

JOB

A MAN OF HEROIC ENDURANCE

STUDY TWO

Reeling and Recovering from Devastating News

Job 1:12–22

Job said, “Blessed be the name of the Lord.” It’s one thing to read that. It’s one thing to sing that. It’s another thing to believe it and say it. Our Father, blessed be Your name when You give. Blessed be Your name when You take.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, is permanently etched in the memory of countless millions. On that day of disaster, terrorists commandeered four airliners and turned them into missiles. Two planes targeted the Twin Towers in New York City, causing the skyscrapers to collapse in a smoldering heap. A third plane hurtled into the Pentagon in Washington, DC. A fourth airliner crashed into the wooded countryside of Shanksville, Pennsylvania, missing its intended target—perhaps the Capitol building or the White House. Thousands of lives were abruptly carried into eternity that day.

In the aftermath of the atrocity, we heard stories of unlikely heroes, ordinary people who acted with extraordinary courage. One name emerged, Todd Beamer, and his actions were truly remarkable.

Todd was a faithful husband and devoted father of two with a third on the way. He was simply a passenger on that fourth fateful flight, untrained to fight terrorists. But he did fight, along with others, and he led the charge. His phone call from the plane recorded him reciting the Lord’s Prayer and then uttering those famous words: “Let’s roll!”

Without realizing it, he had lived his short life for that one heroic deed that spared many lives at the intended target. Todd’s faithful walk with Christ prepared him for such a moment.

Centuries earlier, Job himself, untrained to endure loss, lost everything. He became known not for his wealth or influence but for his suffering . . . and for his heroic faith that bore him up under the load of catastrophic and unspeakable grief. Amid the searing flames of trial, he uttered his famous resolve: “The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD” (Job 1:21 NASB).



INSIGHT FOR LIVING



Scan to listen to
Chuck’s message.

The Bible-Teaching Ministry of Chuck Swindoll
Study 2 • Page 1

SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES
BIBLE STUDIES

Reeling and Recovering from Devastating News

Job 1:12–22

Let's look closer at what happened on Job's day of disaster and what helped him become one of the Bible's unlikely heroes.



PREPARE YOUR HEART

Job's faith in God reflects what King David expressed in this psalm:

*Even when I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff
protect and comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)*

In the space below, thank the Lord Jesus for His steadfastness to you amid our life trials and invite the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of Scripture as you study.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

While Job's sons and daughters celebrated together, his field hands busily tended the animals that were grazing and working. Job—a righteous man, husband, father, and supremely wealthy landowner—was making intercession for his children in case they had sinned and disgraced the name of God. Life was good on the family estate.

Unknown to Job, however, God and Satan conversed in the invisible realm of heaven. Their focus? Righteous Job. The greatest man in the east. Their topic? Satan's allegation that Job's faith flourished only in the rich soil of God's blessings. "Take away everything he has," Satan sneered, "and he will surely curse you to your face!" (Job 1:11). So, God gave Satan permission to severely test him, but to spare Job's life. Would Job's faith prove real?

Reeling and Recovering from Devastating News

Job 1:12–22



Observation: Severe Testing from Satan

Observation helps you enter the scene of the passage.¹ As you read the verses, put yourself in the room with Job. Feel his emotions as if you were hearing what he heard and seeing what he saw. Through empathy with Job, you'll also be able to recall your own experiences of suffering and better grasp the truth the Scriptures are teaching you. Open your Bible to [Job 1:12–22](#), and walk through the passage as you answer the questions below.

Permission in hand, “Satan left the Lord’s presence” (Job 1:12). A pause followed as Satan concocted his plan. Then, “One day,” the text reads (1:13). One ordinary day like any other, Job’s life would change forever. Job was at his home when, suddenly, there was a knock at the door. Like turbulent water released from a dam, Job’s tests came in unrelenting waves.

Wave 1—Job 1:13–15

In Job 1:13–15, while Job’s children celebrated with their customary feast, according to the first messenger, what enemy crossed the Arabian peninsula and attacked? What did they take, and who was killed?

Wave 2—Job 1:16

No sooner had Job received the news from the first messenger than another lone messenger appeared on his doorstep in Job 1:16. The “fire of God” likely refers to lightning. What happened in an instant?

Reeling and Recovering from Devastating News

Job 1:12–22

Wave 3—Job 1:17

Job was barely able to catch his breath when another messenger arrived in Job 1:17. Which enemy appeared next, and how did they raid Job's estate? What did they take? Who was killed?

Wave 4—Job 1:18–19

The last wave in Job 1:18–19 hit Job with a blow of unparalleled proportion. What tool did Satan use, and what tragedy struck Job's family?

Wave after wave hit Job, and the last one was like a tsunami. What thoughts must have passed through his mind? What emotion must he have felt? Have you ever received such hard news? What was it like for you?

Job's Response to His Calamity—Job 1:20–22

As the waves subsided, Job had a moment to process the devastation. In Job 1:20–22, he expressed his grief physically. According to 1:20, what four actions did he take?

Reeling and Recovering from Devastating News

Job 1:12–22

Job finally spoke. Note the couplets in Job 1:21. What idea do his three phrases communicate? How did the first two phrases enable Job to utter the third phrase?

The wicked spirits sit with their mouths wide open as it were, as they watch a man who follows all of his adversities with adoration. Who follows all of his woes with worship. No blame. No bitterness. No cursing.

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Despite the onslaught of testing, the writer commented in 1:22 about Job's perspective. What did Job *refuse* to do?

How do you think you would react if you were in Job's place?

At birth, we all come naked. At death, we all leave naked as we're prepared for burial. We have nothing in coming. We have nothing when we depart. So everything we have in time is given. Job was saying, "The One who gave and has put everything on loan to me has chosen to take everything away. I won't take anything with me anyway. Blest be His name for loaning it to me while I had it."

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Reeling and Recovering from Devastating News

Job 1:12–22



Interpretation: Grappling with Theodicy

Interpretation focuses on the meaning of the biblical text and the discovery of timeless principles. Satan's permitted attack on Job incorporated *differing means* and followed an *escalating strategy* designed to move Job to curse God. Review the waves of attack in our text. What means did Satan employ? What losses did he inflict? What was his escalating strategy?

In his expression of grief over devastating loss, Job performed several actions that might be unfamiliar in some cultural contexts. Read the commentary on Job 1:20 from [Constable's Notes](#) found at netbible.org. How does your research inform you of the *nature* and *extent* of Job's grieving?

*In the tearing of the robe, he is announcing his horrible grief and anguish.
It's used several times in the Old Testament for the expression of grief.*
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Throughout the book of Job, we come face-to-face with the concept of *theodicy*. The term is derived from two Greek words: *theos*, meaning God, and *dike*, meaning justice. Theodicy is the theological attempt to reconcile the existence of an all-good, all-knowing, and all-powerful God with the reality of evil and suffering in the present world.

Read the article (or just the summary) titled, "[The Problem of Evil](#)" found at thegospelcoalition.org. From your review, how might you explain the coexistence of these two apparently contradictory concepts? How do they work together? What clarity does it provide about Job's severe testing?

Reeling and Recovering from Devastating News

Job 1:12–22



Correlation: Open Hands . . . Accepting Heart

Job acknowledged God's sovereignty, self-sufficiency, and inscrutability. Consider [1 Corinthians 3:19](#); [Romans 11:35](#), both of which cite Job. What did Job understand about God?

Not only did Job understand the sovereignty of God, but he walked his journey of faith with open hands and an accepting heart. Job's words of grief in 1:21 are mirrored in Paul's words to his young protégé found in [1 Timothy 6:7–8](#). How do these two passages complement one another?

Because of his submission to the painful plan of God, Job is lauded in [James 5:11](#). For what is he praised? What additional synonyms can you supply? What does 5:11b note about the Lord?

We brought nothing. We take nothing. In the meantime, we borrow everything. When you understand that everything you have is on loan, then you are better prepared to release it when the Owner wants it back. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Application: Hold Everything Loosely

The most important lesson we learn from our text is to “hold everything loosely,” because, like Job, we own nothing and borrow everything. Every gift—family, health, possession—is on loan from God and, when the Lord calls His children home, we take nothing with us. We are stewards, called to accept what God gives with open hands, ready to release it at any time.

Reeling and Recovering from Devastating News

Job 1:12–22

How do you think you would be changed if you lost the people and possessions you hold most dearly?

Are you currently clinging tightly to certain people or possessions in your life? If so, who or what are they?

Record your prayer to the Lord now, releasing these people and possessions into God's hands.

Job was a man of faith. Whatever God gave him, he received with his palms open facing heaven, ready to release. His perspective was cultivated in a lifelong, yielded walk with the Lord. When tested, may we respond as did Job: "Despite all this, Job did not sin, nor did he blame God" (Job 1:22 NASB). Job's trials, however, were not yet over. Another wave was heading his way that would test his faith to the breaking point.



A FINAL PRAYER

I shall bless Your name forever and ever my great God, even if I don't understand, even if I cannot ever explain. You need no defending. I need to worship You. Blessed be Your name—for what You have given and for Your sovereign right to take. Blessed be Your name. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

ENDNOTE

1. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, "[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](#)"

For the 2026 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Marshall F. Davis in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 2002, 2026 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

insight.org

Insight for Living
Study 2 • Page 8

[illegible]

[illegible]