
Biblical Studies

Preparing to Preach from Job 1:6-2:10

From week to week, Christians forget the God they live for and are confused about the world they live in. As a pastor, therefore, you must faithfully preach the Word of God so that your people will understand who their God is and what life in His world is like. Before explaining and proclaiming the truths of a given text, you need to familiarise yourself with its structure.

The Structure

Take Job 1:6-2:10 as an example. This passage has two episodes with two scenes. The first scene occurs in heaven, while the second occurs on earth. The two are connected because Job's suffering on earth is the outcome of the conversation between God and Satan in heaven.

Episode 1: Job's Wealth is Tested

- Scene 1: Events in Heaven (1:612)
- Scene 2: Events on Earth (1:1322)

Episode 2: Job's Health is Tested

- Scene 1: Events in Heaven (2:16)
- Scene 2: Events on Earth (2:710)

Chapters 1-2 emphasise the righteous character of Job. He was a man 'who feared God and turned away from evil' (1:1, 8, 2:3). Satan believed, however, that Job only worshipped God because of the great wealth and good health that God had given him (1:9-10). Thus, the central question is whether Job will curse God (1:11; 2:5, 9) or continue to bless God (1:21) when his wealth and health are tested.

The prosperity gospel—also known as the health and wealth gospel—falsely teaches that it is always God's will for Christians to be wealthy and healthy.

Pastor, Explain the World Christians Live In!

Job 1:6-2:10 teaches that Satan is active in our world. The word 'Satan' literally means 'accuser' because accusations are his primary weapon (Zechariah 3:1; Revelation 12:9-11). You can

illustrate this truth from Job 1:7-11 and 2:2-5. Remind your people, then, that Satan, like a lion, travels the earth 'seeking someone to devour' (1 Peter 5:8).

Job 1:6-2:10 also teaches that Christians will suffer in our world. Although Job was God's righteous servant (1:8; 2:3), he suffered greatly. Likewise, Jesus, God's righteous servant, was a 'man of sorrows' (Isaiah 53:3). Your people have heard or are hearing the false message of the 'Prosperity Gospel,' so take this opportunity to explain "that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

Pastor, Proclaim the God Christians Live For!

Job 1:6-2:10 teaches that the God Christians live for is in control of all suffering. Notice that it is God who invites Satan to test Job (1:8; 2:3); it is God who sets limits on Satan's power (1:12; 2:6); and, according to Job, it is God who is behind all of his suffering (1:21; 2:10).

Although we, as the readers, know about the events in heaven, Job did not. Yet, despite his lack of knowledge, Job worshipped God because he knew God was in control (1:20-21). Encourage your

people to do the same by focusing more on the Sovereign One than the suffering one.

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