

JOB

A MAN OF HEROIC ENDURANCE

STUDY THREE

Satan vs. Job . . . Round Two

Job 2:1–10

In the struggle of a fitful night trying to sleep after burying all ten of his children and after groaning and weeping and grieving alongside his precious wife who had also lost her children, Job had no idea that more was on the way.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

HER name may not be a household one, but her story recalls the horrific events from the morning of September 11, 2001. Living in an apartment six blocks from the World Trade Center towers in New York City, Christina Stanton awakened to the noise from the jet strike on the North Tower. Seventeen minutes later, while Christina stood on her apartment terrace, the second plane flew directly overhead and crashed into the South Tower. The shock wave from the explosion blew her back into her apartment, knocking her temporarily unconscious.

When she came to her senses, she and her husband stumbled down 24 flights of stairs to nearby Battery Park, desperately searching for safety. Covered in rubble debris and gasping for breath within the darkened sky of dust clouds and smoke, she was trapped with thousands of others for three hours before being ferried off Manhattan to safety. Christina suffered from PTSD, myriad health problems, and a compromised immune system from exposure to toxic debris and smoke.

In March 2020, Christina faced round-two of her trials, contracting the virulent COVID-19 virus early in the pandemic. Hundreds of miles from home, she fought for her life in a hospital room, surviving but enduring long-term effects.

Christina's two journeys through the valley of the shadow of death gave her a new and deeper understanding of God and His ways. Before her ordeal, her faith was contractual—if she worked hard, God would bless her. But after, she realized how little control of her life she had. She admitted, “I . . . went to church on Sundays, but I really hadn't internalized the Bible, internalized who Jesus said he was, [and] who I am in him.”¹



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SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES
BIBLE STUDIES

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Her trauma and pain opened her eyes to God as He really was—sovereign and supreme—and to herself as desperately in need of Christ. It didn't weaken her faith. It made her faith real.

Job, too, was a man prostrated by loss and trauma. As he tentatively took his first steps following his unthinkable loss, he was blindsided with a second punishing blow at the hands of Satan. Like Christina and every person who has ever suffered, Job would again wrestle to understand the limits of his control and accept God's sovereign and inscrutable ways.



PREPARE YOUR HEART

Job's heart ached but he accepted God's painful, unfathomable plan. The apostle Paul captured Job's plight:

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. (2 Corinthians 4:8–9)

Take a moment to thank God for His faithfulness to you—even when life doesn't make sense.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Think of all Job lost. At his peak, he was president and CEO of several businesses. With his thousands of sheep, he ran a textile business. With 3,000 camels and 500 donkeys, he was in the transportation business, and with hundreds of teams of oxen, he was a large-scale farmer and rancher (Job 1:3). His many children guaranteed a legacy of wealth for generations . . . but in a matter of minutes, it was all gone.

The shock waves of that horrific news knocked him over, literally. He “fell to the ground” (1:20). Humanly speaking, who would have faulted him if he had cursed God? Such a righteous man didn't deserve so much calamity. It wasn't fair. But “Job did not sin by blaming God” (1:22). His deep spiritual roots prepared him to trust God amid utter bewilderment and suffering.

Satan lost round one. So, stunned and angered, Satan coldly calculated round two. Another nefarious plot loomed on the horizon targeting Job.

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Observation: Job Again in Satan's Crosshairs

Observation helps you connect with the biblical author's heart and mind.² Read *Job 2:1–10* slowly and thoughtfully and answer the questions below. Look for key words, logical flow, feeling words, action words, and vivid descriptors.

Satan Presents Himself Before God—Job 2:1–2

How does Job 2:1–2 mirror *1:6–7*? What is the significance of the repetition? What slight differences do you note?

What was Satan's intention? What does it tell you that he returned to God before proceeding with his plan?

God and Satan Discuss Job—Job 2:3–6

Use your skills of observation as you read Job 2:3–6. While 2:3a mirrors 1:8, what did the writer add in 2:3b about Job's handling of his testing? Also in 2:3b, what accusation did God make against Satan?

Satan vs. Job . . . Round Two

Job 2:1–10

Furious at the Lord's rebuke, Satan proposed another attack in Job 2:4–5. In your own words, what did he propose? What accusation did Satan make against Job? What more subtle accusation did Satan levy against God?

What permission did God grant Satan in 2:6 that he did not grant him in 1:12? What constraint did He place upon Satan?

*Can you imagine that? Can you imagine your name connected to verse six?
“Alright, Lucifer, go back, but don’t kill him.” He set the boundary, “Preserve
his life, but he’s fair game.” —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*

Satan Afflicts Job—Job 2:7–8

How did Satan strike Job, according to Job 2:7–8? How extensive was the bodily assault, and how did Job find any measure of relief for his excruciating symptoms?

Job’s suffering was intense: inflamed, ulcerous sores, persistent itching, degenerative changes in facial skin, disfiguration, loss of appetite, fears and depression, purulent sores that burst open, scab over, crack, and ooze with pus, worms that form in the sores themselves. He experienced difficulty breathing, loss of weight, excruciating, continual pain, also high fever with chills. Delirium, sleeplessness, rejection of friends, and all this lasting for months. In short, Job became the personification of misery. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Job's Wife Responds to His Plight—Job 2:9–10

If Job's physical pain, emotional humiliation, and spiritual questions weren't enough weight to bear, what counsel did his wife offer to add to his burden in Job 2:9? Why do you think she offered this advice?

Despite his pitifully painful condition, Job gently reproached his wife in 2:10. What was his rhetorical reply? What point was he making?

Chapter two closes just as chapter one closed, with Job's faith intact. What did the writer note about Job's response to his testing?

What must Job have been feeling?

Satan vs. Job . . . Round Two

Job 2:1–10



Interpretation: God Constrains Satan's Activity

Ever the adversary, accuser, and liar, Satan's claim was that Job remained faithful because his first assaults destroyed only Job's *possessions*. What did Satan imply about the true nature of Job's faith? What did Satan really want?

God granted Satan permission to afflict Job personally yet spare his life. Why do you believe God did that? In the cosmic conversation with Satan, what would God prove and whom would He vindicate?

Job's wife questioned why Job maintained his integrity, urging her broken husband to "curse God and die!" We often criticize her lack of faith. But she was in pain too. How had she suffered through these two assaults on her husband? List all you can think of that "Mrs. Job" lost.



Correlation: Expect Trials in This Life

Everyone hopes for a pain-free life. But Scripture reminds us trials are part of the human experience. What perspective do [1 Thessalonians 3:3–4](#) and [1 Peter 4:12](#) urge us to uphold?

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While trials vary in type and severity, what do *1 Corinthians 10:13* and *1 Peter 5:8–9* teach us about the commonality of them?

According to *2 Timothy 3:12* and *1 Peter 1:6–7*, what is the timeframe and purpose for our trials?

How magnificent it is to find those who trust Him to the very end of this vale of suffering saying, “And may His name be praised.” I don’t understand it. I can’t explain it. May His name be praised. That is worship at its highest.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Application: Living Wisely

Pastor Chuck Swindoll offers three principles to help us live wisely when trials come.

First, *because our lives are full of trials, we need to remember there are always more to come.* We mustn't be surprised. Second, *because our world is fallen, those who love us may give us wrong advice.* Suffering her own great loss and grief, Job's wife gave her husband wrong advice. So not to be fooled, we must square advice from others with God's Word. Third, *because our God is sovereign, we must prepare ourselves for blessing and adversity.* Don't let life's troubles pull you away from God.

What difficult trial are you facing? What have you learned about God from Job's experience? How does Job's response to adversity apply to your situation?

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Has a well-meaning family member or friend ever given you wrong advice? If so, what was the situation? Did you take his or her advice? Why, or why not?

How can you prepare yourself for the trials you will inevitably face?

Job never knew about Satan's challenge in heaven and the real cause of his troubles. God is full of compassion, but His plan is often beyond our comprehension. Like Christina Stanton, Job realized he wasn't in control of God. The Lord rightly gives and takes away. Our true security isn't in what we have . . . but in the One who has us.



A FINAL PRAYER

Lord God, forgive me for the wasted hours I have spent trying to squeeze You into my frame of thinking. I pray that You will guard me from lowering my view of You. You will assist me as I raise my faith to a height it has never gone before. Help me, Lord, through these hard times. In the glorious name of Christ, I pray. Amen.

ENDNOTES

1. Lauren Green, "A Story of a Faith Transformed in the Midst of the 9/11 Terror Attacks," Sept. 9, 2019, [foxnews.com/faith-values/911-terror-attack-story-church](https://www.foxnews.com/faith-values/911-terror-attack-story-church).
2. 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.

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