

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of May 7, 2023

THEME: "Special Days and Special Truths"

SATANIC APPROACH

Sunday Read Job 1:1-7

"And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."

The life of Job is a classic example of the life of a believer as a soldier in the army of God fighting against a relentless adversary. That is to be expected because we have this command of God in I Timothy 6:12: *"Fight the good fight of faith."* Contrary to the thinking of some unbelievers, Christianity is not for weaklings. But God has provided the power for His people in the person of the Holy Spirit as Jesus mentioned in Acts 1:8: *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."* Believers now are a target of Satan, the enemy of God. We are given that warning in I Peter 5:8: *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."* Those attacks started in the Garden of Eden when Satan tempted Eve. Now Job's faith was tested. God knows His people well and knows the extent of our faith when trials come. We know that from I Corinthians 10:13: *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."* The attack of Satan was a huge one causing Job to lose his family. His wife had a tendency to blame God, but Job never yielded an inch. God was obviously pleased with Job.

HUMAN TARGETS

Monday Read Job 1:12-19

"And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand." So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord." Job 1:12 Satan has fought against God and His people from the beginning of time. He originally was expelled from heaven because of his rebellion against God. We read of that in Isaiah 14:7: *The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing.* From that time on Satan has been God's enemy. Satan attacked Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and made sinners of the human race. He will do all he can to draw people away from God as we are warned in I Peter 5:8: *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."* Christians must be on the alert; we are targets of Satan. His attacks are opportunities for victory!

SPOUSE REACTION

Tuesday Read Job 2:7-9

"Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die." Job's wife, in trying to be helpful to Job and out of a heart of love, advised him to *"curse God."* She seemed to be blaming God for the trouble. The truth is Job was demonstrating his heroic courage in spiritual war! God was showing His arch-enemy the power of faith. God knew all the time that He could trust Job. And God knows us and the extent of our faith as pointed out in

Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Faith brings victory!

WELL MEANING ADVISORS

WednesdayRead Job 4:1-7

"Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said, If we assay to commune with thee, wilt thou be grieved? But who can withhold himself from speaking?" Job's friends wanted to be of help to Job, but were coming to wrong conclusions. They seemed to think that believers went through hard times because of spiritual waywardness. That could be true sometimes if people are overly attracted to the world, but it also could be that they are a primary target of the devil because of their devotion of God. It is good to do as Jesus said in Matthew 7:1: *"Judge not that ye be not judged."* It would have been good to listen first to Job and then give him loving support. That is God's instruction in Proverbs 18:24: *"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."*

JOB'S PATIENCE

ThursdayRead Job 21:1-5

"Suffer me that I may speak; and after that I have spoken, mock on." Job patiently listened to the rebuke of his friends, and then responded to each. It appears that he did so with a very kind attitude despite the attacks on his integrity. His friends did not realize that Job was being victimized by Satanic attacks. They assumed his problems were from personal faults. They were wrong, and Job knew that. Instead of firing back with contempt, he merely responded with truth, and God honored his patience and kindness. Job recognized the fact that fellow believers are in the army of God and we are to fight the enemies and not our own soldiers. What an example! Job gave a gentle response!

GOD'S RESPONSE

FridayRead Job 38:1-11

"Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?" On His response, God reminds the listeners of His sovereignty and omnipotence. He gives a brief review of His acts of creation. God actually addresses the issue of climate control and how He controlled the history of the world in Job 38:22-23: *"Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? Or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?"* God goes on to expose His adversaries and assures Job that His blessings will become apparent in the days ahead. This account of the life of Job is recorded in Holy Scriptures to instruct all believers that God ultimately is in control and will bring victory in those Satanic attacks. God, and He alone, is omnipotent!

GOD'S REWARD

SaturdayRead Job 42:10-13

"And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before." God rewarded Job for his great faithfulness even while on earth. I feel certain the rewards in heaven may even be greater because there is a reward judgment. We know that from what we read in Matthew 5:12 "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."