

Job 7:17, 18
Unwanted Attention

Two Conclusions from Job 1 and 2

You and I are being thought of by God Himself.

“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?” -Psalm 8:3-4 ESV

We are also being thought of by the evil one

1. Our View of God Conditions Our View of Ourselves

A. The vocabulary of lament

“It seems, that it is precisely those who have the closest relationship with God who feel most at liberty to pour out their pain and protest to God-without fear of reproach. Lament is not only allowed in the Bible; it is modeled for us in abundance. God seems to want to give us as many words with which to fill in our complaint forms as to write our thank-you notes. Perhaps this is because whatever amount of lament the world causes us to express is a drop in the ocean compared to the grief in the heart of God Himself at the totality of suffering that only God can comprehend.” -Christopher J.H. Wright, *The God I Don't Understand*, 51

B. We have an enemy

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.”

CS Lewis, Preface to *The Screwtape Letters*.

C. Job's Limited View of Reality

“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?”” -Job 1:8 ESV

““Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.””

Luke 22:31-32 ESV

“Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.”

Psalm 121:4 ESV

“John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”” -Revelation 1:4-8 ESV

2. The Question Asked Again 17, 18

A. The Calamity of Job

Destruction and theft of Job's property (1), the death of all of his children (1), Broke out in sores (2), Wife's advice
“Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.” But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.” -Job 2:9-10 ESV

Job versus Bildad, Zophar, Eliphaz

B. A Labored Breath 6, 7-10, 16

“O LORD, what is man that you regard him, or the son of man that you think of him? Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.”
Psalm 144:3-4 ESV

C. The Answer in the Question 17, 18

I cannot escape this trial I'm under.

3. When the Perceived Test Is Too Much 19-21

A. How Long? 19

“And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.””

Mark 9:19 ESV

B. His Sin Has Been Singled Out and Not Forgiven 20, 21

Satan is innovative in his devices to try to destroy God's people.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." -John 10:10 ESV

"Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments." And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD was standing by." -Zechariah 3:1-5 ESV

C. The Human Experience Includes Suffering

"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed." -Isaiah 53:5 ESV

Reflection: What do you find in Job's conclusion of being examined continually by the LORD to be consistent with your human experience? How does Jesus meet you there?

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: Psalm 8:3-4. What is different about the psalmist's question about God being mindful of humans compared to Job's mention of God's attention in Job 7:17, 18?

Tuesday: Job 1:6-12. What questions do you have about how this conversation goes between the LORD and Satan? How does it explain at least some of the suffering and calamity in the human experience? What from your experience does it not explain?

Wednesday: Revelation 1:4-8. What characteristics of Jesus and titles are included in this passage? How are those important to understanding who He is? How can that help you in your moments of suffering?

Thursday: Psalm 144:3-4. How does the answer to the question in this Psalm compare to the way Job understands the question "what is man?"

Friday: Zechariah 3:1-5. How would you explain Satan's accusations? How does his accusing compare to the Holy Spirit's conviction? What is the difference?

Saturday: Isaiah 53:5. How does this passage describe the work of Jesus?