



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1589 ~ Job's Ten Children.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Whenever a natural disaster like an earthquake strikes, some people lose everything. Others are often killed. We are left wondering why bad things happened to those people. Were they just in the wrong place at the wrong time? Finding a place of safety from all types of disasters is impossible as no one knows where in the world the next disaster might happen.

This problem of suffering has challenged human thought from the very early times of civilization. The people in early days thought that if people died before reaching old age, those who died were being punished by God for a great wrongdoing of theirs. The Lord Jesus was asked about this in Luke's Gospel, Chapter 13, after a tower fell, killing 18 people. Were those who perished greater sinners than their neighbours who didn't? But Jesus said "No."

The first book of the Bible thought to be written down was the book of Job. This book is the first in a section of Poetry books in the Old Testament. These poems illustrate God's truth through the human experiences of daily routine, worship, troubles and love. But they're not fiction. The man Job lived in the land of Uz around the time of Abraham. He was a blameless and upright man who feared God and shunned evil. He was also very rich. But he didn't use his riches for selfish purposes; instead he gave financial help for the betterment of others and to honour God.

Job had 10 children, seven sons and three daughters, who had all grown up. They kept close family ties, with each of their sons in turn giving a feast and inviting the rest to join in. Job was very careful about such times. He was afraid that his children could have unwittingly sinned against God at such a feast. To make sure that they too, were blameless, he made many animal sacrifices to God on their behalf.

Part of Job's story was hidden from him but revealed to us in the Bible. In heaven, God had a meeting with His angels and Satan appeared before God too. God honoured Job before Satan because God knew Job would remain faithful to Him under all circumstances. Satan, however, accused Job of serving God only because God had blessed him greatly.

We need to ask ourselves: Is our God worthy of our worship and service, or must He "buy" us with His blessings? Satan implied that God wouldn't have any followers if He didn't reward them in some way. So God permitted the loss of all of Job's possessions as well as his dear children.

We start today's drama with Job and his wife attending a son's feast.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

The word 'Satan' means 'adversary' and devil means 'slanderer and accuser'. Satan was a rebellious angel who when judged by God, fell from God's holy plan for him to unending wickedness. The angels who fell with him made up his army of spirits or demons who are also opposed to God and God's people. Because Satan is a created being, he's not equal to God or the Lord Jesus Christ, although he possesses great power and knowledge. Satan will always be subject to God's will.

What does Satan do? He tries to destroy all that is God's. To individual Christians, he tries to deceive our minds and tempt us to sin. He puts thoughts and feelings into us that tempt us to doubt God's care for us. We must respect the dangers Satan brings and resist him by using God's Word and prayer. Christ defeated Satan fully on the cross when He died and rose again. For all believers, there is overcoming power in the blood of the Lord Jesus.

One preacher said: "Never make jokes about Satan! We are in a spiritual battle against him every day so we mustn't treat him as anything but an enemy."

Satan's prediction about Job was wrong. Job did not hate God when everything went terribly wrong. This outcome shows that Satan doesn't know the future as God does. When Job lost his possessions and his children, he blessed God despite his grief and shock. He didn't blame God for what had happened but accepted that this was God's will for him to experience.

But Satan didn't give up. He went back to God and claimed that Job didn't really care about what he'd lost. Satan then asked for personal physical suffering for Job. Pain can weaken our resistance and make everything look and feel worse than it really is.

Are health and wealth always signs of God's blessing? We can also ask: are sickness and poverty proof that we are out of God's will? To the Old Testament Jew, the answer to both these questions would be "yes". God promised to bless Israel physically and materially if they obeyed Him and Him only.

The nation of Israel was like a little child that had to be taught by means of rewards and punishments. But these Old Testament blessings are not guaranteed to God's people under the new covenant of believing in Jesus for salvation. With the coming of Jesus Christ to earth as a man, the 'childhood' period of Israel's history came to an end.

Our Lord Jesus was poor while on earth. So were the apostles and many of the great men and women of faith. It seems as though the wicked are prospering today, not the righteous, but one day, God will turn these things around. God has promised to meet our needs. We must stop fretting and trust Him to provide.

What kept Job going? It was his faith in God and personal integrity. God had no cause to inflict pain on Job and Job knew that he was right in his relationship with God. God used Job to disprove the explanations of his suffering given by his visiting friends. God silenced the accusation of the devil and Job's example will always strengthen the determination of all who suffer in the will of God.

There's an English expression: "the patience of Job" and in these days when everyone seems to be in such a big hurry, we need to remember that God doesn't rush things.

There is a common idea that if a person is rich in possessions, they can buy their way out of suffering. And up to a limit this is true. The rich man can buy medical help quickly while the poor man has to wait in line for attention. The thought is that money guarantees an easier life.

But in reality, there are many things that money simply can't buy. Some of the most super rich and famous people have led the most miserable lives when away from their work.

Christians must ask themselves: "Is God my refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble?" as Psalm 46 says. Or "Is money my refuge in times of trouble?" It all comes back to being content with what God has given us and praying about every need we have and are concerned about.

What is true success in life? There is a great difference between the way the world sees success and the way God sees it. The motive behind success makes it either destructive or healthy. If everything we do is dominated by competition, success is backed by pride and ambition. And this lifestyle is addictive. Achievers need a regular dose of success.

God wants to prosper the souls of His servants as well as to bless the work of their hands. What use is success in material things if the soul does not prosper? Yet many Christian professionals are extremely successful in their work lives but not in their personal lives. A Bible college has as its motto: “To be in God’s will is success.”

Job certainly had it all: good health, many possessions, fame in his region and a loving family, respect from his workers, right standing before God. And no wonder Satan tried to bring him down!

Do you want to be successful in God’s eyes? Faith in Jesus is God’s view of success because only through faith will we find salvation and eternal life. In John’s Gospel, Chapter 17, it says: “This is the way to have eternal life – to know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ, the One you sent to earth.” Have you started your life of success in God’s eyes yet? Pray about this with Him today.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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