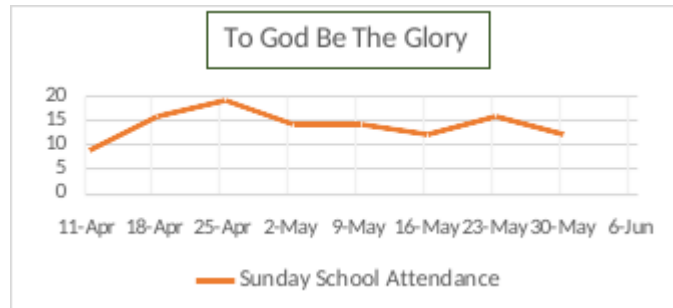


## Welcome and Announcements

The church reopening guidelines have been updated. Masks at church are now voluntary. We are currently meeting in-person for 10:00 am Sunday School and 11:00 am Worship. Last week's Sunday School attendance = 12



## Introduction

This week we begin a new unit of study from the Old Testament book of Job. Here we'll briefly consider this book and the opening verses leading up to our focal passage for this week.

## The Book of Job

Job is one of the “Poetry and Wisdom” books of our Bible. It deals with the difficult question of why unexplainable tragedies sometimes happen to good people, and leads us to reflect on our motivation for trusting God. The first part of this book lays the background for the subsequent dialogues/speeches involving Job, his friends, and finally God.

### Job 1:1-7

*<sup>1</sup>There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect (blameless) and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed (shunned, turned away from) evil.*

This verse introduces us to Job who was described as “*perfect and upright*,” fearing God and hating evil. This does not mean he was sinless, but he revered God, lived with high morals and integrity, and rejected any temptation or opportunity for evil.

*<sup>2</sup>And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. <sup>3</sup>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.*

He had the perfect family and was wealthy and prosperous. His wealth was described in terms typical of a semi-nomadic sheikh who was known and respected far and wide.

*<sup>4</sup>And his sons went and feasted in their houses, everyone his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. <sup>5</sup>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.*

As his family's religious leader, he was concerned with the spiritual condition of his children. He was aware that temptation was always present and continually interceded for them.

*<sup>6</sup>Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. <sup>7</sup>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.*

As the scene shifts to heaven, Satan our adversary and accuser shows up from “going to and fro in the earth.” This sets the stage for this week’s lesson as Satan says Job only trusts God because everything was going well for him, and the testing of Job’s faith begins.

### **Conclusion**

We live in a fallen world where sin has twisted justice and sinful people can appear to prosper while bad things can happen to good people. Job was a good man that experienced great suffering. This book reminds us that God is sovereign and we are not. He knows everything, while we know very little; and this life is but a vapor (James 4:14) compared to eternity. Only God knows why things here happen as they do.

*<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. **Isaiah 55:8-9***

As Job was not made aware of the conversation in heaven, we are not always aware of the spiritual battles going on around us. We must remember that God loves us and we can trust Him knowing “*all things work together for good to them that love God*” (Romans 8:28). May our faith rest upon the Solid Rock, Jesus our Lord who never leaves nor forsakes us through all the trials and sufferings of this life.

*<sup>8</sup>Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: <sup>9</sup>Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions (sufferings) are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. **1 Peter 5:8-9***