

Sermon Notes

If Not God? - Job 9:24

September 28, 2025

I. Introduction

The first step on the way to victory is to recognize the enemy. Corrie Ten Boom

- a. what do satan and the Wizard of Oz have in common... both deceive people... both want people to believe they're all-powerful... helpless against them... to tremble in fear...
Luke 10:19... *"I have given you authority over all the ability of the enemy..."*
1John 4:4... *"conquered evil spirits... One in you is greater than one in the world..."*
1John 5:4... *"every child of God defeats evil world... victory thru faith... by believing in Jesus..."*
- b. why did people tremble before the Wizard... why do people tremble before satan... simply because of ignorance and unbelief... don't have precise and correct knowledge of who he is...
Isa 14:12-17... *"how you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning... you destroyer of nations, you have been cut down... I will ascend to the heavens, I will set up my throne, I will make myself like the Most High... but you will be brought down to the deepest regions of the pit... those who see you will stare... is this the man who caused the earth to tremble, who shook the heavens..."*
Eph 4:18... *"mind full of darkness... wander far from the life God gives... because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against Him..."*
- c. satan is like the Wizard... hiding behind a wall of deception... pulling levers of suffering and pain... all the while whispering... *pay no attention to the man behind the curtain...* how did Dorothy and her friends find out the truth... they pulled back the curtain... *pray...*

The loveliest trick of the devil is to persuade you he doesn't exist. Charles Baudelaire

II. If Not God?

- a. start with basics... God gave Adam control... Adam gave it to satan... Jesus took it back...
Gen 1:26-28... *"fill the earth and subdue it... rule the fish, birds, every creature..."*
Luke 4:16... *"satan said... I will give you these kingdoms and authority, they are mine to give..."*
Col 2:10-15... *"He disarmed spiritual rulers... disgraced them... triumphed over them..."*
- b. satan is a created being... not equal to God... not omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent... in many ways, he is like us... has to gain knowledge about God, man, world thru time and experience...
1Cor 2:8... *"none of the rulers of this age knew... if they had... would not have crucified Jesus..."*
2Cor 4:4... *"the god of this age has blinded minds of unbelievers from the gospel..."*
- c. devil has used story of Job as one of his greatest deceptions... *Job is one of oldest stories in the bible, prior to Abraham, probably between Gen 4 and 11 (Matthew Henry)*... devil we see in the Garden... devil in Job... is not the devil of today... as he gains knowledge... he's very good at changing tactics and temptations based on trial and error... knows what works and what doesn't...
- d. before we pull back curtain on Job... let's establish a powerful truth... God does NOT in any way answer to satan... nor does God seek satan's permission to do anything... God never uses satan to steal, kill, destroy... so how do we explain these verses which seem to indicate God is the problem...
Job 1:21... *"the Lord gives and the Lord takes away..."*
Job 2:3-6... *"God said... have you considered my servant Job, he is in your power..."*
- e. let's take a closer look at the conversation between satan and God... are they working together... did God just throw Job under the evil bus... kinda looks like it... but are you sure...
Job 1:7-12... *"the Lord asked satan, where have you come from... from roaming the earth... have you considered my servant Job, no one is like him... satan said, stretch out Your hand, strike everything he has and he will curse you..."* and God said, *very well, everything he owns is in your power..."*

- f. generally interpret that passage as God bad, devil good... does that fit with scripture...
Exo 14:14... *"the Lord will fight for you and you shall hold your peace..."*
Lam 3:33... *"the Lord does not afflict willingly... nor grieve the children of men..."*
Psa 50:15... *"call on Me when you are in trouble... I will rescue you..."*
2Tim 4:17-18... *"the Lord stood with me... delivered me from every evil attack..."*
- g. any theology that says God stands by and watches you suffer is incorrect... God can't be the cause then then turn around and rescue you... a house divided against itself cannot stand...
- h. if God is not teaming up with satan... not ordering an attack on Job... what's He saying... an accurate reading of this scripture actually glorifies God and reveals His true nature...
Job 1:8... *"have you considered/noticed my servant Job... no one is like him..."*
YLT... *"have you set your heart against my servant Job... no one is like him..."*
GSV... *"what have you been doing... have you set your evil intentions upon Job... are you thinking about harming him... there is no one on earth like him... do not lay a finger on him..."*
- i. this passage can get even more confusing... did satan just convince God to remove His protection from Job... is satan working with God to test Job's faith, virtue, and character...
Job 1:10-12... *"haven't You placed a hedge around him, his household, and everything he owns... and the Lord said, very well, everything he owns in in your power, but do not lay a hand on him..."*
Jam 1:13... *"God never inflicts evil to prove our quality or faith by doing something destructive..."*
- j. impossible for satan to convince or trick God into allowing him to harm Job... listen very close... God is not giving authority to satan... He's simply making a statement of truth... God cannot lie... at this point, satan is in charge... Adam gave him control... satan has a legal right to Job...
Job 1:12... *"very well, then... everything he has in in your power..."*
hineh... *behold; see; check it out (slang); changes perspective from reader to speaker...*
1John 5:19... *"whole world is under the control of the evil one..."*
- k. does God destroy... does He cause suffering and pain... according to Job, yes... is that fact or truth... just figured it was God... if not God, then who... no concept of an enemy... many still assume bad stuff is from God... after all, He's in control... never bother to see who really steals, kills, destroys...
Job 9:22-24... *"I say, He destroys both the blameless and the wicked... when disaster bring sudden death... He laughs at the death of the innocent... if's He's not the One, then who is it..."*
- l. lack of knowledge caused Job to believe God is responsible... believes behavior will make him acceptable... Job thought he was blameless... his friends thought it was sin... both were wrong...
Job 13:19-23... *"can anyone bring charges against me... what have I done wrong... reveal my sin..."*
Job 31:6... *"let God weigh me on scales of justice... He knows my integrity..."*
Job 32:1... *"his friends quit answering... because Job was righteous in his own eyes..."*
Job 38:2-3... *"who questions My wisdom with such words without knowledge..."*
Job 40:8... *"would you challenge My justice... declare Me guilty to justify yourself..."*
Job 42:3-7... *"I spoke of things I did not understand... things too wonderful for me... I had heard rumors about You... but now my eyes have seen You... I reject my words and I am sorry for them..."*
Mark 8:27-30... *"who do people say I am... but you, who do you say I am..."*
- m. many believe this book is all about God's unfairness and Job's faithfulness... want to be like Job... ridiculous... Job showed no signs of trusting God... no belief he would be rescued... wanted to die...
Job 7:15-16... *"I would rather die than suffer like this... I hate my life... I don't want to live..."*
Job 13:15... *"though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him... I will maintain mine own ways..."*
* CSB... *"even if He kills me... I will still hope in Him... I will still defend my ways..."*
* NRSV... *"He will kill me... I have no hope... but I will defend my ways to His face..."*
Job 17:13-15... *"the only home I hope for is the grave... who can see any hope for me..."*
- n. so what... devil's desire is to steal, kill, destroy... to deceive us about who God really is and what He really does... Job is not about a good man going thru trouble caused by God... but a good God who loves us... after Job repents, God restores double to him... time for us to pull back the curtain on who God really is... to change our minds for the better... allow Him to restore double to us... *pray*...
Job 42:6-10... *"I reject my words and repent... and the Lord restored and doubled His possessions..."*
Psa 69:4... *"I will restore that which I did not take away..."*