

The Test

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I. Introduction. Text: Job 1.

II. Job.

A. The most noteworthy thing about Job was that he feared God.

B. Job was wealthy.

C. Job was a good father. He offered burnt offerings for his children because he knew that the pressure to forsake God came most strongly when people thought they had things made.

III. The heavenlies.

A. The angels.

1. They were called the sons of God because God created them directly.

2. They were called to give a report of their activity.

B. Satan.

1. Satan still has access to God.

2. Job is given to reveal the relationship between Satan and God.

a. God is in control of all things.

b. Nothing goes beyond His word or will.

3. Job is the subject of a rigorous test that Satan brings about and God permits.

4. The devil looks for an opportunity to get at someone.

5. Satan's philosophy is self-serving.

6. God is totally in control in this.

7. Satan struck Job to the full extent of His permission.

C. God, His mercy and compassion will show by the end of the book.

IV. Job's reaction to the events.

A. Job did not complain.

B. God will not test one with what he is not able to bear.

Application questions:

1. What do we learn about Satan in the book that stands out from the rest of the Old Testament?

2. How can one reconcile God's mercy with the permission He gives Satan to strike Job in this passage? Explain.

3. What comfort does it give you knowing that even though God permits suffering, He is still in control?
