



THE CASE AGAINST GOD *in the book of Job*

The book of Job is older than the book of Genesis. It is a rare and magnificent ancient book. Moses recognized its importance and included it in the Tanach. Contemporary theologians and Hebrew scholars believe it was written before the book of Genesis because the scripture in it is Paleo Hebrew. No one can be certain of the date it was written, but everybody theorizes about the period it was written, by whom and from where. The truth is that God almighty gives testimony that it is a true story (*Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God*), and that the person of Job himself existed, and the things told about him are really true.

Job is placed in the same category of Noah and Daniel in the Bible. Their names are recorded in the book of Ezekiel, in the ancient scrolls of Israel.

I've taken the following extract from *Apologetics Press (2009)*, by Author *Eric Lyons*; in his article *Was Job a Real Person?*

If Job were not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible apart from for the book that bears his name, those who claim he was not a real person might be able to argue their position more confidently. But the fact is, Job is mentioned in three different verses in Scripture (outside the book of Job), and in all three passages he is considered a real, historical figure.

The first two places his name is found (aside from the book of Job) are in Ezekiel 14, verses 14 and 20. For it is written in [Ezekiel 14:14](#) and in [14:20](#);

14 Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God.

20 Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.

Ezekiel's point in both verses was that the ungodly conditions in the land were such that even if Noah, Daniel, and Job lived in that city, no one else would be saved. Ezekiel spoke of all three of these men as being real, historical people, not legendary characters. If one recognizes Noah and Daniel as being real people of history, then there is no reason to think otherwise about Job.

The last place the suffering patriarch is mentioned in Scripture (and the only time he is mentioned in the New Testament) is found in the latter part of the book of James.

For it is written in [*James 5:10-11*](#);

10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. 11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

Obviously, James was not writing through inspiration about an imaginary person. Rather, he considered Job as real as Elijah, Isaiah, and Jeremiah, and as genuine as the Lord Himself.

Finally, God states that Job was a real person explicitly within the book of Job itself. In his second "speech" to Job, God declared that the mighty behemoth was "made along with you" (40:15, emp. added). If Job were just a fairy tale-like character, God certainly would not have spoken as having "made" him.

[End of Citation] <http://apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13&article=521#>

Job was a righteous man in God's eyes, and the Bible recognizes his account as historical events in ancient times. And so is the story of Noah and Daniel.

For Noah was the only man found righteous in the world before the flood. He built a massive wooden ship in the form of a gigantic box, the equivalent of a modern oil tanker ship. He built a ship for a sea that had not been formed yet, ever. There were no seas over the earth yet. Daniel was found righteous for his courage in front of the most powerful king on earth and his absolute trust in God, even to the point of certain death in a massive furnace on fire. Daniel never yielded his faith in face of death. Job was a found righteous in a world without the Law, before Abraham, before the prophets. Job was recognized righteous by God, before all the council of heavens, before Angels and Principalities, even Satan himself.

For centuries there has been so much to study and make doctrine about this story. Theologies of suffering, guilt, blame, the sovereignty of God, the battle between good and evil, hot and cold, and so on. But there is one aspect that is most important we understand, the terrible accusation made against God. Satan doubted the righteousness of God himself. He basically called him a puppeteer and a liar. It constituted a legal case against God, because of the place it was presented. In the heavenly court. In the middle of the assembly of The Sons of God.

Let's examine Job 1:6-12;

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God (angels) came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan (adversary, accuser) also came among them. [Amplified Bible (AMP)]

This verse sets the stage, a formal gathering in heaven. But it is more of an assembly in a royal court, where ambassadors (angels) return to the throne hall to report to their King about their assignments and travels. This is "a day" of meeting that seems to be known to all angels, thus satan is summoned to present himself also.

The meaning of the Hebrew word satan, *Strong's H7854, [שָׂטָן] ha-satan*, signifies one who is against, one who is an adversary. Since ancient times, Jewish sages have different interpretations for the existence of satan and it's role either as a spiritual being or as a dark expression of the human soul. The book of Job is very clear that this is a spiritual being, created and subject to God's commands. The apostle Peter recognizes him as a formidable foe and warns us dearly to be awake at all times, because he is a hungry Lion in pursuit of prey. When you examine the New Testament you'll find a more accurate description of this adversary named satan.

In *1 Peter 5:8*, the Greek word used for adversary is *Strong's G476, [ἀντίδικος, ου, ό] antidikos*. It means an adversary IN A COURT OF LAW. This is our enemy, and he's filed a suit in court against us, but he has a double agenda, his intention is to smear Gods righteousness. He knows the legal system of the Mosaic Law, and he accuses any who assumes to be righteous in his own merit. That's why the following is written in *1 John 2:1*;

2 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: King James Version (KJV)

Jesus is our legal aid and intercessor in court. The Greek word for advocate is *Strong's 3875 [παράκλητος] paraklētōs*. One of its meanings is a legal advocate who makes the right judgment call because he is close enough to the situation. Paraklētōs ("advocate, advisor-helper") is the regular term in NT times of an attorney (lawyer), i.e. someone giving evidence that stands up in court.

Jesus is on our side, we can stand firm and resist the evil one with this understanding of the story of Job.

As the first chapter in the book of Job reads on, the convocation or assembly in heavens is unseen to Job and others on earth. Nonetheless it is a real event, in the heavenly realm, and in the earthly realm.

To understand the story of job we must understand that two things are happening simultaneously, an ongoing discussion in the assembly in heaven, about job and the tribulation and affliction caused by the adversary on earth. All eyes are on Job's response and love for God.

Also, and as important to understand is; that satan is just an angel created by God. HE IS NOT AN EQUAL TO GOD. He is subject to God and is subordinated to his commands. He seems to be an opposite to Michael, Angel of high rank, maybe less.

7 The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Then Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming around on the earth and from walking around on it."

The story relates to events that happened in a time when satan had access to the court of heaven. Therefore when he's summoned and questioned his whereabouts, he provides adequate answer.

From his answer we know that he has free access to earth and is very interested in what is happening there. In *1Peter 5:8*, the word "roam", in the Greek *περιπατέω (G4043) [peripateó]* has a peculiar rendering, to walk full circle. The accuser is desperately walking all over the circumference of the earth seeking to hurt the seed of the woman, the body of Christ.

He is going around without a pre-determined route, looking at random what weak prey can he devour (in the Greek the word *καταπίνω (G2666) [katapino]* means "to swallow down" completely, wholly, like a serpent). It could be said the he literally "walks" the land and cities of the earth.

8 The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered and reflected on My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God [with reverence] and abstains from and turns away from evil [because he honors God]."

It was God the one who pointed his servant job to the consideration of the adversary. This is most revealing when you consider the multiform wisdom of God. He sees the end from the beginning. There is a God driven purpose in the afflictions put on Job, as we'll see ahead.

One thing must be pointed out clearly, God recognized Job as a righteous man, without blame. So let's get the idea that everything that happened to Job was because of something he did wrong. Job is blameless over the whole thing, as it is written in Job 1:20-22;

20 Then Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head [in mourning for the children], and he fell to the ground and worshiped [God]. 21 He said,

*"Naked (without possessions) I came [into this world] from my mother's womb,
And naked I will return there.
The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away;
Blessed be the name of the Lord."*

*22 Through all this **Job did not sin** nor did he blame God.*

This was a man whom God presented out loud in front of the assembly of *The Sons of God* in the heavens. And he did nothing wrong. This is precisely why he was chosen and tested. First, job had free choice. If not then, what is the purpose of any test?

Second, if god chooses to take away what he has given, who are we to question his motives? Are we righteous in our own right?

Let's go back to verse 1:9-11;

9 Then Satan answered the Lord, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have You not put a hedge [of protection] around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands [and conferred prosperity and happiness upon him], and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But put forth Your hand now and touch (destroy) all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face."

Remember that all of this is happening in a court in heaven, where *The Sons Of God* have been summoned. It is a legal framework. There is a prosecutor, the accused, the advocate and the Chief Justice of heaven.

Here is the opening oral argument of the adversary or the prosecutor: *Does Job fear God for nothing?.....*

It's a direct attack on the moral and character of God himself. The adversary is saying that anyone would reverence god if given the wealth and protection he has given Job. That there is no goodness in men, or in God. It is all a matter of convenience, of bribes and opportunities. He continues to roam saying *touch (destroy) all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face....*

What an arrogant and cynic spirit the adversary is. There is no free choice, there is no real love and there is no righteousness in heaven or earth.

12 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that Job has is in your power, only do not put your hand on the man himself." So Satan departed from the presence of the Lord.

Then God allowed satan to inflict evil on Job, all but taking his life. At the end, Job remained righteous in plain view of all *The Sons Of God* who were watching this trial, waiting to see the outcome of Job's free will and Gods righteousness proven true. The purpose of Jobs trial was to teach a lesson to the court of angelic beings in heaven.

This account about Job's relation with God was based on reverence and awe for the love that the creator had given him always. That the creator of heaven and earth can give and take, and still he knows best for his creation. This lesson was later made complete when in another court in heaven; in another "day" something wonderful happened.

Before Jesus entered the world he was with God the Father in heaven. There was a "day" when there was a discussion about the inefficacy of the covenant with man on earth. It had gone wrong because of the traditions and laws of men in Jerusalem. The covenant with its animal sacrifices was not pleasing to God.

For it is written in [Hebrews 10:4-9](#);

4 For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God,

"You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But you have given me a body to offer.

6 You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin.

7 Then I said, 'Look, I have come to do your will, O God as is written about me in the Scriptures.'"

8 First, Christ said, "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor were you pleased with them" (though they are required by the law of Moses).

*9 Then he said, "Look, I have come to do your will." **He cancels the first covenant in order to put the second into effect.** 10 For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. [New Living Translation (NLT)]*

For those who say that God doesn't care what's happening on earth, here's the answer. He gave his only son to be elevated on a pole, his skin ripped off his body, his back made strings of flesh, his face pummeled unrecognizable, his body torn and beaten out of form, his face spitted over and over by the roman's and the same Jewish leaders he had preached and prayed for, just a few days before. God provided a perfect lamb for sacrifice, so that men would not be in the same situation that Job endured. God imputed Jesus righteousness to all WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS. Therefore, there can be no accusation against a believer anymore. There can be no judgment, Christ substituted us IN THE TRIAL and redeemed his followers once and for all times.

For it is written in John 3:14-18;

14 And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. 16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. 18 "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. [New Living Translation (NLT)]

Now we wait in holy expectation for his triumphant return in the air. But we must be vigilant, awake and able to discern the ungodly plans of the adversary, the roaming Lion.

Since Adam and Eve, the serpent has done its best to malign and misrepresent the character of God. Then, when he cannot malign God's character directly, he seeks to malign and misrepresent the characters of God's followers.

THERE IS NO CASE AGAINST GOD! JESUS PROVED HIS LOVE FOR US!

Through the ages there have been upright men and women of God who have given testimony about their love for God and his righteousness. Saints that gave their lives for the testimony of Jesus. People of all nations who have and are still suffering persecution and tribulation because of THE NAME OF GOD. There is one little book that every Christian should be acquainted with, Fox Book Of Martyrs. It's a recollection of martyrs who have given their lives in testimony of their love for the truth IN GOD, in defense of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ.

The book of Job has many lessons in suffering, affliction, the sovereignty of God, the ways and strategies of the adversary, and no much more.

But one quality in the life of Job was his perseverance. He didn't have the abundant information available today about Jesus and the writings of the Apostle Paul. But he knew one thing, one crucial thing about God. TO TRUST HIM!

As Job answered the LORD,

42:1 Job answered Adonai and said:

2 "I know You can do all things; no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

3 You ask, 'Who is this, who darkens counsel without knowledge?'

Surely I spoke without understanding, things too wonderful for me which I did not know.

4 You said, 'Hear now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you will inform Me.'

5 I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye has seen You.

6 Therefore I despise myself, and repent on dust and ashes."

Job 42:1-6 [Tree of Life Version (TLV)]

Job had known about God by the hearing of the ear. And he Believed, and trusted God IN EVERYTHING HE HAD.

So must we. Now we have seen him through his son Jesus.

Stand Firm and resist the adversary, for Christ has won over death and we are now in his hands.

Amen, Halleluiah and Glory be to The Father and Our Lord and Savior Jesus , AMEN!



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