

CRYSTALLIZATION-STUDY OF JOB PROVERBS ECCLESIASTES, Week 2**KEY STATEMENTS**

God's purpose in dealing with those who love Him
is that they may gain Him
to the fullest extent, surpassing the loss
of all that they have other than Him,
so that He might be expressed through them
for the fulfillment of His purpose in creating man.

Job was a good man, expressing himself
in his perfection, uprightness, and integrity,
but God's intention was that Job would be reduced
to nothing, be maintained in his existence,
have God imparted into him, and become
a God-man, expressing the divine attributes.

God's purpose in dealing with His holy people is
that they would be emptied of everything
and receive only God as their gain;
the desire of God's heart
is that they would gain Him in full as life,
as the life supply, and as everything to their being.

When God's chosen and redeemed people
experience Christ as wisdom to them from God
and partake of and enjoy the riches of Christ,
these riches will constitute them the church,
through which the multifarious wisdom of God
is made known to the angelic rulers and authorities in the heavenlies.

God, Man, and Satan

Scripture Reading: Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7; Matt. 12:26; Heb. 2:14; Rom. 16:20; Rev. 12:5, 7-11

- Job 1:6 Then one day, when the sons of God came to present themselves before Jehovah, Satan also came among them.
- Job 1:7 And Jehovah said to Satan, Where have you come from? And Satan answered Jehovah and said, From roving the earth and going about in it.
- Job 1:8 And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil.
- Job 1:9 Then Satan answered Jehovah and said, Does Job fear God without cause?
- Job 1:10 Have You not set a hedge around him and his household and all that he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his possessions are spread throughout the land.
- Job 1:11 But stretch forth Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face.
- Job 1:12 And Jehovah said to Satan, Here is all that he has, in your hand; only do not stretch forth your hand against him. And Satan went forth from Jehovah's presence.
- Matthew 12:26 And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?
- Hebrews 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

- Romans 16:20 Now the **God of peace** will **crush Satan under your feet shortly**. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
- Revelation 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a **man-child**, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.
- Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels went to war with the dragon. And the dragon warred and his angels.
- Revelation 12:8 And they did not prevail, neither was their place found any longer in heaven.
- Revelation 12:9 And the great **dragon** was cast down, the ancient serpent, he who is called the Devil and **Satan**, he who deceives the whole inhabited earth; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.
- Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, Now has come the salvation and the **power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ**, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.
- Revelation 12:11 And they **overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb** and because of the **word of their testimony**, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

Day 1

- I. The entire Bible is a record of the things concerning God, man, and Satan; therefore, in our reading of the Bible, we need to know not only the things concerning God and man but also the things concerning Satan—Gen. 1:1, 26-28; 3:1, 4, 15; Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-19:**
- A. Satan was an angel and an anointed cherub created by God before God created the earth; he was the **highest among the angels**—vv. 12-15; Job 38:4-7:
1. Satan was the “Daystar, son of the dawn” (Isa. 14:12), one of the first angels created by God at the “dawn” of the universe, appointed by God to be the head of all the angels (Ezek. 28:14; Jude 9).
 2. The anointed cherub was appointed by God to rule over the preadamite universe (Luke 4:6); the anointed cherub was the one closest to God, and having both the kingship and the priesthood, he held the highest position in God’s creation (Ezek. 28:13).
- B. Satan’s **rebellion** against God is revealed in Isaiah 14:13-14 and Ezekiel 28:15-18:
1. Satan rebelled against God because of the **pride in his heart**; his heart was lifted up because of his beauty—Isa. 14:13-14; Ezek. 28:17.
 2. Satan’s intention was to overthrow God’s authority and to **exalt himself** to be equal with God; in his rebellion against God, Satan wanted to be on the **same level as God**—Isa. 14:13.
- C. Because of his rebellion, Satan became **God’s adversary, God’s enemy**—Zech. 3:1-2; Rev. 12:9a; 20:2a:
1. Satan means “adversary”; as God’s adversary, **Satan opposes God**—Job 1:7, 12; 2:1, 6; Rev. 20:2.
 2. Enemy refers to the foe outside of God’s kingdom, whereas adversary refers to the **foe from within God’s kingdom**.
 3. Satan is not only God’s enemy outside of God’s kingdom but also God’s adversary from within God’s kingdom, **rebelling** against God.

Satan

Satan means “adversary.” As God’s adversary, **Satan opposes God**.

Ruler of the World

The Lord Jesus said that **Satan is the ruler of this world**. The whole world is in subjection to Satan’s authority and is ruled by Satan.

God of This Age

On the one hand, Satan is the ruler of this world, the ruler of the system on the earth, which is a systematized world. On the other hand, **Satan is also the god of this age**. Originally, there was only God, but in this age Satan has actually usurped God’s position in man. He took over God’s position and replaced God to become god to men; thus, he is the god of the present age.

Being the ruler of the world speaks of Satan ruling over man, and being the god of this age speaks of man worshipping Satan. Today not many on the earth are free from his rule, and not many can avoid worshipping him. On the one hand, men are ruled by Satan, and on the other hand, men worship him because he is the ruler of this world and the god of this age. (*Ten Lines in the Bible, chapter 10*)

Day 2

II. The scene in Job 1 and 2 depicts **two councils held in heaven concerning Job—1:6-12; 2:1-7:**

- A. Because of His loving concern for Job, God held two councils in the heavens to talk about Job—1:6; 2:1.
- B. The “sons of God,” the angels, came to present themselves before Jehovah, and Satan, the adversary, also came among them—1:6; 2:1; 38:7; cf. 1 Kings 22:19-23; Psa. 89:5-8:
 - 1. After he **rebelled** against God, Satan was condemned and even sentenced by God—Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-19.
 - 2. Satan’s right to enter into the presence of God has not yet been taken away from him—cf. Rev. 12:10.
- C. In His **wisdom** and **sovereignty** God did not execute His judgment on Satan but has given Satan a certain limited time to do something to **meet some negative need in the fulfillment of His economy**:
 - 1. God could not and would not ask any of His many excellent angels to do what was needed to damage Job in order to **strip him of everything so that he might be full of God**—Job 1:1, 8, 11-12; 2:3-7.
 - 2. Satan was the unique one in the universe who could and who would fulfill God’s intention of stripping Job of his possessions and ethical attainment—v. 3.
 - 3. The scene in chapters 1 and 2 of Job shows us that Satan remains free to be **purposely used by God** as an ugly tool to execute God’s severe dealing with His loving ones—cf. Luke 22:31-32.

Day 3

III. Satan has his kingdom, the **authority of darkness**—Matt. 12:26; Acts 26:18; Col. 1:13:

- A. Satan has his authority (Acts 26:18) and his angels (Matt. 25:41), who are his subordinates as rulers, authorities, and world-rulers of the darkness of this world; hence, he has his kingdom, the **authority of darkness** (Col. 1:13).
- B. Satan is the ruler of this world and the ruler of the authority of the air—John 12:31; Eph. 2:2:
 - 1. The spirit (v. 2), in apposition to the authority of the air, refers to the aggregate power, the aggregate of all the evil angelic authorities, over which **Satan is the ruler**.
 - 2. When we were **dead in offenses and sins** (v. 1), we walked according to “the **age of this world**” (v. 2), the modern appearance, the present course, of the world, the satanic system.
 - 3. The rulers, the authorities, and the world-rulers of this darkness are the rebellious angels, who followed Satan in his rebellion against God and who now rule in the heavenlies over the nations of the world—Dan. 10:20.
 - 4. This indicates that the devil, Satan, has his kingdom in which he occupies the highest position and in which the rebellious angels are under him.

IV. Through His **ministry on earth** and **His death on the cross**, the Lord Jesus was **victorious over Satan**—1 John 3:8; Matt. 27:51-53; Col. 2:14-15; Heb. 2:14:

- A. In His earthly ministry the victorious Christ **defeated the devil and destroyed his works**—Matt. 4:1-11; 1 John 3:8:
 - 1. For Him to accomplish His ministry for the kingdom of the heavens, the Lord Jesus had to defeat God’s enemy, the devil, Satan—Matt. 4:1, 11:
 - a. This He had to do as a man; hence, He stood as a **man** to confront the enemy of God—vv. 6-7.
 - b. The devil’s temptation of the first man, Adam, was a success; his temptation of the **second man, Christ**, was an absolute failure—v. 11.
 - 2. In His **ministry on earth** the Lord Jesus destroyed the works of the devil—1 John 3:8:
 - a. In 1 John 3:8 the Greek word translated “destroy” may also be translated “undo” or “dissolve.”
 - b. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might **undo and destroy the sinful deeds of the devil**, that is, condemn, through His death on the cross in the flesh, sin initiated by him, the evil one; destroy the power of sin, the sinful nature of the devil; and take away both sin and sins—Rom. 8:3; Heb. 2:14; John 1:29.
- B. In His **crucifixion** the victorious Christ cast out the ruler of this world, destroyed the devil, caused the rulers and authorities to be stripped off, and nullified death—12:31; Matt. 27:51; Heb. 2:14; Col. 2:15; 2 Tim. 1:10:
 - 1. In His work on the cross, **Christ cast out the ruler of this world and judged the world**—John 12:31:
 - a. The ruler of this world was cast out when Satan was cast out by Christ’s work in His death; simultaneously, the world system related to Satan was judged—1 John 5:19.
 - b. The base of Satan’s rebellion was shaken, and the strongholds of Satan’s earthly kingdom were broken—Matt. 27:51.
 - 2. In His **crucifixion** **Christ destroyed the devil**—Heb. 2:14:
 - a. In verse 14 the Greek word translated “destroy” can also be rendered as “bring to nought, make of none effect, do away with, abolish, annul, discard.”
 - b. In His humanity and through His work on the cross, **Christ has destroyed the devil**—John 3:14.

3. In His work on the cross, Christ caused the angelic rulers and authorities to be stripped off, to be made a display of openly, and to be triumphed over by God—Col. 2:15.
 4. In His work on the cross, Christ **nullified death**, making it of none effect, through His devil-destroying death (Heb. 2:14) and death-swallowing resurrection (1 Cor. 15:52-54)—2 Tim. 1:10.
- C. Through the **gospel of the kingdom**, God brings people under the ruling of the heavenly authority so that they may become His kingdom, those who are ruled by His authority—Matt. 24:14; Rev. 1:5-6.

THE NEED TO RID THE UNIVERSE OF EIGHT NEGATIVE THINGS

We may ask why there was the need of such an all-inclusive death. When Christ came with the Father and by the Spirit, there were many negative things existing in the universe. God's intention was to dispense Himself into man, but man was occupied, surrounded, and even utilized by negative things.

There are at least **eight negative things** in the universe that Christ needed to deal with on the cross. The first item of these negative things is **Satan**, the devil, God's enemy, God's adversary. Man was created by God, and God intended to dispense Himself into man. But man was captured, taken over, and usurped by Satan. Satan took man as his captive and is keeping man under his usurping hand. Along with Satan, there is the negative item of the **world**. The world is a satanic system and organization that occupies God's people. The third item is **sin**. In this universe and on this earth, within and among men, is something personified, something living, and something powerful and very evil. This is sin. The fourth negative item is the **flesh**. Our flesh is evil, rotten, corrupted, ugly, and rebellious against God. The fifth negative item is the **old man**. Regardless of how young we are, we are still a part of the old man. The **old creation** is another negative item that Christ had to deal with through His death. All the items in the universe have become old. We can see the corruption in the entire creation; everything is dying or decaying. Seventh, on this earth among mankind there is **no unity, no peace**. There is an organization called the United Nations, but the nations are altogether not united. The nations of the world are fighting against one another, and this division comes from Babel. The final negative item, which is the last enemy (1 Cor. 15:26), is **death**. As the people made by God for His own purpose, we were all occupied, surrounded, and taken over by these eight things. For God to dispense Himself into man, He surely had to clear up and rid the universe of these eight items.

The only way that God could clear up these eight items was by **Christ's marvelous death**. This wonderful person, Jesus Christ, the very embodiment of God, died to rid the universe of all these negative things. **By His death He cleared up all these negative things**, and this is why His death is all-inclusive. His death destroyed Satan, judged the world, condemned sin, crucified the flesh, crucified the old man, terminated the old creation, and abolished all the ordinances that caused divisions in the human race. His death has even destroyed death. Hallelujah for such an all-inclusive death! (*The Divine Economy, chapter 7*)

Day 4

V. As **believers in Christ Jesus** and **children of God**, we need to learn to be **victorious in Christ over Satan**—Eph. 6:12; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; 1 John 5:18:

- A. We should not be **ignorant** of Satan's schemes—2 Cor. 2:11:
 1. The Greek word translated "schemes" means "plans, plots, designs, wiles, intentions, purposes."
 2. The evil one, Satan, is behind the scenes in everything and works in everything, even in the church life.
- B. We need to put on the **whole armor of God** so that we may be able to **stand against** the stratagems of the devil—Eph. 6:11:
 1. The devil has not only evil intentions but also **deceptive stratagems** to work out his intentions; these stratagems are his evil plots.
 2. Putting on the whole armor of God enables us to **stand against the stratagems of the devil**—v. 11.
 3. One of Satan's stratagems against the saints of the Most High is to **wear them out** (Dan. 7:21, 25); when we see that Satan is wearing us out, we will have the power to withstand and oppose his wearing-out tactics.
- C. We need to be **watchful** against our adversary, the devil, who "as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking someone to devour"—1 Pet. 5:8:
 1. To be watchful is to be **vigilant as in warfare**, as with soldiers on the frontier.
 2. The word watch in 1 Peter 5:8 implies fighting; we are involved in a warfare, and we need to be vigilant.
 3. If we are vigilant, we will withstand our adversary, being **firm in our faith**—v. 9:
 - a. To withstand is not to resist nor to struggle against but to **stand firmly**, like a rock, on the ground of our faith before the roaring devil.
 - b. Your faith in 1 Peter 5:9 refers to the believers' subjective faith, their faith in God's protecting power and loving concern.

- D. The best way for us to be victorious over Satan is to **live in the mingled spirit**—1 Cor. 6:17; 1 John 5:18:
1. There is only one place that Satan cannot invade—**our spirit**—2 Tim. 4:22.
 2. Whether or not we are under Satan's authority is not determined by the things we do; rather, it is determined by whether we are in the **spirit** or in the **flesh**—Gal. 5:16-17.
 3. As long as we **remain in the mingled spirit**, we will be kept, and Satan will have no way with us—1 Cor. 6:17; 1 John 5:4-5, 18-21.

Day 5

VI. "The God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly"—Rom. 16:20:

- A. The crushing of Satan is related to the **church life**—the **strongest means** by which God overcomes Satan—vv. 20, 1, 16b.
- B. The Greek word rendered "your" in Romans 16:20 is plural; this points to the Body—12:5:
1. Romans 16 does not refer to the Body in a universal sense but to the **local and practical expression of the Body**.
 2. Dealing with Satan is a **Body matter**, not an individual matter.
 3. Satan can be crushed only **under the feet of the practical expression of the Body** in the local churches—12:5; 16:1, 4, 16b.
 4. It is only when we have a **proper local church** as the practical expression of the Body that Satan is crushed under our feet—v. 20.
- C. It is significant that the One who crushes Satan under our feet is the **God of peace**—v. 20:
1. The God of peace is the **Sanctifier**; His sanctification brings in peace—1 Thes. 5:23.
 2. When we are wholly **sanctified by Him from within**, we have peace with Him and with man in every way—v. 13; Rom. 6:19, 22; Heb. 13:12.
 3. The peace of God **guards**, mounts guard over, our hearts and our thoughts because the God of peace patrols before our hearts and thoughts in Christ, keeping us calm and tranquil—Phil. 4:7.

CRUSHING SATAN UNDER OUR FEET

Romans 16:20 says, "Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly." This word of God's promise is spoken to those who are in the **church life**, because the preceding verses show the concern between the saints and the fellowship among the churches. Dealing with Satan is a **Body matter**, not an individual matter. It is only when we experience and enjoy the divine dispensing in the church life that we can overcome Satan and crush him under our feet. The **church life is the strongest means** by which God overcomes Satan, and it is also the secret of our victory. Whenever we are separated from the church, we become a prey for Satan, for it is impossible for us to fight Satan individually. But as long as we remain in the church and are one with the Body, Satan is under our feet, and we also enjoy God as the God of peace.

God's crushing of Satan under our feet is not merely by the church, the Body of Christ, but also by the **life that is in the Body**. In this matter, the Body and life are equally important. Life is nothing less than the Triune God dispensed into us to constitute us the Body of Christ. Hence, life and the Body are one; they are inseparable. If there is no life, then there can be no Body. Life is the content, and the Body is the expression. God will crush Satan under our feet through life and the Body.

Here Paul calls God "the God of peace." This is very significant. The God of peace and the peace of God are one. **Whenever God is dispensed into us, peace is dispensed into us**. Hence, the true peace that we enjoy is God Himself. When God crushes Satan under our feet in the church life, we have the peace of God as a token of our victory. Thus, through the divine dispensing we experience the crushing of Satan and the peace of God in the church life. (*Truth Lesson, Level 2, Vol. 3, chapter 29*)

Day 6

VII. After the **man-child is raptured to the throne of God**, there is war in heaven, Satan and his angels are cast down to the earth, and the kingdom of God is manifested—Rev. 12:5, 7-11:

- A. The man-child consists of the overcomers, who **stand on behalf of the church**, take the position that the whole church should take, and do the work of the church—2:7b, 11b; 12:5:
1. The man-child is **always engaged in fighting** against God's enemy, Satan, continually on earth.
 2. Heaven is waiting for the man-child, the overcomers, to arrive so that a war may be waged to cast Satan out of heaven:
 - a. The war waged by the overcoming believers against Satan is actually the executing of the Lord's judgment upon him—John 12:31.
 - b. Eventually, through their fighting, **Satan is cast out of heaven**—Rev. 12:8-9.

- B. The devil, the accuser, is now accusing the believers before God day and night, but the overcoming believers who constitute the man-child and who have been opposed and slandered by God's enemy, Satan, overcome him—vv. 10-11:
1. They **overcome** him "because of the blood of the Lamb"—v. 11a:
 - a. The blood of the Lamb, which is for our redemption, answers before God all the accusations of the devil against us and gives us the **victory over him**.
 - b. We need to apply this **blood** whenever we sense the accusation of the devil—Rom. 3:25; 1 John 1:7.
 2. They overcome him "because of the **word of their testimony**"— Rev. 12:11b:
 - a. The word of their testimony is their word that **testifies** that the devil has been judged by the Lord— John 12:31; Heb. 2:14.
 - b. Whenever we sense the devil's accusation, we should **declare** with the uttered word the Lord's victory over him.
 3. The **overcomers** do not love their soul-life—Rev. 12:11c:
 - a. **Not loving our soul-life is the basis for overcoming Satan**, for our victory over Satan.
 - b. Not loving our soul-life means that we are **willing** to give up our own soul-life and that we do not care for our own soul-life—Mark 8:34-35.
 - c. Satan is afraid of only one kind of people—**those who do not love their own soul-life**—Rev. 12:11c.
- C. The **man-child** is related to God's most important dispensational move—Matt. 6:9-10; Rev. 11:15; 12:10:
1. God wants to end this age and bring in the age of the kingdom, and for this He must have the **man-child as His dispensational instrument**—v. 5.
 2. The rapture of the man-child brings an **end to the church age** and introduces the **age of the kingdom**—vv. 5, 10.
 3. The rapture of the man-child to the throne of God, the casting of Satan to the earth, and the declaration in heaven signify that the **man-child will bring the kingdom to the earth**; this is God's greatest dispensational move—vv. 5, 9-10; 11:15.

The Word of Their Testimony

The second thing is that the brothers overcame him "because of the word of their testimony." When our conscience is without offense, then our mouth can give testimony. When there is an accusation in our conscience, we can utter nothing. It seems that the more we speak, the lower our voice becomes. The meaning of testimony here is to testify to others, not to one's self. When you have the blood before God, you will have boldness before God, and you will have a testimony before man. Not only will you testify that sinners can be forgiven and man can be accepted because of Christ, but you will further testify of God's kingdom. "Testimony" means to tell others what there is in Christ, and the word of testimony is something which must be spoken forth. The **overcomers must frequently proclaim the victory of Christ**. Satan fears the most when this fact is repeated again and again. It is a fact that the kingdom of heaven will come; it is a fact that the Lord is King; it is a fact that Christ is victorious and forever victorious; it is a fact that Satan is defeated; it is a fact that the strong man has been bound and legally condemned; it is a fact that Christ has destroyed all the work of Satan on the cross. When we declare all of these facts, we have the testimony. **When we proclaim that Christ is this and Christ is that, this is the testimony.**

It is the **word of testimony that gives Satan the greatest fear**. Satan does not fear when we try to reason with him, but he does fear when we proclaim the facts. Satan does not fear when we talk theology or when we expound the Scriptures, but he does fear when we declare the spiritual facts. "**Jesus is Lord**" is a spiritual fact. Many people speak about Jesus as the Lord and explain how Jesus is the Lord, but Satan is not afraid in the least. However, when someone declares in faith that Jesus is Lord, Satan fears. He does not fear our preaching or theology, but the word of our testimony.

It is a spiritual fact that the name of Jesus is above every other name. We must **declare it in faith**, not only to men, but also to Satan. We often speak for Satan to hear; we purposely speak for him to hear. We call this the word of testimony. Even when we are alone in our room we can proclaim aloud, "Jesus is Lord." We can say, "The Lord Jesus is stronger than the strong man," or, "The Son of God has already bound Satan," etc. This is the word of our testimony. (*The Glorious Church, chapter 4*)