

Comments About Job 2:1–10

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss the book of Job. There will be times when we talk about (1) a group of chapters, (2) one chapter and (3) a portion of a chapter. Today, we will discuss Job 2:1-10.

I hope this project encourages you to review the valuable history and lessons found in the book of Job.

Two trials

In the first two chapters of the book of Job, we read about two trials that came upon Job and his wife. We talked about the first trial (found in chapter 1) last week, and we will talk about the second trial (found in chapter 2) today.

- The angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan was among them (Job 2:1 and previously mentioned Job 1:6).
- The Lord asked Satan where he had been, and Satan mentioned that he had been on the earth (Job 2:2 and previously mentioned in Job 1:7).
- Next, the Lord asked Satan if he had “considered” His servant Job (Job 2:3 and previously mentioned in Job 1:8).

Considered for what?

Based upon Satan’s response, Satan knew that the Lord had meant considered for a trial (verse 4).

Job 2:4—“So Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.’ ”

Do you remember the “hedge” that protected Job from Satan (Job 1:10)? It is apparent that God would have to adjust the hedge for Satan to consider Job.

- It was God’s idea to adjust the hedge to give Satan room to provide a trial for Job.
- We see that Satan came up with the proposals—the details of both trials that would afflict Job. Satan suggested the details of the first trial (Job 1:11), and he suggested the details of the second trial (Job 2:5).
- We see that God approved of Satan’s proposals—maintaining ultimate control by limiting what Satan could do (verse 6).

Job 2:5—“ ‘But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!’ ”

Job 2:6—“And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life.’ ”

Health trial

In the first trial, God said that Satan could not “lay a hand” upon Job (Job 1:12). In the second trial, God allowed Satan to strike Job with painful boils (Job 2:7).

Job 2:7—“So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.”

Those painful boils tormented Job (Job 2:8).

Wife’s suggestion

When Job’s wife saw his suffering, she gave him a suggestion (Job 2:9). We don’t know the tone of her suggestion.

In past sermons years ago, I described her words as being given by a nagging shrew. How unfair of me. She may have offered those words in a sympathetic, caring manner.

Job’s reaction

Job reaction to this trial (Job 2:10) was similar to his reaction to the first trial (Job 1:20-22).

Job 2:10—“But he said to her, ‘You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?’ In all this Job did not sin with his lips.”

■ If the book of Job ended after chapter 2, then we could conclude that Job’s reaction was exemplary. However, the book of Job has 42 chapters and an opportunity for Job to reveal his humanity.