

Satan has gone out and it seems that he is waiting for an opportune time to tempt Job in giving up his faith...this is how we see him work – Luke 4:13 ...the opportune time was for Job, vs 13... Some of Satan's strategies he seems to employ:

1. Satan often waits until we are easy **targets**:
  - A. when was Jesus tempted: **hungry & alone**
  - B. Adam & Eve: **fat and happy**
2. Satan likes to lump temptations **together**:
  - A. Jesus faced three (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13)
  - B. Job faced four: vs 15, 16, 17 & 18
3. Satan attacks using various **angles/strategies**:
  - A. Strategy: Genesis 3:1 ...the devil **questions** God's authority!
  - B. Strategy: Genesis 3:4... the devil **contradicts** God's Word/Truth!
  - C. Strategy: Genesis 3:5 ... the devil **twists** the truth!

Job faces the news that four different entities were used to bring him hardship – the LORD God allowed these entities to be used as Satan employed them in his attempt to destroy Job –

1. Hardship from **within**...? vs 15 ...
2. Hardship from on **High**...? vs 16 ...
3. Hardship that is **Planned**...? vs 17 ... formed = siym – to **lay a foundation/ to plan**
4. Hardship from **Nature**...? vs 19 ...

*How many of these sound familiar... Is there a difference between how the LORD God Almighty allows them in our lives versus how Satan uses them...*

vs 20 & 21...The response of Job to the news that all his children were dead, his servants killed and his livelihood taken is defined for us with significant meaning:

1. ...Job got up... - qum = often has **several meanings that overlap**:
  - A. to **physically** get up from a sitting position
  - B. to establish oneself in strength of **countenance**
  - C. to confirm one's position in resolve of **faith**
2. ... tore his robe and shaved his head...
3. ... he fell to the ground in worship... – hawah = a **physical** act... **attitude** response
4. ... and said... vs 21 **!!!The words Job speaks are a reflection of what he is physically doing in prostrating himself before the LORD: expressing his faith! Satan was working so that Job would curse God – instead he blesses the LORD!!!**

- A. Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart (return there)...
  - I. Job is giving a **creation** account... 1 Timothy 6:7 ...???
  - II. Job is also expressing our **spiritual** condition – Gal 3:26 & 27
  
- B. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.
  - I. Job acknowledges the LORD's **providence** recognizing that: (SC, AC, I)
    - a. ???isn't the LORD free to do what He wills with that which is His to begin with?
      - i. Job does **not** say... = blaming **fallen human beings, the Sabbeans**
      - ii. Job does **not** say... = making Satan more **powerful** than the LORD
      - iii. Job **does** say... = Job has nothing to say, because God **allowed** it!
      - iv. ...the philosopher Epictetus ... (cap. 15)
    - b. The example we receive from Job is that he **adored** the LORD in both times:
      - i. We find ourselves with Job wrestling with Satan as he uses affliction to tempt us so that we might **abandon** our faith/curse God AND acknowledging that the LORD uses afflictions to **affirm** our faith so that He might be worshiped!
      - ii. We find ourselves with Job in acknowledging not only the **working** of the LORD but the **praise** of His name: ... Psalm 101:1 ??? *How does this challenge me in having the same great and good thoughts of the LORD, to glorify His name, to bless His ways in my heart when He takes away as well as when He gives!!!*
      - iii. We find ourselves with Job challenged in our **attitude** that, when our comforts are removed from us we thank the LORD that we had these blessings in the first place, and had them so much longer than we deserved, AND,
      - iv. We find ourselves with Job called to adore/worship the LORD through a willing **submission** in thanks that the LORD has His good will being worked out through our afflictions; for His gracious support as we work through our afflictions; for the hope He provides us for an outcome we cannot yet see!

Vs 22...Job is both consistent in:

1. **Steadfastness** of faith... Job did not sin... – hata = to fall short of the LORD God's character/**righteousness**... vs 1 and the description of Job: upright & feared God
2. **Behaviors** that bear witness to his faith... Job did not ... charging God with wrongdoing = pinning blame through **outward actions**

So with us, we learn from Job that the LORD God does what is right...that the LORD God acts wisely...that the LORD God is worthy of praise in submission to Him: *in all things it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him – this is most certainly true!*