

<p>jugular here, and attacks the one thing that holds all of Job together. <u>Satan doesn't say, 'Is Job blameless for nothing?'</u> Satan doesn't attack Job's uprightness or turning away from evil. This lion who wants to devour our souls doesn't care to sink his teeth into the fruit of our lives, our moral uprightness, or our good behavior. Satan digs for the root—that's what he attacks. Satan goes for the source, the fuel of those behaviors; the fear of the Lord.</p>	<p><i>1 Peter 5:8</i></p>
<p>2. The Charge Against Job's Fear of God A. A word about Satan's words. Should we study the devil's words? If Satan ever comes up to you in real life and wants to have a conversation with you, ignore the offer. The conversation will only confuse and harm you. However, here in Job we are listening to this beast's terrible words under the protection of the Holy Spirit. Here we can hear him roar as a lion in a cage, unable to deceive and devour us with his twisted words. And just as the Holy Spirit gives us insight to all of God's Word, so we are helped here.</p>	<p><i>Jude 8-10</i></p>
<p>B. The accusation – 1:9-11 Notice that Satan also doesn't deny Job's fear of God. He doesn't say 'No, no . . . Job <i>doesn't</i> fear God.' What he says is 'does Job fear God <i>for nothing</i>?' Satan is attacking the sincerity of Job's apparent fear of the Lord.</p> <p>'Does Job fear God for nothing' – To God's face satan effectually says, "Other than your blessings you give to men there is NOTHING that would drive a man to fear You. It is because it is merely profitable to fear You. So Job is no better than a street girl who performs for money. He doesn't reverence you for <i>nothing</i>. He reverences you because he gets all kinds of good stuff from you." What a vicious blasphemy!</p> <p>This is very important in understanding the fear of the Lord. If you look at a man who has nothing, like Job is about to be, and he is still fearing God, it would appear to everyone that such a man fears God for no good reason that can be seen; such a man would <i>appear</i> to fear God for nothing. Such a man would be a wonder and drive other men to ask the question, "Why does he still hold onto his God? <u>What is driving him to worship his God? He seems to be worshiping God for no good reason we can see. He must be crazy!</u>"</p> <p>Do you see how this helps us define what the fear of the Lord is? A God-fearing saint fears God because through the eyes of faith he sees the glory of God's majesty, that He alone is worthy of praise. Real fear of God comes from seeing that it is simply His due. He is worthy of reverence and glory.</p> <p>As surely as honey is sweet to the tongue, and the sun is bright to our eyes, God is to be revered in the soul of man, and in everything that has breath. It is right, and praise is becoming of Him. If your tongue doesn't think honey is sweet, and you cannot see the sun's light, or that God is not to be feared, all I can</p>	<p><i>2 Corinthians 4:3-4</i> <i>Jer. 10:7; Rev. 15:4; Ps. 147:1-5; Ps. 150</i></p>

<p>do is pray that the Lord will open your eyes and bring you to repentance. A man who is blind and dead to God’s glory sees no greatness in God. They think we’re crazy. Therefore a God-fearing person will appear to the world to be foolish at times, reverencing God for no apparent reason that wicked can perceive, who are blind to God’s majestic glory.</p>	<p><i>2 Timothy 2:24-26</i> <i>1 Corinthians 1:18-25</i></p>
<p>C. What are satan’s ground’s for this charge? – Verse 10. There is a hedge of protection, and everything goes well with Job. Here we see satan answer God’s question in verse 8, “Have you considered my servant Job?” Satan seems to know quite a bit about Job. Satan knows about this hedge around Job. Looking carefully, satan also knows how <i>pervasive</i> this hedge is—it protects ‘all’ that Job has, and it is <i>extensive</i>; it protects from ‘every side’. Everything and every side has been tested. <u>Oh yes, satan has indeed considered Job.</u> Satan has tested <i>every</i> possible breach and <i>all</i> that Job has. And all the while Job has been comfortable in his house. Completely unaware that all along there have been deadly beasts trying to devour him. See God’s faithful protection for those who fear Him. The ‘amen’ to this wonderful protection of Job is found in Ps. 34:7, where we see that the angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him.</p>	
<p>Let’s take this into our lives here. Do you know what this means to you as you go about your life? Just because things are well with you, doesn’t mean the devil himself hasn’t had his mark on you. Perhaps even as you sit there now, and as I stand behind this pulpit, we are ignorant of a legion of hideous, murdering, lying devils. At the last supper nobody could see satan enter into Judas’ heart. The apostle Peter had no idea that satan had requested permission to sift his heart. Who knows what evil creatures have been after you all your life? And the only thing between you and a thousand terrors and confusions is God’s faithful hedge around you. Getting back to Job’s fear of God, satan suggests a test. Let’s see if Job really does have a fear for God that is genuine. Look at verse 11.</p>	<p><i>John 13:21-27</i> <i>Luke 22:31</i></p>
<p>3. The Test of Job’s Fear – To paraphrase satan he says, “Remove the terrible hedge, let me have a crack at him and Job will curse You to Your face. Let me hurt Job and you’ll see why he fears You. It is just for Your blessing, not because You are worthy.” See how bold this challenge was toward God. Job was concerned his sons or daughters might have cursed God in there <i>hearts</i>, and this is why he offered sacrifices for them. So satan is saying, “when I’m through with him he will not just curse God in his</p>	<p><i>Job 1:5</i></p>

CHAPEL ON THE HILL
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
www.cothma.org

<p><i>heart, but to His face.</i></p> <p>So we see satan’s grounds for his charge against Job. He is going to try to prove that Job only fears God because God is profitable to fear. Satan is going to try to expose Job’s fear of God as false, and the way he proposes it is that when Job is cursed he in turn will curse God instead of praise and worship Him.</p> <p>By the way watch Job’s wife in 2:9. I wonder if she realizes who she is speaking for here.</p>	
<p>So God allowed the test — For His own good purposes as we see at the end of Job. So let the test fall on yourself. Ask the question. Let it probe you. “Do I fear God for nothing? What are my motives for fearing God? And do I even fear Him? What do I see in God that makes Him worthy of praise?”</p> <p>When are you tempted to shake your fist at Him? Have you ever come to the place where you see your sins before the Holy One, and realize the only thing any one of us really deserves from God is His just punishment for our sins? God hates sin; sin is totally against His nature. He is more than love, He is justice. This is why all over the scriptures it says God is to be feared. Eternal majesty and we have slapped Him in the face with our sins, time and again. It was for Sin that He was brutalized. God hates sin.</p> <p>God cannot ignore our sin any more than He can ignore satan. It must be punished. God cannot be at peace with unpunished sin anymore than you can be at peace with cockroaches in your food pantry. It must be dealt with. Sin must be exterminated if God really is Holy; He cannot just excuse sin, anymore than a policeman can excuse a burglar caught in the act.</p> <p>Now, if you’ve seen His cross, and your sin nailed against His bleeding majesty, you don’t fear God for <i>nothing</i>. The world looks at that cross and sees <i>nothing</i>; you look and see <i>everything, everything, everything</i>—all of life, all of joy, all of justice and goodness. And it makes you tremble. In spite of what your creature comforts are, you know He is worthy to be praised.</p> <p>So it is that in the cross of Jesus Christ all of God’s Justice fell, and all of God’s love was poured out to the full. Sin is dealt with, exterminated to the fullest, in a substitute—God Himself.</p> <p>Lord willing, next week I want to look at what happens when a God fearer is squeezed. The stuff that oozes out of him will help us even further to understand the fear of the Lord.</p>	

Thank you and have a blessed week.
Join us every Sunday morning at 10:15am | Have a prayer request? Send it to us online.