

## 62 “SATAN” IN JOB

### A. Preliminary considerations

#### 1. The proper noun, “Satan,” is a misrepresentation.

- a) The word “satan” is a transliteration of the Hebrew has-sa-tan (Strong’s #7854) which means “the adversary”.
- b) Has-sa-tan describes an adversarial role not a superhuman entity. See P.P. #60

#### 2. Sons of God were descendants of Adam via the Seth line in distinction to the material-minded Cain lineage.

- a) “...the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.” Luke 3:38
- b) See Preterist Paper #58

#### 3. “To present themselves” (yatsab: Strong’s #3320) is a verb “to set or station oneself, take one’s stand.”

##### References pertain to earthly occurrences. (Exception: Zech 6:5)

- a) “On the day when God’s sons came to present [yatsab #3320] themselves before Yahweh, the adversary came also among them to present [yatsab #3320] himself before Yahweh.” Job 2:1
- b) “Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel...and they presented [yatsab #3320] themselves before God.” Josh 24:1
- c) “...present [yatsab #3320] yourselves before Yahweh by your tribes and by your thousands.” I Sam 10:19
- d) “Call Joshua, and present [yatsab #3320] yourselves in the Tent of Meeting, that I may commission him.” Deut. 31:14

### B. The book of Job has characteristics of a parable-like story.

#### 1. Prologue: multiples of ten for children and possessions. Job 1:2-3

- a) 7 sons + 3 daughters = 10 children
- b) 7,000 sheep + 3,000 camels = 10,000 animals
- c) 500 yoke of oxen + 500 female asses = 1,000 units of animals

#### 2. Epilogue: Same number of children restored and doubling of possessions. Job 42:12-13

- a) 7 sons + 3 daughters = 10 children (old enough to give job money)
- b) 14,000 sheep + 6,000 camels = 20,000 animals
- c) 1,000 yoke of oxen + 1,000 female asses = 2,000 units of animals

#### 3. Repetition of identical language (and adversary not named as cause). Job 1:13-19

- a) Sabeans took the oxen and asses and killed the servants, “And I alone have escaped to tell you.”
- b) Fire of God destroyed sheep, camels and servants, “And I alone have escaped to tell you.”
- c) Chaldeans took the camels and slew the servants, “And I alone have escaped to tell you.”
- d) A great wind collapsed the house killing Job’s children, “And I alone have escaped to tell you.”

#### 4. Anthropomorphism including “deal making”. Confusion of adversary’s and Yahweh’s deeds.

**Adversary said:** “...Touch all that he has, and he will renounce you to your face.” Job 1:11

**Yahweh said:** “Behold, all that he has is in your power.” Job 1:12

**Yahweh said:** Job “still maintains his integrity, although you incited me against him, to ruin him without cause.” Job 2:3

**Adversary said:** “Stretch out your hand now, and touch his bone...and he will renounce you to your face.” Job 2:5

**Yahweh said:** “Behold, he is in your hand. Only spare his life.” Job 2:6

**Adversary:** “...went out from the presence of Yahweh, and struck Job with painful sores....” Job 2:7

### C. Job’s adversary was similar to Cain.

#### 1. Both mingled with the worshippers of God, but were distinct from them. (See P.P. #58 for identity of “sons of God”)

**Cain:** “Cain brought an offering to Yahweh from the fruit of the ground. Abel also brought some of the firstborn of his flock and of its fat. Yahweh respected Abel and his offering, but he didn’t respect Cain and his offering.” Gen 4:3-5

**Adversary:** “Now on the day when God’s sons came to present themselves before Yahweh, the adversary also came among them. Yahweh said to the adversary, “Where have you come from?” Job 1:6-7

#### 2. Both were wanderers—perhaps indicative of lacking divine purpose.

**Cain:** God said to Cain, “You will be a fugitive and a wanderer in the earth.... Cain said, “Behold, you have driven me out today from the surface of the ground.... I will be a fugitive and a wanderer in the earth.” Gen 4:12-14

**Adversary:** Yahweh said to the adversary, “Where have you come from?” The adversary answered Yahweh, and said, “From going back and forth in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.” Job 2:2

**3. Scripture states both went out from the presence of the Lord. (See also Judas in John 13:30)**

**Cain:** "From thy face I shall be hidden... Cain left Yahweh's presence..." Gen 4: 14-16

**Adversary:** "The adversary went out from the presence of Yahweh...The adversary went out from the presence of Yahweh." Job 1:12, 2:7

**4. Both inflicted harm on those faithful to God.**

**Cain:** "Cain said to Abel, his brother, 'Let's go into the field.' While they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel, his brother, and killed him." Gen 4:3-6

**Adversary:** So the adversary ...struck Job with painful sores..." Job 2:5,7\*

**5. Both were steeped in jealousy and grievance against God.**

**Cain:** "Yahweh respected Abel and his offering, but he didn't respect Cain and his offering. Cain was very angry, and the expression on his face fell. Yahweh said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? Why has the expression of your face fallen? If you do well, won't it be lifted up? If you don't do well, sin crouches at the door. Its desire is for you, but you are to rule over it.'" Gen. 4:3-7

**Adversary:** "Yahweh said to the adversary, 'Have you considered my servant, Job? For there is no one like him in the earth, a blameless and an upright man, one who fears God, and turns away from evil.' Then the adversary answered Yahweh, and said, 'Does Job fear God for nothing? Haven't you made a hedge around him.... But stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will renounce you to your face.'" Job 1:9-11

**D. Job was correct to insist God was the cause of all things, including his afflictions. Never once did Job attribute his plight to a devil or human adversary.**

1. "Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" Job 2:10

2. "For the arrows of the Almighty are within me, the poison of which drinketh up my spirit: the terrors of God set themselves in array against me." Job 6:4

3. "The earth is given into the hand of the wicked. He [God] covers the faces of its judges. If not he [God], then who is it?" Job 9:24

4. "If my head is held high, you hunt me like a lion. Again you show yourself powerful to me." Job 10:16

5. "He has broken me down on every side, and I am gone. He has plucked my hope up like a tree." Job 19:10

6. "Have pity on me. Have pity on me, you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me." Job 19:21

7. "For God has made my heart faint. The Almighty has terrified me." Job 23:16

**E. Job was wrong to think the ways of Yahweh were comprehensible to his human reasoning. Relationship with God demands child-like surrender regarding His will.**

1. "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?" Job 38:4

2. "Have you commanded the morning in your days, and caused the dawn to know its place." Job 38:12

3. Yahweh said, "Now deck yourself with excellency and dignity. Array yourself with honor and majesty. Pour out the fury of your anger. Look at everyone who is proud, and bring him low... Crush the wicked in their place." Job 40:10-12 (Job couldn't do any of this. Yahweh showed Job how powerless he was in himself.)

4. Job said, "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be restrained... therefore I have uttered that which I didn't understand, things too wonderful for me, which I didn't know." Job 42:2

5. Jesus said, "I can of myself do nothing." Jn. 5:30. (Jesus embodied perfect child-like surrender to the Father.)

**F. Job realized his nothingness AND his importance. He was given his heart's desire—intimate knowing of God.**

"I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you." Job 42:5-6

**G. The sovereign LORD was the true cause of Job's troubles—not Satan or an earthly enemy.**

"Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been of his acquaintance before, came to him and ate bread with him in his house. They comforted him, and consoled him concerning all the evil that Yahweh had brought on him." Job 42:11

**Notes:**

**Book:** The Real Devil, Duncan Heaster out of print. Available on line.

**Listen:** Book of Job read on YouTube by David Suchet. (He reads all the books of the Bible beautifully.)

\***Job's illness:** Disease provoked by (adversarial) harassment would not be unusual.

**What about Job 38?** "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth... and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" Job 38:4-7.

Interesting connection: "He chose us in him before the foundation of the world." Eph 1:4 "As many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name." Jn 1:12