

**Job 1: 13-22; “Satan Attacks & Job Worships”, Sermon # 4 in a series entitled –
“Remember To Magnify His Work”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall
On January 20th, 2019, in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

In these verses that I just read to you we find the description of the attack which Satan made upon Job, and how Job responded to it. I would like each of us, and all of us together as a church, to be able to learn more about the spiritual battle that we will face, at some points in our Christian journey. And so, as I take you through these verses, I want you to understand that the initial engagements that we will fight in the spiritual battle which is set before us, are often linked to the welfare and well-being of our children and our earthly possessions and estate. Satan will tempt us to turn away from God and curse Him by his attacking that which is most valuable to us. He will seek permission to attack those persons and those things which we value highly. We will see in our next sermon that Satan will take the battle with Job to the farthest extent that he can, when he asks permission to touch Job’s person and his health in regard to the trial of his integrity.

But at this hour we want to think 1st of all – About the certain day of Satan’s attack and its implications for ourselves. 2nd – We want to think about Satan’s great strategy in this attack and its implications for ourselves. And 3rd – We want to think about Job’s righteous response to this attack, and its implications for ourselves. O, how I pray that each of us here might consider these truths, and fortify our hearts through them to be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil.

1st of all – Let think about the certain day of Satan’s attack and its implications for ourselves. (verse 13)

In our text it says – “Now there was a day when Job’s sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house.” This day of feasting which was chosen by Job’s sons and daughters, we need to understand, was the particular day that Satan chose to attack Job on. The day on which his children were feasting, and when Job would be concerned for them, and praying for them, was the day on which Satan chose to attack. Job had no doubt already thought about them in his prayers on this particular day. He no doubt wanted it to be a good day for them, an enjoyable day for them, and a profitable day for them. It may have been, as I have said before to you, that one of them was having a birthday. And that was the reason for their having this feast. He or she was being remembered by the others, in their getting together.

But, if that was the case, then why would Job not be there with them. They were having some sort of party it seems and food and drink were are told, was the means of their satisfying themselves. Much conversation and speaking together on many subjects, in which there would be a display of much joy and laughter. When you are young, it is a good time to be alive. You feel so very much alive, and you rejoice in that feeling with your siblings. This is usually a good and not an unwholesome or bad thing. I believe that their feasting was always a reason for Job’s rejoicing, but it was also a reason for his concern. It was true that he no doubt thought that it was good for them to be able to get together in this way; to feast and joyfully spend this time with each other. The interactions of brother and sister, he knew, can be good times, and they can be profitable and beneficial to all if God is considered, he thought. “Therefore, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God,” it says in 1st Corinthians 11: 31. And that was probably Job’s prayer.

However, on this particular day it says that his sons and daughters were not only eating, but they were also drinking wine in their oldest brothers house. We are not told what the spiritual state of Job’s 10 children were. We are left to surmise as to whether they were saved or unsaved, as of yet. But there is no doubt from what we have previously read in verse 5 about Job’s

sending and sanctifying them after each of these times together, that he was very concerned that they be careful about their eating and drinking; that everything that they would do, they would do all to the glory of God. Is it wrong to drink wine? Well, what does the Bible say? Paul says to Timothy in 1st Timothy 5: 23 – “No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach’s sake and your frequent infirmities.” And it says in Psalm 104, verse 15, that “wine makes glad the heart of man”. There is nothing wrong with either of these uses of wine. Wine used in moderation may not harm a person’s judgment, and it may even bring an earthly joy.

Solomon in his book of Ecclesiastes says this of wine – “Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure; but surely, this also was vanity.” “I said of laughter – ‘Madness!’, and of mirth, ‘What does it accomplish?’” “I searched in my heart how to gratify my flesh with wine, while guiding my heart with wisdom, and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives.” The American Standard Version of 1901 says – “I searched in my heart how to cheer my flesh with wine, my heart yet guiding me with wisdom, and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men that they should do under heaven all the days of their life.” This, it seems to me, is pretty close to what Job’s children were trying to do and to experience in their gatherings together. They wanted to cheer their flesh with wine, and yet they remembered the cautions of their father. They wanted to guide their heart with wisdom in the midst of such drinking. I believe that we should put the best construction on their getting together and eating and drinking that we can.

Because often it is true, I believe, that the children of godly Christian parents think about their father’s exhortations to them, and they think about the warnings and cautions that they are given. I believe that many of them want to experience life in a right way, and to at times even encourage each other in their seeking for the real meaning of life. But we also need to see that it is easy, as Solomon is saying, to mistake laughter and mirth, or just having fun together with others, as the meaning of life. It is true that in drinking wine there may be a profitable pursuit of wisdom if you are very careful. It is seeking to know how you can lay hold of folly; that is, that you might truly discern what will ruin your life, or bring you under the judgment of God. Laying hold of folly is not as easy as a person might think. In trying to lay hold of it, you might fail, and become intemperate. You might go beyond moderation in your drinking of wine and become as Noah was, back in there in Genesis chapter 9, verse 20. He planted a vineyard, and he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. And his two sons, Shem and Japheth had to take a garment and lay upon their shoulders and go backward, and cover the nakedness of their father. They acted in this commendable way, and glorified God in that situation.

In this case, and concerning these young people, we do not whether they were moderate in their drinking or not. I believe that it was entirely possible that they were moderate, and that they were simply trying to enjoy their time together. But the real question that we must ask ourselves about them, and about that day was: Were they ready to meet their Maker? That would have been the all-important question for them that day, whether they knew it, or not. They got together for this feast, and they did not know that that day was going to be the day of all their deaths. The real question is – Were they prepared for death? Had they lived for God? Had they had personal dealings with the Lord by seeking Him in prayer? Had they found Him to be their Savior from all of their sins? Had they consciously made Him their Lord, and become the worshipers of the One True and Living God? We should think of them on this day in terms of the 19th resolution of Jonathan Edwards which he shares with us in his Resolutions. He says this – “Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if I expected it would not be above an hour, before I should hear the last trump.”

Now, this is probably not something that they were thinking about on that day, until it was probably too late to even think about it, or pray for it. Dear young person, will you not see that you are not exempt from Satan's attacks, or from the Lord's granting permission that your life may end; even on a day in which you do not expect, that it may end suddenly? And you must be prepared for that contingency if you are wise. Truly, this is something that not only young people, but all of us here should think about and prepare for. The Day of the Lord's Coming is not known to any man. And neither is the day of your death either. Therefore, it is right for you not to put it off repentance from all known sin, or putting off believing in Christ, until you are an older person. How old to you have to be to die? Not very old; therefore prepare. You should think of the wisdom of what you are doing at any given time and whether what you are doing is something that God is pleased with? You should think of what it might mean for you to meet God in the Person of Jesus Christ, on this day, or on the day of your least expecting it.

2nd - We want to think about Satan's great strategy in this attack, and its implications for ourselves. (verses 14-19)

The first attack of Satan against Job commenced with a raid conducted by the Sabeans who came to Job's fields and killed the servants who were cultivating his field with the oxen and donkeys, and then they took the 500 yoke of oxen and the 500 donkeys away with them. You and I need to understand, that for Satan it was not hard to find wicked men to do this work for him. Satan does somehow mysteriously influence the minds of wicked men to see the evil that they can do to innocent people, but even more especially to God's righteous people. God does have a "hedge around His people", and normally they should not fear an attack like this. God does indeed watch over all of our interests, both personally and in regard to our business dealings, and our possessions. But, having been given permission to do something to Job, this is where the Devil started.

The great strategy of Satan in this first onslaught, was to make Job feel vulnerable and helpless to the attack. Not only had it happened suddenly, and come to Job totally out of the blue, but there was nothing that he could really do about it. Having not had any reason to expect this attack, and knowing the Lord's good watchcare over his life had always protected him from such attacks before, Job no doubt was caused to wonder – Why God? I know that you are the One who has prospered me like you have. But why have you now suddenly left me defenseless? Well, Job did not have any time to say or do anything about this awful event before another servant runs up to him. It was while the first servant was still speaking, that the second one runs up and starts speaking. He has even worse news, if that was possible. The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

So, now, Job not only felt vulnerable, helpless, and defenseless, but he now had reason to suspect that God Himself was not pleased with him, for why would "the fire of God fall from heaven" and burn up my 7,000 sheep and my servants, he thought. Job had probably heard about how God judged the wickedness of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboim, who were wicked sinners against the Lord. He overthrew their cities and their wicked persons with fire from heaven which He caused to rain down on them. His thought was probably – God why are you treating me like a wicked man? Knowing that God was sovereign, he now thought that God was dealing with him in judgment, but he did not know why. And the greatest part of his wealth which he had used for clothing himself and had been using for the offering of sacrifices, was now gone.

If this wasn't enough, when the second servant was still speaking, a third also came running up, and he told Job that the Chaldeans had formed three bands and raided the 3,000 camels and took them away, and, O yes, he was told, they also killed the servants with the edge of the sword. So in one fell swoop of time, all of Job's cattle, donkeys, sheep, and oxen, and all of his servants,

were taken away from him. Satan's great strategy in this was to attempt to present to Job's mind the truth that God was his enemy, or he never would have permitted this. This thought will plague Job throughout this whole book until Elihu will speak to him in Chapter 33. Job had now been stripped of all his possessions and his faithful servants also, people who he had treated almost like his own children in his care for them. It is one thing to lose all of your wealth and possessions, it is another to lose all the people that who worked for you in the business that you own. Let us see how far Satan wants to go to hurt and destroy every true and faithful Christian. He has been a murderer from the beginning, and he continues to be a murderer to this very day.

Well, the worst was yet to come, and on the heels of these 3 reports of disaster came the crowning, crushing blow. While the 3rd servant was still speaking, another also came and told him that his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they died! And he alone had escaped to tell him. O my dear brethren, we must learn to live to God and to believe all the word of God and not simply the parts which make us feel safe and secure, but also realize that God does love us in all that He brings into our lives. We have seen the sovereign God permit these things, but now we must follow Job through the aftermath of this, his greatest trial, and certainly one of the greatest trials that any man has ever had to face. Let us not think it a strange thing concerning the fiery trial that comes upon us to test us. But let us rejoice to partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, we may also be glad with exceeding joy." (1st Peter 4: 12, 13)

3rd – We want to think about Job's righteous response to this attack, and its implications for ourselves. (verses 20-22)

"Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped." "And he said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there.'" "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job was deeply grieved from these losses, and the death of his children, but nevertheless he took deliberate actions to show forth His abiding faith in God. He arose and tore his robe, and he shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and he worshiped. These were very God-honoring actions which showed to the watching world of angels and men, and to God Himself; that yes, he was extremely distressed, but that he would still deliberately honor God as the Giver of every good and perfect gift and the author of his life; the One who had given him all of his children, his servants, and his possessions. He would submit to God in this awful providential ordering of things. He states that he had come naked into this world, from his mother's womb, and that he would return to the earth in his death in the very same way. He had nothing when he came into the world, and now he would have no possessions when he left the world in his own death, and so in this way he would worship His Maker, Savior, and Lord.

In 1st Timothy 6, verse 6, the apostle Paul says – "Now godliness with contentment is great gain." "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." Let us learn, dear brethren, this lesson from this awful situation of godly Job; to learn to be content in all the situations in our life into which God brings us; to know how to abound, and how to be abased, as regards our earthly estate. To even learn to bless God when He takes those persons who are precious to us, away from us. Because He is wise and good. He is loving, He is faithful, and holy. He always does all that He does in the life of the Christian out of love for them. He is faithful to Himself and faithful to every one of His people; to build their faith in this blessed way of ultimately strengthening them establishing them, and confirming them as His very own precious possession. This is what God will do for all of His people, but let us by His grace bless His holy name for it, even while we do not understand why He has permitted Satan to do his worst. May we understand the Lord's great love for us, to give us everything that is good, even the refining of us in His holy fire, so that we will come forth as gold.

