James #7

All tests and adversity were ordained by GOD in eternity past.

Open in your Bibles today in the OT – the book of Job.

This, by all accounts is the first book written in the original Biblical text.

Almost no scholar or theologian, argues that it is the oldest of the books of the bible.

Here is how one Bible scholar, who was an expert in the field of ancient languages wrote about this book back in the late 1800’s;

/*“Ancient it is beyond all dispute. It probably belongs to the period covered by the book of Genesis; and possibly, to the time of Abraham. Its lesson, therefore, is the oldest lesson we could have; and it takes us back to the first lesson taught in the Bible itself.”*

 *E.W. Bullinger 1837 – 1913*\

Bullinger was a British, Baptist scholar, and he was an expert in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek languages.

 As we get into the study of Job there will be a lot of jumping around so that we can focus strictly on the doctrine of Momentum testing.

The name JOB has a meaning of one who is hated or one who is persecuted, which may mean this was a title more so than a name.

This whole book is written in a semi- psalm fashion, it is considered to be very poetic.

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.

UZ was probably a small, plush region southeast of Jerusalem. Possibly in the Arabian desert, in a section with water and foliage – the name itself is believed to mean wooded, such as in trees or shrubs.

Job is a type of Abraham, yet he appeared to be at a high level of Spiritual Maturity. Where as Abraham grew into his maturity over many years.

[Job 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/2/s_437002) Seven sons and three daughters were born to him.

/[Job 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/3/s_437003) **His possessions** were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and very many servants; and **that man was the greatest of all the men of the east**.

In the ancient world, Job was considered a wealthy man beyond compare.\

Wealth was measured by these types of standards in the ancient world.

Some theologians believe Job was a grandson of Shem, pointing us into a time not long after the flood.

Perhaps 150 or 200 years after the flood?

You can read how Job was constantly offering up sacrifices and making sure his house was following the protocol plan of God – seeking forgiveness.

Jump down a few verses;

/Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the **sons of God** (*bēn 'ĕlōhîm*) **came to present themselves before the LORD**, and **Satan**also came among them.

The same *sons of God* from Genesis 6, fallen angels with their leader Satan. (Job 2:1, Job 38:7)\

This Hebrew term is used for angels, specifically in these scriptures for fallen angels.

Satan is mentioned separately because he is the leader – this is a military meeting of leaders.

[Job 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/7/s_437007) The LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Satan answered the LORD and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.”

/The fact that this is the first book written in the bible, and we see fallen angels with Satan approaching GOD, points us to a clear set of guidelines for warfare. Satan is free to roam anywhere on this earth and still has access to the heavenlies – there is an arrogance within this statement that means he goes where he wants. There is an authoritative stance in this statement, showing he is the god of this world.\

Notice something here that often gets overlooked, Satan has not made a request and yet GOD lays out an option for him -

/[Job 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/8/s_437008) The LORD said to Satan, **“Have you considered**(*lēḇ*) **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.”

God knew this was the reason for the meeting. Because this was not the first time and this was also the legal warfare stipulation from eternity past. \

LAVE- is a Hebrew noun for the soul – the heart or the seat of knowledge. The place of thinking and discernment.

God knows the heart of all creatures.

Even though Satan has authority on the earth and the atmosphere around the earth, he still is subject to the sovereign power of the one true GOD of the universe.

[Job 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/9/s_437009) Then Satan answered the LORD, “Does Job fear God for nothing?

/[Job 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/10/s_437010) “**Have You not made a fence around him and his house** and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

Zec 2:5 ‘But I,' **declares the LORD, ‘will be a wall of fire to her on all sides**, and I will be the glory in her midst.'”\

God - and more importantly the word of GOD is like a wall of fire.

What many Christians do not understand is that the very WORD of GOD is under divine protection.

This is one of the main reasons mature Bels have a stronger wall of fire in their life.

The WORD – the mind of Christ, is woven deep in their soul structure.

/Psa 12:6 **The words of the LORD are pure words**; Like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, filtered seven times. 7 **You, LORD, will keep them**; You will protect him from this generation forever.\

[Job 1:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/11/s_437011) “But reach out with Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will certainly curse You to Your face.”

Satan needs God’s approval and that must frustrate his arrogance to no end!

/[Job 1:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/12/s_437012) Then **the LORD said to Satan**, “Behold, **all that he has is in your power**; only **do not reach out *and put* your hand on him**.” So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

Satan is allowed to test Job, because God allows this. God established everything in eternity past – HE knew exactly when Satan would ask permission for this attack.\

Everything that happens – good, bad or ugly. Difficult or easy, success or failure, negative and positive decisions and all outcomes, were all filtered into the Justice System of God and processed through the Divine Decree in eternity past.

 REPEAT

/Many Bels do not like to digest this fact; GOD either allowed (permissive will), or ordained (perfect will) everything that happens in this life. All tests and adversity that open opportunity for growth and glorification were ordained (perfect will) in eternity past. God has to allow (permissive will) evil and sin along with the KOD attacks because this is a result of freedom (free will) – not because HE created it. \

Never forget that the angelic rebellion has been allowed and that includes certain rules of warfare that GOD must allow (permissive will) to all play out.

Even within God’s overriding will, HE knew it would happen in eternity past.

Everything is allowed for our benefit.

[Job 1:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/13/s_437013) Now on the day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house,

[Job 1:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/14/s_437014) a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the female donkeys feeding beside them,

/[Job 1:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/15/s_437015) and **the Sabeans attacked and took them**. They also **killed the servants** with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

Part of Momentum testing will mean Satan and his army may have access to your wealth or your business.\

[Job 1:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/16/s_437016) While he was still speaking, another came 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.”

[Job 1:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/17/s_437017) While he was still speaking, another came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three units and made a raid on the camels and took them, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

/Testing will always become clear as it will be a time when you are walking inside the plan of God. Therefore, it will be very difficult to assume this is a - *reaping what you sow* experience. It will have the earmark of seemingly, coming out of nowhere. The higher the level of maturity, the more it may become a rapid-fire set of tests.\

This is not always the case, but many times, a truly mature Christian, can have a series of tests spring up in the course of a short period of time.

[Job 1:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/18/s_437018) While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house,

/[Job 1:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/19/s_437019) and behold, **a great wind came from across the wilderness** and struck the four corners of the house, and it **fell on the young people and they died**, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

The KOD has power in the spiritual realm and also of health, weather and finances as well as governing bodies or human enemies for attacks. Family and friends are sometimes targeted during disaster testing.\

[Job 1:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/20/s_437020) Then Job got up, tore his robe, and shaved his head; then he fell to the ground and worshiped.

/[Job 1:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/21/s_437021) He said, “Naked I came frommy mother’s womb,And naked I shall return there. **The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD**.”

Only a super-grace mature Bel could withstand a set of tests like this and still worship the LORD.\

[Job 1:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/job/1/22/s_437022) Despite all this, Job did not sin, nor did he blame God.

/The reaction of most Christians would be disillusion and bitterness followed by implacability and vindictiveness as they peeled away from God and spiral into the cosmic system. The reaction of most Believers in simple people testing, within issues of personality conflict is hatred, revenge motivation, hyper-sensitivity, and different forms of arrogance. People testing and system testing are incredible training grounds to finally break through into maturity. \

The solution to people testing is the function of impersonal love under the various mandates of the royal family honor code for other Christians.

Then for the Unbel - it is again impersonal, virtue love, with the ability to learn and apply mental separation in the times of tension and personality conflicts.

 REPEAT

That is the basic mechanics of success in these tests.

This is why people testing and system testing appears so difficult - because it is the restraining ceiling that takes genuine growth to finally break through successfully.

/People and system testing are in your face daily, because these are the two that cause average Bels and growing Bels the most frustration. It is an invisible barrier that often takes years for Christians to finally master and break through. Most Christians rarely advance to a place where they have repeated success in system and people testing.\

There is no set order of testing - yet the two that will be the greatest training ground in your walk, are the two that we face habitually.

The third is - thought testing.

 REPEAT

/Personal love is only a virtue when directed toward God. Impersonal love is only operational when that virtue we receive from Christ is directed toward mankind. This means that through impersonal love, the Believer has a balanced, organized life, maintaining control of happiness. People, circumstances and material things do not dictate your happiness.\

Thought testing gets interwoven with people and system testing but greater thought testing will come over time.

/Therefore, disappointment, disillusion, frustration, dissatisfaction with others cannot ruin divine happiness (contentment). Self-induced misery derived from your focus on people or circumstances is no longer a stumbling block. God becomes the source of your happiness. This is the step between stage one Spiritual Self Esteem into Spiritual Autonomy stage two.\

/In the realm of system testing, it is often the test of understanding and applying the doctrine of authority. While simultaneously being conscious of the right thing, done in the right way. If the pressure of system testing, always ends with your frustration and undermining a chain of command or bucking authority, you will never advance. You have to learn to function in whatever GOD called you to do even in the midst of a corrupt system.\