James #8

Disaster testing and thought testing bring the capacity for super-grace maturity.

Let us open up again in the OT – today we will be in Job chapter two.

You will notice the protocol for the spiritual warfare ordained in eternity past – the rules of engagement as I mentioned last message. This becomes even more apparent in chapter two;

/Job 2:1 Again, there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the LORD, and **Satan** also came among them **to present himself before the LORD**.

The fallen angels with Satan were high- ranking angels under the authority of Satan.\

They have the ability to ascend into heavenly places, beyond our imagination and bring forth a decree for an attack on a Believer.

As I clarified last lesson, GOD has already established everything in eternity past, including the battle lines and engagement for warfare in the angelic rebellion.

Showing us, God is not only well aware of adversity in your life. HE had to give it a positive nod as part of the plan in eternity past.

It had to happen this way for whatever outcome or purpose is achieved, it is all factored into God’s divine will.

[Job 2:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/2/2/s_438002) The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.”

/[Job 2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/2/3/s_438003) The LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a **blameless and upright man** fearing God and **turning away from evil**. And he still **holds firm to his integrity**, (*tummâ*) although **you incited** Me against him to ruin him without cause.”

Job is being used as a type of Christ (humanity), that is attacked, rejected and beaten – yet he is spotless or righteous.\

TOO-MAW, is a word used for perfection or completion, something that is not lacking anything it is whole.

Which points us to the fact that Job was walking a complete, super-grace lifestyle.

He knew how to rebound back from sin and did so habitually (Job 1:5).

Job was not sinless perfection in his flesh – JOB used what we now call the two power options in the CA.

The Hebrew verb for incited is - *sûṯ (SUIT)*, which comes from a root word for the term THORNS! GOD is telling Satan you are a curse a thorn.

Thorns are seen as negativity, pain and often times sin or evil in theology.

/Job is called a man of great integrity and righteousness (*tummâ*) – this was a Hebrew noun used to describe Adam, Noah and even Satan. Meaning that all created creatures (angels & humans) have the ability to be righteous in the eyes of GOD – it is Christ-dependent. Satan was found to be blameless at one time, the difference between a Job, Noah and Satan comes down to the humility to adjust to the justice of God.\

[Job 2:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/2/4/s_438004) Satan answered the LORD and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has, he will give for his life.

Satan’s anger is seen here because JOB had not cursed God under the first test.

SKIN FOR SKIN – simply means JOB like any man, will save his own skin and sacrifice others so as not to suffer.

Notice the mentality of Satan – that is how he would react and that is how he thinks.

 REPEAT

[Job 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/2/5/s_438005) “However, reach out with Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face!”

Notice the exclamation points which emphasizes the building anger.

/Satan’s frustration is seen here in these two verses. The fact is the KOD will never quit, they have already sealed their fate and fallen into the deepest arrogance and lust patterns, there is no coming back for them. When the tests and attacks arrive, it is a witness opportunity for the Believer. It is the call for application; it is the time for combat. Job became a witness in the highest court. He became a combat veteran, decorated and honored for eternity.\

[Job 2:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/2/6/s_438006) So the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life.”

God always gives us some form of relief or exit from adversity in HIS timing and HIS way. Sometimes just the strength to endure it for a period of time;

/1Cor 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except **something common to mankind**; and **God is faithful,** so He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will **provide the way of escape**also, so that **you will be able to endure it.\**

Most scholars believe this all took place between 7 to 10 months in the life of JOB.

**/**[Job 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/2/7/s_438007) Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and **struck Job with severe boils** from the sole of his foot to the top of his head.

The KOD has the abilities to bring forth illness or even disease – Disaster Testing may be a break down in our health, something unexpected.\

[Job 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/2/8/s_438008) And *Job* took a piece of pottery to scrape himself while he was sitting in the ashes.

/God lowered the hedge of safety (wall of fire) that protected Job, but He did not eliminate it. Satan was given greater access to attack Job, but not unlimited access. Even during a time of suffering GOD is still with you. More often than not HE is carrying and protecting you in a fashion we may not recognize until we get face to face with the LORD and more is revealed.\

Job is dealing with a type of skin cancer, or severe outbreak of a rash, that seems to dry up and then become excessively itchy.

Satan and his army have the ability to bring forth many painful or uncomfortable illnesses.

/Luk 13:11 And **there was a woman who for eighteen years had a sickness** caused **by a spirit**; and she was bent over double, and could not straighten up at all. 12 When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her**, “Woman, you are freed from your sickness**.”\

Of course, the legalistic crowd accused Jesus of sinning on a Sabbath day because HE healed her.

God does not operate within human viewpoint or human standards.

The fact is physical illness or disease, happen to all of us – BEL or UNBEL.

After the fall in the garden and the shift of the earth during the flood, we no longer live extended years and we no longer have the perfection of the garden.

The difference is the Christian is living a life of eternal value – the Unbel lives a life of futility.

 REPEAT

Now notice on top of Disaster testing the issue of people testing and system testing is still all around Job.

[/Job 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/2/9/s_438009) Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold firm your integrity? **Curse God and die!”**

Job’s wife and marriage were not a place of comfort or support. Her grieving and lack of understanding of the test, revealed her own areas of weakness and arrogance.\

We need to realize that under pressure people’s weakness and arrogance will come to the surface.

One of the most painful subjects in our life is when those closest to us abandon us during time of need.

/We never know who is dealing with testing and adversity. Or who is sitting in the misery of discipline, therefore, tread with caution and empathy in how we evaluate people’s circumstances. The closer you are with someone the greater care and concern you should take. Never forget, the day will come when it will be you.\

Husbands and wives …family and close friends, should not become the spiritual police officers, or the Pharisees that a suffering Christian has to face in their daily lives.

[/Job 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/2/10/s_438010) But he said to her, “You are speaking as one of the foolish women speaks. **Shall we actually accept good from God but not accept adversity**?” Despite all this, **Job did not sin with his lips.**

This is an example of breaking into the threshold of a super-grace maturity that has eternal impact beyond human imagination.\

Now in closing today we will start to look at the close friends of Job and how they handled this test.

[Job 2:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/2/11/s_438011) Now when Job’s three friends heard about all this adversity that had come upon him, they came, each one from his own place—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite; and they made an appointment together to come to sympathize with him and comfort him.

Now Job’s wife has dealt with a tremendous loss right along with Job – family, servants, wealth all wiped out.

Yet if she truly was growing alongside her husband and respected him as a man of God. Her first choice when he was afflicted, would have been to comfort and love, not criticize him and blaspheme God.

This is another powerful lesson on taking great care in choosing a marriage partner.

There is no greater strength you can build in a marriage then for both the husband and wife to walk a serious journey toward maturity together.

 REPEAT

/Often within the life of mature Bel, it is the Royal family – the other growing Christians, who give our greatest support and comfort in time of need.

Eph 4:2 With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love

Rom 12:10 *Be* devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor,\

There is nothing more uplifting than hearing a brother or sister in Christ say, *what do you need?…I am here for you*, when you have by struck by adversity.

Even when you fall on your face, because of your own stupidity and pride. Then when you look up and see a fellow Bel standing there with their hand out, it is an incredible boost.

[Job 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/2/12/s_438012) When they looked from a distance and did not recognize him, they raised their voices and wept. And each of them tore his robe, and they threw dust over their heads toward the sky.

We will see these men stumble later on, but right now, in this moment after what Job’s wife just had said to him – this was true friendship and love.

[/Job 2:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/2/13/s_438013) Then **they sat down on the ground with him for seven days** and seven nights, with **no one speaking a word to him**, for they saw that his pain was very great.

You can never remove pain or testing from someone but you can support and love them through it. Disaster testing is an extreme test and to be loved through it makes it much easier to bare.\

God wants us to have those two or three true friends – because the reality is even someone who is very popular, when disaster hits, it will be the true friends who stand by your side.

/Gal 6:10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and **especially to those who are of the household of faith**.

Jhn 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that **you love one another**: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.\

Never be concerned about popularity, it is very fleeting and hollow.

Never be concerned about having favor in the eyes of everyone.

God has never concerned HIMSELF in the numbers game – we should be the same way – quality over quantity is much more powerful.

/Jhn 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Prov 17:17 A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.\

/People testing and system testing will always be around in some form or fashion, use it as your training ground. Thought testing is also a challenge of some consistency in life, yet Disaster testing is one that can really turn up the pressure. If you are unprepared, it will be an emotional experience of great stress and confusion. If you are prepared, it can become a massive boost of spiritual growth, learning and glorifying GOD, with eternal repercussion.\