

Handout for Job Lesson 3: Chapters 2-3

Job 2:1–3

-Phase 2 of the trial in heaven.

- Integrity means that one is morally upright both in terms of his external actions and his internal heart attitudes.

-Not clear that the first test has fully validated the INTERNAL component of Job' integrity.

-By inciting Satan to test Job again, God is showing that He is not bound by the divine retribution principle.

Job 2:4–7

-Satan answers God. God is the one who said and initiated.

-Satan repeats his prediction that Job will curse God when his flesh is impacted, and God gives Satan permission to afflict his body without killing him.

-This physical trial was intended to inflict the maximum pain and disfigurement possible short of killing him.

Job 2:8

-A potsherd is a broken piece of pottery found in the city trash dump.

-Job's sitting in the trash dump is an expression of his shame and his pain.

Job 2:9

-The wife assumes that Job must have sinned for this to befall him. (DR Principle)

- While Job does continue to maintain his integrity, at some point he became **self-righteous**.

- The wife says Job should die, and at the end of the book, Job does die. His wife is both wrong and right!

Job 2:10

- Job again accepts his tribulation and affirms that God has the right to do this to him.

- He also asserts, contrary to the divine retribution principle, that God is right AND he, Job, is right. We see that Job did not sin in what he said, and there is no necessary implication here that he may have sinned in his heart though not in his lips.

- The rest of the book addresses the question "how do you **know** that both God and you can be right?"

Job 2:11–13

- Late entry of characters is a key literary device.
- The news had spread regionally.
- This was a formal meeting.
- The word translated “sympathize” in Hebrew typically means to “shake one’s head in disgust
- The friends failed to “recognize” Job.
- The tearing of robes was part of a funeral rite; Job is dead to them.
- The friends were AFRAID of becoming collateral damage.
- Irony: The friends are said to be coming to comfort Job, yet their real motive is almost the opposite.

Job 3:1–10

- Job is cursing the day of his birth, not cursing God.
- His current suffering outweighs his previous blessings.

Job 3:11–19

- Job’s question: Why did God do this to me? What is the purpose of God in making me suffer?
- An example of “dramatic irony”- the reader already knows the answer- Job does not.

Job 3:20–26

- Job’s question: Is God good?
- The rest of the Bible answers: God is absolutely good.