

Job's Perseverance

I. Introduction

A. The Christian's perseverance is aided by looking to examples of others who have endured. An example of this is seen in the perseverance of Job. **James 5:11**

II. Satan's Vicious Attack

A. The record of Job begins by detailing *what* Job endured. The things Job faced exemplify Satan's constant attempts to entice mankind into sin. **Job 1:7-8; 2:3, 5, 7**

B. The severity of Job's pain demonstrates Satan's viciousness as he goes about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour any one of us he can. **Job 2:13; 1 Peter 5:8**

C. Satan, in his cunning, deceived Job's wife into thinking the answer to Job's trials was to turn against God. By leading Job's wife astray, Satan created an additional temptation for Job – the negative influence of a family member. **Job 2:9**

III. Job's Steadfast Integrity

A. When Job lost his children, servants, and possessions, he still retained his integrity. **Job 1:20-22**

B. When Job was in immense physical pain, he continued his steadfast devotion to God. **Job 2:10**

C. Job's example demonstrates that, regardless of the extent of our suffering, we can (and must) please God. As vicious as Satan is, what Job persevered through shows us that Satan cannot force us to sin. **Job 1:12; 2:6; 1 Corinthians 10:13**

IV. The Friends' Accusations

A. The bulk of the book of Job contains the reactions of Job and his friends to the sufferings he faced. Job's friends insisted (without proof) that Job's sufferings must have resulted from sin on his part. **Job 4:7-8**

B. Much of the discussion between Job and his friends exemplified speaking words without knowledge. While God was fully aware of the reasons Job was suffering, Job and his friends were not. **Job 38:1-2**

C. This exemplifies the principle that God has revealed to us everything we *need* to know, but not everything we might *want* to know. Instead of proudly asserting, like Job's friends, that we have all the answers (even when we don't), we must humbly leave the secret things that belong to God to Him. **Deuteronomy 29:29**

V. God's Response

A. After God rebuked the attitude just noted, Job repented of what he needed to. **Job 42:3, 6**

B. God then "blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning." **Job 42:12-13**

C. This example illustrates the principle that things work out OK in the end for those who serve the Lord faithfully. **Romans 8:28; James 5:11**

VI. Conclusion

A. Let us choose to trust God and His wisdom, be on guard against Satan, and persevere with integrity through suffering, learning from the example of Job. **James 5:11**