

Job

Job is one of the most misunderstood books in the Bible and is mainly used by Christians to justify some form of suffering they are experiencing and crediting it to God. Some may say God may not be sending the trial your way, but He certainly allowed it, and this theology is taken from the book of Job. We are going to see some major differences between a New Covenant Believer (us) and Job that will clear up some misconceptions many have believed.

The book of Job can be broken into 4 major parts. The first 2 chapters describe the setting and circumstances taking place. Chapters 3-31 are actually a conversation or dialog between Job and his friends. Chapters 32-37 continues with a dialog with another friend and the book closes in chapters 38-42 with God dealing with Job and his friends. It is important to understand that the majority of this book was a conversation held between Job (who we will see had no knowledge of God) and his friends.

Let's now get into why a New Covenant believer should **not** compare themselves to Job.

JOB DID NOT HAVE A COVENANT

Job is one of the oldest books in the Bible and Job was around during the time of Genesis, post flood. God is a covenant God and deals with man based off covenant. Abraham had a covenant with God (Gen 15:1). Israel; God's chosen people also had a covenant (Deu 28:7). The Bible is divided into dispensations. Dispensation means administration and it is how God deals with man during a particular period of time. The Mosaic covenant is different than our covenant of Grace. God's heart has always been to bless and protect His people but there was no covenant in place to protect Job. When people say God "allowed" Satan to afflict Job we must understand the context of what is taking place here. When Adam and Eve transgressed against God and chose to be independent of Him, they handed over their authority to the devil and he became the god of this world (2 Cor 4:4). God had to allow the enemy access to Job because he did not have a covenant. God would have been unjust to protect Job because legally the enemy had authority to do so and Job was a child of the devil (Eph 2:3).

God did not give permission to Satan, he already had legal access. Many believe God was giving Satan something of a bet and offering Job and tempting the devil but the scriptures are very clear that God cannot be tempted with evil nor does He tempt anyone (Jam 1:13).

The question that may arise is how was God able to stop the enemy from totally destroying Job if Job had no covenant? Good question. Although Job had no covenant, Job was an upright man meaning he was righteous and even though the enemy had access to Job, God could spare his life with favor (Ps 5:12). Righteousness delivers from death (Proverbs 11:4).

New Covenant Believer: We are different than Job because we have a Covenant and ours is better than any covenant that God established with man (Heb 8:6). Our covenant consist of having the Name of Jesus, the keys to the kingdom, the armor of God, authority over the demonic realm, exceedingly great and precious promises, the very life of God residing in us and many more benefits. I think we are radically different than Job.

JOB WAS NOT BORN AGAIN

Anyone pre-cross was not born again therefore; Job was not born again. Old Testament saints could not be born again. God became a man to become sin and rose from hell having provided the payment of sin that the world was in debt to God for. Jesus now offers salvation and the forgiveness of sins and now man can be born again (Jn 3:3). The part of us that is born again is our spirit man (the real us). Our old man which was a sin nature was bound by the devil but now we have a righteous nature that gives us authority.

New Covenant Believer: Anyone who puts faith in Christ is now a new creation and posses the very life of God within them (2 Cor 5:17). Someone who is born again now has the life of God on the inside of them and we are now God's permanent dwelling place (Luke 17:21, 1 Cor 6:19).

AUTHORITY

Job did not have authority over the demonic realm. The enemy was only mentioned a small number of times in the Old Testament because even had they known of the enemy they couldn't do anything about him because authority in this world was handed over to the devil by Adam (2 Cor 4:4). It was not until Jesus regained authority and delegated it to church that we could do something about him. The New Testament mentions the enemy in almost every book, and this is because we are now equipped to deal with him as we were not able to before.

New Covenant Believer: Authority has now been delegated to a believer (Mt 28:19, Lk 10:19, John 20:21). The Lord would be unjust to command us to do something about the enemy but not give us the ability to do so (James 4:7).

NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE DEVIL

Job had no knowledge of the devil and as previously stated, the majority of the book of Job is a dialog between Job and his friends. Job did not have a Bible and was not aware of a demonic realm.

New Covenant Believer: As a believer we now have a Bible that shows us even from the beginning what took place in the garden of Eden and how this will all end in the book of Revelation. Jesus told us that there is a thief that comes to kill, steal, and destroy (John 10:10) and that He came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). We are now aware the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one and no longer can we claim ignorance and attribute evil to God (1 John 1:5).

NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHO GOD WAS

Job was ignorant as to who God truly was. Job's view of God was totally contrary to who He truly is. Job said, "The Lord gives and the Lord takes" (Jon 1:21) and many believers repeat this scripture but the problem is that Job said this, not God. Job later went on to repent of his ignorance and how he spoke of things he did not know (Job 42: 3-4). When God gives, He does not take back (Rom 11:29).

God is love (1 John 4:8) and we can see this through the plan of redemption and how God sent His Son to save us (John 3:16). We can no longer claim ignorance the way Job did.

New Covenant Believer: We have superior revelation of who God is because of Jesus. Jesus said that if we have seen Him we have seen the Father (Jn 14:9), that Jesus is the exact representation of the Father (Heb 1:3), and He is the invisible image of the Father (Col 1:15). Jesus said himself that He has made the Father known (John 1:18) and that He came to give us understanding of who the Father is so that we can KNOW him (1 Jn 5:20). Supreme revelation of who God is, is revealed in the person of Jesus (Heb 1:1). Many believers believe Jobs revelation (which was extremely limited) over Jesus.

JOB DID NOT HAVE AN INTERCESSOR

In Job 1:6 we see Satan come before God. The enemy is the accuser of the brethren and under this dispensation he could come before God, day and night and accuse people.

New Covenant Believer: We have an intercessor. Satan no longer has access to God in order to accuse us because Jesus is at the right hand of God making intercession for us (Jn 12:31). When Jesus said that Satan wanted to sift Peter as wheat (Luke 22:31), the enemy still had access to God but he no longer is coming before God to accuse His children. The enemy may accuse us about ourselves or accuse us about our brothers or sisters, but God is not hearing it. God remembers our sins no more (Heb 8:12, Heb 10:17). Jesus has defeated sin, the devil and death and has sat down at the right hand of God and ever lives to make intercession for us (Heb. 7:25) (Rom 8:34). The accuser of the brethren has been cast down and Jesus is now interceding for us! Job did not have Jesus as his intercessor (Rev. 12:10).

Summary of Job

Although we can learn things from the book of Job (Rom 15:4) it is not a book where we can get a full picture of who God truly is. The Bible is broken up into progressive revelation and the superior revelation of who God is rest in Jesus. Job was upright but had very limited knowledge of who God was because He did not have a Bible. Job had a heart that loved God BUT He didn't understand everything. We can see from Job that even through Job not understanding everything, He remained faithful to God even though he actually thought God was the source of His problems, he did not abandon the faith. The good news is that as a New Covenant believer we can see that God is not the source of our problems or that He allows it but that He is the one who has given us the Holy Spirit (John 14:16) and everything we need to be victorious against anything that the devil throws at us. A believer should not pull their doctrine or beliefs from Jobs knowledge of who God is but from Jesus. We must rightfully divide the Word of truth (2 Tim 2:15) and understand the cross made a difference in God's dealing with man. If we try to mix Old and New Covenant we make Christ of none effect in our life and He will profit us nothing (Gal 5:2, 4). We should be fixing our eyes on Jesus, not Job (Heb 12:2).