

Job.

Read the Book of Job. The use of suffering in the Divine Plan as means of perfecting character is not very popular, however, Job is a perfect example of it as he learns a smidgeon about God (it will take eternity).

There is a malignant power of satan in human life that might be tragic but during the time of satanic attacks, the human being knows in the innermost man (the spirit) that nothing the devil can do will change his/her position in the love of God and that God will never leave him/her nor forsake him/her. However, it is God that chooses who needs to know Him and who will see this malignant power of satan. You cannot conjure up your testing. (Even during the millennium the human will be tested for his/her faith: but I have to say here is that I am not sure if everyone is tested because the Scriptures say that not everyone is written in the Book of Life.)

The notes from **The Thompson Chain Reference Bible** (my bible I “grew up” on) is noted here (with permission) and with my experience as Job suffered but I never suffered to that extent but my test was mine nonetheless and it was as much as I could withstand at that time. There is a steady preparation to be able to handle everything that God has for you. I heard Andre Wommack teach on Moses being able to handle his work that God had appointed him to do and that is to go before Pharaoh and “command” he release the children of Israel and be able to handle not just the Egyptians but his own people as well that turned on him, but it took him 40 years in the wilderness before he was ready; and in the wilderness and after the wilderness experience. He also had a trainee, Joshua by name, that was tested with him in the wilderness but was able to lead His people into the Promised and able to handle the Lord's fight with the enemies.

The Main Subject, the problem of Job's affliction and his overcoming in God and is set in acts:

Scene I. Job and his family before affliction overtook them. Job appears as a godly father, unspoiled by prosperity, ministering, as a priest, to his large household. (Chapters 1-5)

Scene II.

- (a) Satan enters the Divine Presence, insinuating that Job serves God because of special favours (Chapter 9-11)
- (b) Satan is permitted to test Job by inflicting the loss of property and children. (Chapter 1:12-20)
- (c) Job retains his integrity (Chapter 1:21-22).

Scene III.

- (a) Satan re-enters the Divine Presence, saying if Job's own body were afflicted, he would curse God (Chapter 2:1-5)
- (b) Satan is permitted to smite Job with a horrible disease (Chapter 2:7,8).
- (c) The blasphemous advice of his wife, and the triumphant submission of Job (Chapter 2: 9,10).

Scene IV. The arrival of Job's three friends, and the seven days silent sympathy (Chapter 2:11-13).

Scene V. Job's patience being exhausted, he utters his complaint because he does not understand what is happening to him (Chapter 3).

Scene VI. The long and fruitless discussions between Job and his three friends concerning his afflictions. His friends maintain that suffering is the result of personal sin. Job defends himself and asserts his innocence (Chapters 4 – 31).

Scene VII. Elihu enters into the discussion (Chapters 32-37).

Scene VIII. The Lord answers Job out of the whirlwind with words of enlightenment and reproof (Chapters 38-39).

Scene IX. Job's confession (Chapter 40:3-5)

Scene X. The Lord speaks the second time (Chapter 40:7-chapter 41).

Scene XI.

(a) Job's second confession (Chapter 42:1-6).

(b) The Lord's rebuke of Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar for their foolish words, and a command for them to offer sacrifices (Chapter 42:7-9).

Scene XII. Job prays for his friends, his own prosperity is restored, and he lives to a great age (Chapter 42:10-17).