

The IMAX Man

Cosmic Controversy Series: Part 8

Study Guide

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I. THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY

Job 1:6-7

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ The LORD said to Satan, “Whence have you come?” Satan answered the LORD, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”

Job 1:1

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God, and turned away from evil.

Job 1:8-12

⁸ And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?” ⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD, “Does Job fear God for nought? ¹⁰ Hast thou not put a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But put forth thy hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse thee to thy face.” ¹² And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only upon himself do not put forth your hand.” So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

1 Corinthians 4:9

For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men.

A. Cosmic Conflict and the IMAX Man

1. The book of Job begins with an evil, subtle claim from Satan that he, not God, controls the whole earth (Job 1:6-7).

2. God’s servant Job becomes the subject of debate between God and Satan in the cosmic controversy over good and evil. Completely unaware of this, Job finds himself center stage as the leading character on the huge “IMAX” screen of the universe to an audience of angels and men (Job 1:8-12; 1 Corinthians 4:9).
3. In 1 Corinthians 4:9, Paul states, “God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men.” The word “spectacle” in the Greek is the word “theatros” which means *theatre*.
4. In the book of Job, Job is being observed at the council of the sons of God, which would indicate that he is under the scrutiny of angels and of men as to how he will handle life’s challenges in bearing witness to the truth about God.
5. Satan claims that Job’s theology is a prosperity theology (Job 1:10-11). That is: *Follow God and God will bless you. So why not follow God? It pays to follow God – pray and pay is how it works!*
6. Job was a man of moral character, blameless and upright before God, and did not deserve a life of turmoil (Job 1:1, 8). [Here was a man who had every right to a full pension and a stable social security check. Virtue was his middle name, and faith and devotion was his spiritual and social contribution.]
7. Job’s name in Hebrew means, “the oppressed of God.”

Genesis 13:14-17

¹⁴ *The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, ¹⁵ for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. ¹⁷ Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.”*

Luke 4:5-7

⁵ *And the devil took him up, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory; for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it shall all be yours.”*

John 12:30-31

³⁰ *Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.”*

John 14:30-31

³⁰ “I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.”

John 16:10-11

¹⁰ “...concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

Job 1:8

And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?”

B. Ruler of this World

1. When God gave Abraham the land of Canaan, he told him to walk throughout the length and breadth of the land as sign that God had given the land to him. In a similar way, Satan claimed the whole of planet earth as his property (Genesis 13:14-17).
2. We know that in Luke 4:6 when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, Satan openly claimed that he had received authority and dominion over the world’s kingdoms. He said “everything has been delivered to me.”
3. Jesus did not challenge Satan’s claim to this world order. In fact, Jesus calls Satan “the ruler of this world” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11).
4. In the presence of Satan, God was the one who introduced Job’s name into the mix (Job 1:8). Essentially, God was saying: *You may control the world, but you do not control everyone in the world. There is a man who follows me and not you. **And suddenly, God puts that man on the silver screen of the universe as the IMAX man.***
5. In Job 1:8, God was declaring: *Satan, you may control the world, but you do not control my servant Job. You may rule the nations that worship the hosts of heaven, but there is a man in the land of UZ who follows me in spite of your demonic rule, and he will not follow you no matter what you do to him.*

Job 1:19

“And behold, a great wind came across the wilderness, and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

Job 38:1

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind.

Job 1:13-17

¹³ Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house; ¹⁴ and there came a messenger to Job, and said, "The oxen were plowing and the asses feeding beside them; ¹⁵ and the Sabe'ans fell upon them and took them, and slew the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁶ While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁷ While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, "The Chalde'ans formed three companies, and made a raid upon the camels and took them, and slew the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you."

Job 1:18-22

¹⁸ While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house; ¹⁹ and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness, and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you." ²⁰ Then Job arose, and rent his robe, and shaved his head, and fell upon the ground, and worshiped. ²¹ And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return; the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." ²² In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

Job 2:7-10

⁷ So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD, and afflicted Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ And he took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. ⁹ Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God, and die." ¹⁰ But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job 2:11-12

¹¹ Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eli'phaz the Te'manite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Na'amathite. They made an appointment together to come to condole with him and comfort him. ¹² And when they saw him from afar, they did not recognize him; and they raised their voices and wept; and they rent their robes and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven.

Job 22:1, 15-16, 23-25

¹ Then Eli'phaz the Te'manite answered: ¹⁵ Will you keep to the old way which wicked men have trod? ¹⁶ They were snatched away before their time; their foundation was washed away. ²³ If you return to the Almighty and humble yourself, if you remove

unrighteousness far from your tents...²⁶ then you will delight yourself in the Almighty, and lift up your face to God.”

C. Job’s Afflictions

1. The book of Job begins with a storm and it ends with God in the storm (Job 1:19; 38:1).
2. In Job 1:13, Job’s children were all together at a feast. Suddenly a series of messengers arrive and Job’s way of life comes to an awful end.
3. In the story, Job becomes an old man early. Four servants carry four messages that systematically crush his dreams. The four winds of strife blow hard on Job, and his life descends into unexplainable grief:
 - (1) The First Messenger relayed that the Sabeans had killed his servants (Job 1:13-15).
 - (2) The Second Messenger reported that the fire of God burned all his sheep (Job 1:16).
 - (3) The Third Messenger told him that the Chaldeans stole all his camels (Job 1:17).
 - (4) The Fourth Messenger finished Job off with a blow to his heart informing that all his children had died (Job 1:18-19).
4. Then, the Bible says Job tore his clothes and he worshiped God in the midst of his suffering praying: “Naked came I into the world, and naked shall I return, the Lord has given and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord” (Job 1:20-22).
5. In Chapter 2, on top of already devastating losses, Job is afflicted with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head (Job 2:8). Yet, in all this he did not sin with his lips (Job 2:10).
6. Lastly, when Job was down on his back suffering the pain of physical illness, his wife told him to curse God and die (Job 2:9). And his three best friends showed up – comforting him not as intended – but gave him a distorted lecture on ethics and philosophy calling his integrity into question (Job 2:11-12; 22:1, 15-16, 23-25).
7. In all Job’s suffering and distress of words, he never accused God or dishonored Him and God honored Job as a result.

II. GOD IN THE WHIRLWIND

Genesis 6:6

And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

Isaiah 63:9

In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Isaiah 65:1

I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here am I, here am I," to a nation that was not called by my name.

Hosea 11:7-9

⁷ My people are bent on turning away from me, and though they call out to the Most High, he shall not raise them up at all. ⁸ How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. ⁹ I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

Ephesians 4:30-31

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

2 Corinthians 5:19

That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

A. Pain Bearer for the Universe

1. In the Bible, God ultimately is the one who suffers in this universe (Genesis 6:6; Isaiah 63:9).
2. God is the one who lives out sleepless nights as dying and starving people cry out to Him in the night for life (Isaiah 65:1).
3. The Lord is the one who has to watch thousands of souls sink into hopeless graves with no hope for a tomorrow. And they're all His children, abiding deep within the Father's heart. He sees it all and He suffers with an infinite pain (Hosea 11:7-9).
4. In the Bible, God is the righteous sufferer who has merited no wrong at anyone's hands (Ephesians 4:30-31).

5. Pain is defined in the Bible by the awful tragedy of a cross that God carries into eternity (2 Corinthians 5:19).
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Job 42:5

I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;

Isaiah 63:9

In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Job 38:1-4

¹ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: ² “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³ Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. ⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.”

Job 42:10

And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends; and the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.”

B. God’s Response to Job

1. In the book of Job, God gives no answer to the question, “WHY?” But rather He answers the question, “WHO?” (Job 42:5)
2. The Upholder of the universe cares so deeply for a lonely man that He comes to be with him and engage him in discourse. God offers him the fullness of His presence – not presents – but His presence. [Note: prosperity theology that seeks presents from God is a bankrupt theology.]
3. Job sought God, and in His presence peace was the ultimate outcome. In the presence of God who shared in his suffering, Job’s many questions sank into obscurity (Isaiah 63:9).
4. The God he needed found him, and the God who had seemed to have become his adversary became the answer he sought in the storm (Job 38:1-4).
5. Paradoxically, God became the storm that calmed Job’s troubled life and led him to a new life on the other side of the whirlwind (Job 38:1; 42:10).

Job 42:8-10

⁸ Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly; for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.” ⁹ So Eli'phaz the Te'manite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Na'amathite went and did what the LORD had told them; and the LORD accepted Job's prayer. ¹⁰ And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends; and the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.”

James 5:14-16

¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Revelation 1:9, 19

⁹ I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁹ Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

C. Healing and Restoration

1. Healing comes when you pray for those who hurt you. Healing comes when you care for your persecutors enough to pray for God to help them (Job 42:10).
2. When you pray for God to help the ones who sought to break you, then you are no longer a broken person. You have passed from personal pain to God's personal presence. And God's presence becomes the powerful energy in your life to bless others that need God in spite of the hardships you have endured (James 5:14-16).
3. Those who are taught by pain and patience will receive their life back from God in the end, and will have more to say about God and more to do for Him than they ever did before their rendezvous with pain (Revelation 1:9, 19).
4. When Job prayed for his friends, God healed his affliction and restored to him twice as much as he had before (Job 42:8-10).