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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1931 ~ Job's Ten Children.

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

In today's *Bible Adventure*, we are looking at the book of Job and the puzzling topic of suffering. Often, people suffer from their own choices and mistakes in life, or from the hands of evil people while living in this sin-cursed world. But others can suffer, such as of Job, because they are righteous in God's eyes.

Job was a real person, who scholars believe, lived after the time of Abraham but before the Israelites moved into their Promised Land of Canaan. Job wasn't related to Abraham so therefore wasn't an Israelite. But the writer of the book of Job used language to show that he himself was a descendant of Jacob. The writer also indicated that Job's God and Israel's Lord were one and the same.

Job was a very wealthy man, who lived with his flocks and herds east of Canaan. He was blameless and upright as a person, but not completely sinless. In Chapter 1 of the book of Job, Job was described as a person who worshipped God and acted as his family's priest. He had ten children, seven sons and three daughters. Whenever this large family met together for a family feast, Job always made sure that his children were consecrated to God afterwards. He gave burnt offerings to make atonement for any hidden sins that his children may have committed, such as cursing God in their hearts without realising it.

The cursing of God is an important theme of the book of Job; for it means the opposite of fearing God. Today, we'd say that those who don't respect, worship or thank God as their Sovereign Lord, and blame Him for anything that goes wrong, are in effect cursing God. Job's refusal to curse God, even as he suffered greatly, would be the final proof of his righteousness.

In the book of Job, Satan is given a speaking role. Satan is the leader of all evil angels who rebelled against our Creator God in heaven and followed Satan instead. As a result of Satan's rebellion, God cast him and his angel followers out of heaven into a world of spiritual darkness for a limited time. Satan represents all that is opposite to God's goodness, holiness and love. Satan's followers then became known as demons, evil spirits and powerful enemies of godly people.

One day, in an assembly of members in the heavenly court, Satan, the Accuser of the Faithful People of God, spoke up against Job. Satan accused God of protecting Job. He said Job was a hypocrite who only acted righteously for the benefits that he got out of receiving God's favour. Satan asserted that if God took away His hedge of protection from Job, God would surely see that Job wasn't righteous or committed to Him at all. As God knew Job's heart, God agreed that Satan could test Job with what he owned. But Job on earth didn't know anything about this arrangement and we, the readers of Scripture, only know about this encounter between God and Satan because the writer of Job received divine revelation about what spoken in the heavenly realms.

Today's drama starts with Satan addressing his fellow demons about Job and what was planned for Job.

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

Where could Job and his wife go for comfort in the face of all these disasters that had just befallen them? They didn't have the Scriptures to help them in their darkest hour. But Job held onto his faith in God. Satan's 1st test against Job failed, as God, in knowing all things, knew that Satan's test wouldn't work. Satan didn't have the same knowledge as God, because he was a created angel with limited knowledge. Although Satan lives in complete rebellion and anger against God, God can still use him for bringing out eternal good and God's own purposes. One of these ways is for Satan to test the faith of godly men and women.

We have to ask: if God knew that Job was righteous, why did He need to test him at all? God didn't need to test Job for His own sake, but rather, for ours. How else could we and the angels know Job's character as righteous without it being proven to us so? Thus, how can we know our own character without being tested too? Although Satan attacked Job's character, only Job's response to this test could prove that Satan's accusations were false. God gave Job the highest honour possible: the honour of suffering for God's sake. God had total confidence in Job's faithfulness, and knew beforehand that he would triumph in the end.

In spite of losing all his wealth and children, Job didn't blame God for those tragedies. But Satan never gave up to prove his point. So Satan inflicted terrible boils on Job, from his head to his feet. Pain usually weakens our resistance and makes everything feel and look worse than it really is. Numbers of people who have victoriously survived tragedy have fallen apart under the stress of never-ending pain.

Job's wife, although she had received no boils, started to fall apart too. Instead of being a comfort to her husband in his distress, she scorned his faith and told him to reject God and die. But Job told her that she spoke foolishly. Instead, he said: "Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?" Job didn't sin by charging God with any wrongdoing against him, and so Job passed Satan's 2nd test. God knew that Job would succeed in this test too. Job may have lost almost everything he had, but he hadn't lost his belief in God. God is to be cherished more than all the gifts that He gives to us.

What kept Job going? His faith in God and his personal integrity. God had no cause to inflict pain on Job, and Job knew that he was right in his relationship with God. But God used Job's suffering to disprove the earthly explanations given by his friends who'd come to comfort him, and to silence the accusations of Satan. Job's example helps strengthen the determination of all who suffer in the will of God to keep their eyes fixed on Him always. If you're confused about something in your life, wait on the Lord in prayer and let Him work out His hidden purposes.

We can understand from Job's tests that Satan is behind most of the evils in our world; he uses even things like bad weather to carry out his plans. But many people today scoff at the suggestion of a devil being behind all the bad things that happen. So they try again and again to make the world a better place through education and political reform. But these things can never overcome the spiritual power of Satan. He is stronger than we humans are, but the Bible assures us that he's not stronger than God. Only by our faith in Christ Jesus can the evil in this world be finally overcome.

Job passed both his tests, when Satan had accused Job of being a hypocrite. What's a hypocrite? It's a person who thinks one way but outwardly pretends to think differently, and often, in the exact opposite way. But God knows what we're thinking deep inside our hearts. There's no way we can hide what we're really like from God.

Some people ask: why would a loving God allow bad things to happen to good people? Without a good answer, they then decide that God isn't a loving God at all and so easily reject Him from having any Lordship over their lives. Is this a fair and reasonable assessment of God, and the outcomes of history? When God made the world, everything was very good. But it only stayed perfectly good until Satan tempted the human rulers of the world, Adam and his wife, Eve, to doubt God's goodness toward them. God had given Adam and Eve freedom of choice to obey or not to obey Him. After they'd sinned, Satan took over rulership of this world, as all human beings from then on are born into a state of sinfulness inherited from their parents.

The Lord Jesus Christ, God's precious Son, came to earth as a sinless human being to destroy the works of Satan. Jesus did this by dying on a criminal's cross to pay for the world's sin against God, even though Jesus Himself hadn't done anything wrong. Jesus hadn't been born sinful like the rest of us have, for He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. But on that cross His heavenly Father placed on Him all the sins of the world. In 1st Peter, Chapter 2, it says: "He (that's Jesus Christ) personally carried our sins in His body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right."

In 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 5, it also says: "For God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them." In the Old Testament Covenant or agreement known as the Law of Moses and made between God and the Jewish people, the Israelites discovered that they were sinners because when they tried to keep the Law of Moses, they completely failed.

But the New Covenant of Jesus Christ replaced the Old Covenant of Moses in a new and better way. Under the new covenant, Jesus can remove any Jewish or non-Jewish person's sins when he or she believes in Him. Their sins are completely cancelled. The New Covenant gives spiritual life because the death of Jesus' physical body made it possible for us to have our sins forgiven. As a result we can escape hell and enter eternity with God as He loves each one of us!

Does every person want to be reconciled to God? Sadly, no! Many refuse to bow to Him or acknowledge that God is their Creator. They refuse to ask Jesus to remove their sins by washing them away by His atoning blood shed on the cross. Such people don't realise that without Christ's forgiveness of their sins here on earth, their sins will remain with them until they're standing before Jesus Himself on Judgment Day. But by then, they won't be able to change their minds or ask Jesus to forgive them on the spot. Nor will they ever be able to pay the penalty for their own sins, as no one can possibly do so.

When a person asks Jesus to forgive their sins and become Lord of their life, it's entirely wrong thinking to expect Jesus to now change their life into a bed of roses. Believers in the Lord Jesus are in a spiritual battle for the rest of their lives here on earth. Each believer needs to live in God's power like a soldier of the cross. Jesus suffered for us among evil people, so we too, can expect as believers in Him to be tested and required to suffer for Him in some way throughout our lives. In Psalm 145, Verse 18, it says: "The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth."

Does God test everyone in the same way? If we knew what was coming in the future, it wouldn't be a test, would it? We can learn from Job to hold onto our possessions and health very lightly. God must come first in our lives, no matter the temporary suffering we face while living here on earth. Seeking eternity with God needs to be our earthly aim. But God promises not to test us with more than we're able to bear. In 1st Corinthians, Chapter 10, Verse 13, it says: "God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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