand of the wicked: he covereth the faces of the judges thereof; if not, where, [and] who [is] he?... 28 I am afraid of all my sorrows, I know that thou wilt not hold me innocent...32 For [he is] not a man, as I [am, that] I should answer him, [and] we should come together in judgment. 33 Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, [that] might lay his hand upon us both. with me. Chpt 9, 19, 21, Job 9:33

Notice in this discourse, Job expressed his belief that it is God whom is afflicting him. Further, Job stated: God destroyeth the perfect and the innocent just as the transgressor. Job did not have perfect faith in God’s mercy and Christ has his mediator. Job did not completely understand the “great controversy” between Jesus and Satan, the spiritual warfare, the devil as man’s only adversary, and the originator/source of all evil.

Many true children of God have asked; why does God allow evil men to prosper, that there is no pain in their death, they are not like other men (Psalm 73). This misunderstanding of God’s character, led Job to doubt God, whether God would protect Job. God did not intend to leave Job helpless or in that state for as long as Job was. God sent Job’s three friends to strengthen Job’s faith, which would enable Job to exercise faith, which would free him from the plagues of the devil.

We know the rest of the story, how his three friends provoked Job to justify himself, attribute His predicament to God, and charged God foolishly. The good news is that in the end, Job repented, understood the truth concerning God and the wicked. Job was restored to God with even greater possessions than at first. Regardless, Job had a fear. It was Job’s fear that allowed Satan access to Job. Hopefully, this treatise has served to vindicate God from the false belief of His character held today.