



The Cosmic Conflict throughout Scripture

Beginning with a Close Analysis of Job

study guide by deg



JOB Reading Project

An introduction to the story of the Cosmic Conflict between good and evil. Beginning with the oldest book in the OT Canon, we will trace a story of truly epic proportions. The "Great Controversy"—as it is sometimes referred to—is a top to bottom tale of friendship, intrigue, betrayal, death, resurrection, and redemption. This saga is THE story of stories.

This narrative, while traversing the galaxy, has a special attachment to our own dear planet. In fact the Comic "Trouble on a Blue Planet" is one such adaptation of the impact of this very story on a particular person.

We are going to focus our attention to the sweep of the whole of the account so as to bring into sharper relief our place in this supreme contest of wills over the affections and loyalties of literally trillions.

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Job 1

1 In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. 2 He had seven sons and three daughters, 3 and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

4 His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

6 One day the angels^[a] came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan^[b] also came with them.

7 The Lord said to Satan,

"Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the Lord,

"From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

8 Then the Lord said to Satan,

"Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

9 *"Does Job fear God for nothing?"*

Satan replied.

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Job 1

Job, the Good Man

1 A man named Job lived in the land of Uz. He was an honest and innocent man; he honored God and stayed away from evil. 2 Job had seven sons and three daughters. 3 He owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred teams of oxen, and five hundred female donkeys. He also had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

4 Job's sons took turns holding feasts in their homes and invited their sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 After a feast was over, Job would send and have them made clean. Early in the morning Job would offer a burnt offering for each of them, because he thought, "My children may have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Job did this every time.

Satan Appears Before the Lord

6 One day the angels came to show themselves before the Lord, and Satan^[a] was with them. 7 The Lord said to Satan,

"Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the Lord,

"I have been wandering around the earth, going back and forth in it."

8 Then the Lord said to Satan,

"Have you noticed my servant Job? No one else on earth is like him. He is an honest and innocent man, honoring God and staying away from evil."

9 But Satan answered the Lord,

KJV

Job 1

1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

2 And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

3 His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

4 And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.

5 And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.

7 And the Lord said unto Satan,

Whence comest thou?

Then Satan answered the Lord, and said,

From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

8 And the Lord said unto Satan,

Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth,

10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

12 The Lord said to Satan,

"Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."

Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

13 One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, 14 a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, 15 and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

16 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

17 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

18 While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, 19 when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

20 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship 21 and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart.^[c] The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."

"Job honors God for a good reason. 10 You have put a wall around him, his family, and everything he owns. You have blessed the things he has done. His flocks and herds are so large they almost cover the land. 11 But reach out your hand and destroy everything he has, and he will curse you to your face."

12 The Lord said to Satan,

"All right, then. Everything Job has is in your power, but you must not touch Job himself."

Then Satan left the Lord's presence.

13 One day Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine together at the oldest brother's house. 14 A messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were eating grass nearby, 15 when the Sabeans attacked and carried them away. They killed the servants with swords, and I am the only one who escaped to tell you!"

16 The messenger was still speaking when another messenger arrived and said, "Lightning from God fell from the sky. It burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who escaped to tell you!"

17 The second messenger was still speaking when another messenger arrived and said, "The Babylonians sent three groups of attackers that swept down and stole your camels and killed the servants. I am the only one who escaped to tell you!"

18 The third messenger was still speaking when another messenger arrived and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine together at the oldest brother's house. 19 Suddenly a great wind came from the desert, hitting all four corners of the house at once. The house fell in on the young people, and they are all dead. I am the only one who escaped to tell you!"

20 When Job heard this, he got up and tore his robe and shaved his head to show how sad he was. Then he bowed down to the ground to worship God. 21 He said:

"I was naked when I was born, and I will be naked when I die. The Lord gave these things to me, and he has taken them away. Praise the name of the Lord."

a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

9 Then Satan answered the Lord, and said,

Doth Job fear God for nought?

10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

12 And the Lord said unto Satan,

Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand.

So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

13 And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

14 And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them:

15 And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

16 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

17 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

18 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

19 And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only

22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Job 2

1 On another day the angels^[a] came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. 2 And the Lord said to Satan,

“Where have you come from?”

Satan answered the Lord,

“From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.”

3 Then the Lord said to Satan,

“Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.”

4 *“Skin for skin!”*

Satan replied.

“A man will give all he has for his own life. 5 But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

6 The Lord said to Satan,

“Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.”

7 So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. 8 Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

9 His wife said to him, “Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!”

10 He replied, “You are talking like a foolish^[b] woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?”

In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

11 When Job’s three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zo-

22 In all this Job did not sin or blame God.

Job 2

Satan Appears Before the Lord Again

1 On another day the angels came to show themselves before the Lord, and Satan was with them again. 2 The Lord said to Satan,

“Where have you come from?”

Satan answered the Lord,

“I have been wandering around the earth, going back and forth in it.”

3 Then the Lord said to Satan,

“Have you noticed my servant Job? No one else on earth is like him. He is an honest and innocent man, honoring God and staying away from evil. You caused me to ruin him for no good reason, but he continues to be without blame.”

4 *“One skin for another!”*

Satan answered.

“A man will give all he has to save his own life. 5 But reach out your hand and destroy his flesh and bones, and he will curse you to your face.”

6 The Lord said to Satan,

“All right, then. Job is in your power, but you may not take his life.”

7 So Satan left the Lord’s presence. He put painful sores on Job’s body, from the top of his head to the soles of his feet. 8 Job took a piece of broken pottery to scrape himself, and he sat in ashes in misery.

9 Job’s wife said to him, “Why are you trying to stay innocent? Curse God and die!”

10 Job answered, “You are talking like a foolish woman. Should we take only good things from God and not trouble?” In spite of all this Job did not sin in what he said.

Job’s Three Friends Come to Help

11 Now Job had three friends: Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zo-

am escaped alone to tell thee.

20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Job 2

1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord.

2 And the Lord said unto Satan,

From whence comest thou?

And Satan answered the Lord, and said,

From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

3 And the Lord said unto Satan,

Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

4 And Satan answered the Lord, and said,

Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. 5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

6 And the Lord said unto Satan,

Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

7 So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

8 And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.

phar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. 12 When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. 13 Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.

Footnotes:

Job 1:6 Hebrew the sons of God

Job 1:6 Hebrew satan means adversary.

Job 1:21 Or will return there

Job 2:1 Hebrew the sons of God

Job 2:10 The Hebrew word rendered foolish denotes moral deficiency.

phar the Naamathite. When these friends heard about Job's troubles, they agreed to meet and visit him. They wanted to show their concern and to comfort him. 12 They saw Job from far away, but he looked so different they almost didn't recognize him. They began to cry loudly and tore their robes and put dirt on their heads to show how sad they were. 13 Then they sat on the ground with Job seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him because they saw how much he was suffering.

Footnotes:

1:6 Satan Or "the accuser."

9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.

10 But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.

12 And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven.

13 So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great.

Respond

- 1) **First read the passages.** Make notes if you need to. Seems obvious but i have to point it out.
 - 2) **Paraphrase in your own words each section.** Try to go section by section, condensing down into paragraphs rather than verse by verse. Keep this short.
 - 3) **Read the Project Resources and guides.** This includes the comic book telling of the Cosmic Conflict
 - 4) **Answer the questions.** Shocking isn't it?
 - 5) **Produce some creative output** involving the story or Cosmic Conflict.
 - a) *Write it up* as a drama or a skit or a short story or a series of journal entries or a monologue or . . .
 - b) *Create some original artwork* for it and put it into a story form or a cartoon booklet (think graphic novel).
 - 6) **Turn it in.** Amazing how this part of the assignment seems to be forgotten . . .
 - 7) **Extra Credit.** Perform the skit, explain/display the media, read the poem, etc
- Any other ideas? just let me know!

JOB 1 & 2 Analysis guide

Note the very specific word choices in the conversations between God and satan. Notice what IS said and what is NOT said. Notice what is implied. Note who is responsible for what. Note that God asks questions He obviously knows the answer to. **Why? What does Job do? What is the outcome?** (cf Job chp 42)

Son of God Analysis guide (what does the Bible mean when it uses this phrase?)

Read the genealogy listed in:

Luke 3:38

There are only 46 entries in the entire Bible of the phrase “son of God” (Daniel 3 is an abherant) and all of them refer to Jesus except this passage in Luke. With that as our Biblical definition, **what might Job 1&2 be implying?**

Last (Second) Adam Analysis guide (what does the Bible mean when it says this?)

Read the following:

Hosea 6:6-7

I Corinthians 15:22, 45

The passage in Hosea (NIV does best translation—or KJV with a footnote) points out that Adam broke some covenant relationship with God. I Corinthians then explains that what the first Adam broke the second (final/last) Adam fulfilled. Christ is that Adam (cf **Rom. 5:12-21**).

Human viewpoint Analysis guide (what might the conflict look like from a human perspective versus the galactic one?)

Please read these passages in several versions to get at the concepts. Some translation try to be “helpful” and actually obscure the Truth. That’s why we have to learn to read & think for ourselves & practice listening to the Author of the text (JN 15)

I CHRONICLES 21:1 and parallel story 2 SAMUEL 24:1

After reading this story in the parallel texts, reflect on the picture of God that emerges in I Chronicles versus the ideas in II Samuel. **Who is responsible for bringing evil or temptation to David?** To harmonize these conflicting accounts keep in mind the lessons made clear in Job. Also, read **James 1:13-14**. **What does James say about God and temptation?** The lessons we take from here has relevance for understanding Exodus 5 through 14

(note specific verses: **Exodus 7:13; 7:22; 8:15; 8:19; 8:32; 9:12; 9:34; 10:20; 10:27; 11:10**)

Note the picture of God’s influence and control that is portrayed back and forth. Half of the texts seem to point in one theological direction and half give another idea. **Who is responsible for hardening the heart of Pharaoh?** Again, to harmonize these conflicting accounts keep in mind the lessons made clear in Job about who actually brings evil and who often gets blamed for it.

Galactic perspective Analysis guide (what Heaven’s view is compared to the terrestrial one)

The following passages are salient verses for “behind the scenes” looks. Read these with a perspective of being at war (that’s the metaphor the Bible often uses in its language) regarding what satan does/has done:

Zechariah 3:1-4

What “job” does satan do? What is God’s response?

Matthew 4:1-11

Note the progression of temptations in Matthew and what the last / ultimate temptation. **What does satan REALLY want? What does he offer Jesus so that he can have what he really wants? How can satan offer this (the world’s kingdoms) to Jesus?**

(note Jesus’ names and references for satan : **John 8:44; 12:31; 16:11**. cf **Eph 2:2; 6:12; II Cor 4:4**. This is also key to understanding Revelation 13 & 14 as we’ll see)

Luke 13:10-17

What “job” is satan accused of doing? What is God’s response? (Jesus is God, remember)

Luke 22:24-35

Interesting insight from Jesus about a conversation with satan. Notice how CHRIST reaches beyond the event He sees coming to plant the hope of redemption in Peter. **What does satan want with Peter (us)? Why does he ask permission?**

I Peter 5:8

This is NOT a cuddly lion.
Interesting how in a way he takes a
symbol for God and turns it evil.

Revelation 12:7-17

Relevant to our discussion
for the whole semester. Reading
the whole chapter would be a good
idea. Keep in mind it is structured
like a movie with a “flashback
scene” embedded.

Daniel 10:7-21

This is another very
fascinating passage that peeks
behind the scenes at what goes on
for our benefit.

Adventists for various reasons
take “Michael” to be Christ’s
heavenly name before He became
“Joshua/Jesus” on earth. Compare
the following passages in sequence:

- Revelation 22:6-9
- Daniel 12:1
- Revelation 12:7
- Jude 1:9
- I Thessalonians 4:16-17
- John 5:26-29
- Exodus 3:5
- Joshua 5:13-15

The Joshua passage puts all
the pieces together: an “angel” who
accepts worship in charge of the
army (who can raise people from
the dead).

So, using only 3-4 panels, do
a comic strip of the Galactic battle
(cosmic good v evil)—what you
understand so far.

What it’s about Analysis guide (what is at
stake in the whole big deal)

This concept is a little larger
and a bit more to get your head
around, but the clue was in the last
temptation of Christ. The issue at
stake in the great battle of Good
and Evil between God and satan is
worship.

For the Bible, worship is
the act of public love of God
(cf JN15:9-12; JN 21:15-19; II
Timothy 4:7-8; false worship=JER
8:2). Worship (public display of
the heart’s affection; προσκυνεω in
Greek—see strong’s concordance
G4352) is what is at the heart of
Revelation.

Read chapter 13 of Revelation.

Did you spot the “false”
trinity? What is desired by this
false trinity? And now

Read chapter 14 of Revelation

Can you find the true Trinity?
What is a hallmark of true believers
and lovers of God? satan wants
the love, adoration, worth-ship that
is only due to God (Isaiah 14:12-
17; see margin notes or read in
multiple versions for insight into
the phrase “house of prisoners” in
KJV; cf Eze. 28:11-18).

What is the “big picture” Analysis guide
(putting all the pieces together)

We’ll study more about this
(REV 13/14) later. BUT keep in
mind that EVERYTHING we cover
(every movie, book, project, etc) is
with the intent of uncovering the
Great Controversy. By the way i
use this phrase to mean the “BIG

WAR” and “Cosmic Conflict” and
“Galactic Battle” of good and evil
between God and satan.

NOTES:

some people have a differ-
ent view of God and His
“justice”



► continued on next column

► concluded on next column