

# ***Spiritual Warfare***

## ***The Devil, and How to Stand Against His Schemes***



# ***Spiritual Warfare***

- *Definitions of Terms*
- *The Nature of the Enemy (part 3)*
- *The Mechanics of Spiritual Warfare*



# *The Nature of the Enemy*

- What do we actually know about Satan's actions and abilities from Scripture?
  - How does Satan interact with humans?
    - We talked last time about Satan being like a hungry, desperate lion, stuck on Earth with the rest of us
    - So what kinds of stuff does he *do* here with us?  
(NOTE: Remember what we learned in our "Definitions" lessons—  
"Satan" comes from "יָצָן" or "śāṭān" and means "adversary"  
"Devil" comes from "διάβολος" or "diabolos" and means "false accuser"  
—so what do those epithets suggest in general about the ways that he interacts with humans?)



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    - So what kinds of stuff does he *do* here with us?
      - Deviling
        - What is Satan doing in Zechariah 3:1?
        - What is Satan doing in Revelation 12:10?
        - What is Satan doing in Job 1:9-11?





# *The Nature of the Enemy*



Funky little teaching moment...

- Okay, Job deserves a smidgey but more attention
  - Read Job 1:6-7
    - What details do you get about Satan here?  
(and how do they echo what we saw in Revelation 12:10-12?)



# The Nature of the Enemy



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- Okay, Job deserves a smidgey but more attention
  - Read Job 1:6-7
  - Read Job 1:8-11
    - What *exactly* is Satan doing here (beyond stirring up trouble for everyone)?
      - Satan accuses Job of ultimately being motivated primarily by his instinctive, fleshly yearnings (i.e.; if God would ever remove his comforts, then he'd be as rotten and unfaithful as \_\_\_\_\_)
      - Which is technically an accusation against *God* as well, insinuating that He's essentially *bribing* Job (and, by extension, humanity at large) into worshipping Him by blessing us
  - What would Satan hope to *gain* by saying *any* of this?



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  - Read Job 1:6-7
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  - Read Job 1:12
    - What details do you get about Satan here?
      - In everything we see Satan doing—here in Job, with Jesus in the wilderness, etc.—it's all still technically under the sovereign permission of God (i.e.; God is absolutely sovereign over Satan, fallen angels, evil spirits, demons, etc.—and why is that important for us to remember?)  
(note how it affected people in Mark 1:27 when Jesus cast out demons in the synagogue)





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  - Read Job 1:6-7
  - Read Job 1:8-11
  - Read Job 1:12
    - What details do you get about Satan here?
    - So what is Satan apparently able to do here?
      - In vs. 15, Sabeans attacked and carried off Job's livestock
      - In vs. 16, the “fire of God” fell from the sky and burned up his sheep... *and his servants*
      - In vs. 17, Chaldeans attacked and carried off Job's camels
      - In vs. 19, a “strong wind” destroyed a house and killed his children
      - So from these occurrences, what sorts of things does it appear that Satan has the power to be able to accomplish?
        - But note in vs. 20-22, what is Job's reaction?
          - Everything he'd lost had been a gift from God in the first place, and none of it was anything that could be kept forever —so why despise God, even if it was God who had allowed the loss?



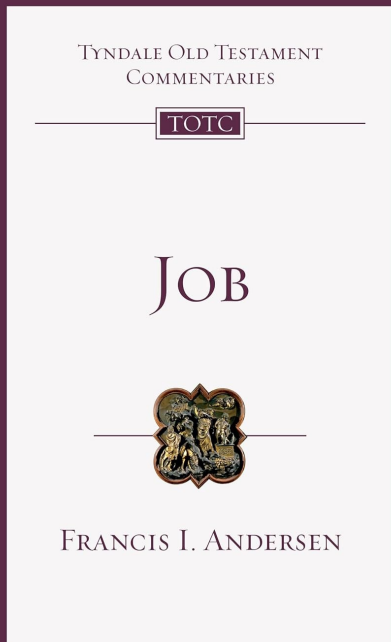


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  - Read Job 1:6-7
  - Read Job 1:8-11
  - Read Job 1:12
  - Read Job 2:1-5
    - “Skin for skin” was a bartering term meaning “to trade one skin for another”
      - So the Accuser is accusing Job—like *all* humans—of being willing to trade the skin of his children and livestock in order to protect his own skin  
(Note that Abraham betrayed his wife to save his own life, Peter betrayed Jesus to save his own life, etc.—so Satan’s correct, right?)
        - At his core, Satan is a cynic—he believes that goodness is a hollow illusion and that it’s far more accurate to say that everyone is just out for themselves in this cosmos—in fact, Francis Andersen wrote that “Cynicism is the *essence* of the satanic”
          - Do you agree?

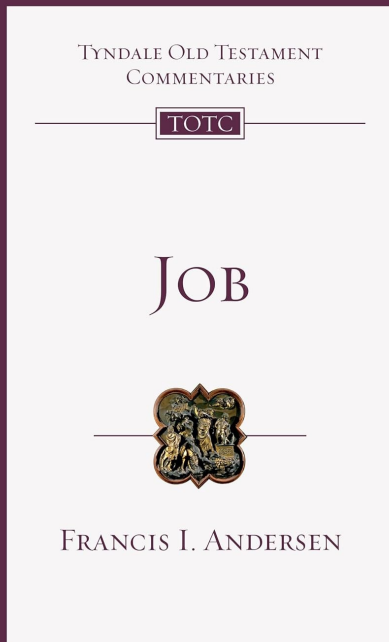


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        - So is *God* a cynic, an optimist, an idealist, a realist, or what?
          - So what should we be?



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  - Read Job 2:6-7
    - So what details do we see about Satan here?
      - So Satan had *always* had the *ability* to kill Job, right? What he lacked was the *permission*...  
(see also verses like Hebrews 2:14-15)  
(note also verses like Luke 13:10-17, where Dr. Luke tells us that a woman had a “sickness caused by a spirit” and had been “bound by Satan” for 18 years)



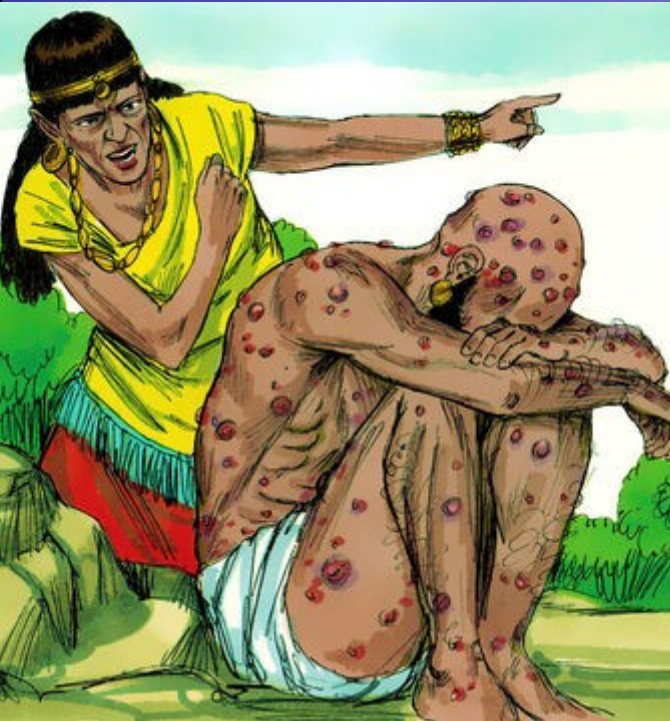


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  - Read Job 2:1-5
  - Read Job 2:6-7
  - Read Job 2:9
    - So far as we can tell, is her accusation of Job *directly* caused by Satan?
    - And yet, accusations just naturally breed *more* accusations, which naturally breed even *more* until it seems totally rational to simply *assume* that our accusations are completely accurate (but note what God had repeatedly said about Job in 1:8, 2:3, etc.—so *was* his wife's accusation an accurate one?)

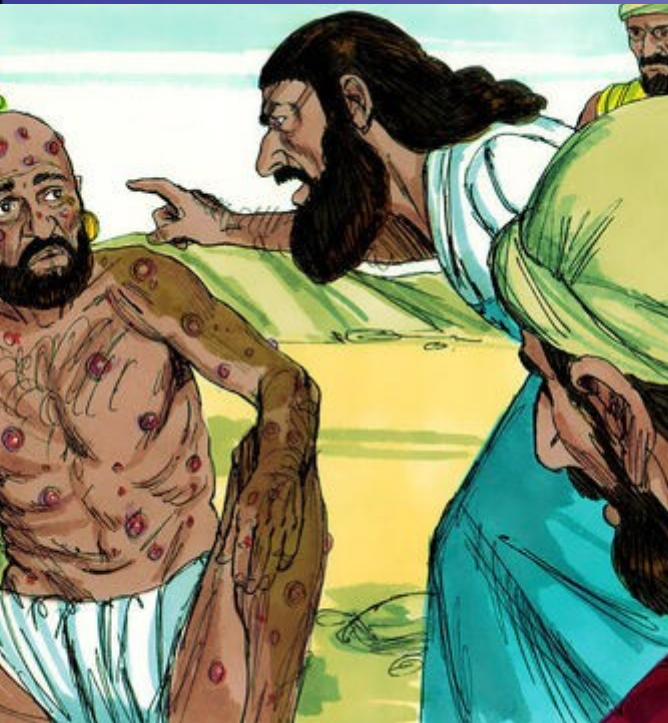


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    - And yet, accusations just naturally breed *more* accusations, which naturally breed even *more* until it seems totally rational to simply *assume* that our accusations are completely accurate
    - And then Job's friends Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar began to question his integrity as well, throwing around (baseless) accusations of wrongdoing just like his wife had
      - Satan doesn't *have* to act *directly*, since he uses means that are themselves *naturally* both toxic and infectious
      - What can we learn about applying that to *our own* lives today?





# *The Nature of the Enemy*



Once upon a time...

A naughty pig kept trying to get out of his pen, so the Devil finally came over and released him.

The pig jumped into the farmer's field next door and began to eat the farmer's crops.

The owner of the farm got angry and got his rifle and killed the pig.

Then the pig owner got mad, set his mind on revenge, got his own rifle, and killed the farmer. After seeing this, the farmer's wife got angry and grabbed her shotgun and killed the pig owner.

Then the pig owner's son became enraged and killed the farmer's wife with an axe.

Indignant, the townsfolk killed the pig owner's whole family and burned his house to the ground.

In death, they all came across the Devil, so they asked him, "Why did you do all that?"

The Devil replied, "I only let the pig go..."

*The end.*

... it's a lot like that...

