

No. 32 Lessons on Loyalty From the Book of Job (Symposium)
 -Loyal Despite Direct Attacks

PURPOSE OF THIS SYMPOSIUM (3 min.)

Loyalty involves sticking closely to someone or something even through difficult circumstances (w13 6/15 17 ¶3)

Sooner or later, all of us will have our loyalty to Jehovah tested

Such tests may include illness, financial setbacks, or the death of loved ones

[Briefly relate a verified experience, such as one from the following references: g 10/09 23-25; g 1/06 25-29]

These tests could threaten our loving attachment to Jehovah

The patriarch Job dealt with many tests similar to those that we may face; like other faithful servants of old, he was "a man with feelings like ours" (Jas 5:17)

This symposium will consider how the book of Job can help us to

- (1) Remain loyal despite direct attacks and subtle attacks
- (2) Strengthen our loyalty by meditating on Jehovah's creation

WHAT DIRECT ATTACKS DID JOB SUFFER? (9 min.)

Job, a man of outstanding loyalty, became a special target of Satan

First, Satan caused Job to lose his livelihood as well as his children—evidently all within the same day (w01 8/15 31)

When those trials did not cause Job to break his integrity, Satan next attacked Job physically, striking him with a painful disease

These attacks show that Satan is vicious and murderous, and he does not give up quickly

Job was unaware of the reason for the attacks

Now we have the book of Job, which reveals Satan's challenge and teaches us beautiful lessons about loyalty (w09 8/15 4 ¶8)

[Read and discuss Job 1:6-12]

"There is no one like him on the earth":

Satan specifically targeted Job because he was a loyal worshipper of Jehovah

It seems that this conversation took place sometime between the death of Joseph and the time when Moses became Jehovah's prophet (it-2 81)

Evidently, Job was the most faithful person alive at the time

"An upright man of integrity":

Although Job was far removed from God's people in Egypt, Jehovah took note of his integrity

Lesson for us: No matter where we are, Jehovah sees and appreciates our loyalty to him (Pr 27:11)

"Only do not lay your hand on the man himself!":

Jehovah permitted Satan to test Job; but at this point in the ordeal, Jehovah did not allow Satan to attack Job physically

Later, Jehovah did allow Satan to cause physical harm to Job; yet, once again, Jehovah set a limit: Satan was not to kill Job (Job 2:2-6)

Lesson for us: Jehovah knows what we can bear and will never allow us to be tested beyond that point; thus, no matter what attack we face, we will always have the choice to remain loyal to Jehovah (1Co 10:13; w09 4/15 5 ¶12)

We can have confidence like that of a faithful brother who was fond of saying: 'If Jehovah permits it, I can take it!' (w84 10/1 28 ¶1)

HOW DID JOB PROVE LOYAL DESPITE SATAN'S ATTACKS? (4 min.)

Not even Job's suffering caused him to break his integrity to God
(Job 2:9, 10)

Job was determined to stick to Jehovah, come what may

[Read and discuss Job 27:5]

"Until I die":

Job did not know that Jehovah was going to restore his health

Yet, even if Job thought that his death was near, he was not about
to give up and break his loving attachment to Jehovah

Lesson for us: Like Job, we should be determined to remain loyal to
Jehovah for as long as we live

"I will not renounce my integrity!":

Job recognized that he alone was responsible for his integrity

(w06 3/15 15 ¶9)

Lesson for us: No one—not even Satan—can force us to be disloyal; we
have complete control over our integrity (w15 6/15 29 ¶16)

If we firmly oppose the Devil, he will flee from us (Jas 4:7)

HOW WAS JOB REWARDED FOR HIS LOYALTY? (4 min.)

"Jehovah blessed the last part of Job's life more than the beginning"

[Read Job 42:10, 12, 13, 16]

He restored Job's health, gave him double the material wealth he had
lost, and miraculously extended Job's life for 140 years, allowing
him to see four generations of his offspring (w94 11/15 20 ¶20)

Just think how Job will feel when he wakes up in the new world!

He will learn why he suffered and how his example has strengthened
Jehovah's servants ever since (Ro 15:4)

He will find that his faith in the resurrection was not misplaced
(Job 14:14, 15)

No doubt, Job will be reunited with all 20 of his children, thus
experiencing a complete restoration of what he lost

Be determined to imitate the loyalty of Job so that you can be there
to share with him in his joy

How can Job's example help us remain loyal when facing direct attacks?

Job's example reminds us that Jehovah will never let us be tested
beyond what we can bear; when we remain loyally attached to
Jehovah, he will always be there to support us

Brother _____ will deliver the next part of our symposium,
*"Lessons on Loyalty From the Book of Job—Loyal Despite Subtle
Attacks"*

TO BE COVERED IN 20 MINUTES