

Battling Your Enemies (part 2)

The Messenger

When we read the book of Job, we read it as though the veil has been removed from the unseen world, and we are given insights into that which our circumstances alone cannot provide. We see both the power of our adversary, and we also learn of his absolute powerlessness apart from the permission of our loving God. Job's "messengers" brought news of both blessing and brokenness. Let's consider it. Job 1:14-19

I. Look beyond the Messenger, Package, or Problem—Job Saw the Providence of God

A stronger demonstration of grace could hardly be demonstrated than that which was demonstrated by Job. But consider first who brought about the need for grace. Was it God or was it Satan? Job 1:6-12, 21-22; 2:4-9

Job wisely understood that Satan had no authority over him apart from his almighty Father. He confessed this by saying: The word *providence* is a compound word. *Pro* meaning "before" and *video* meaning "to see." The word carries the idea of "to see beyond."

Job was able to see beyond what had been delivered to him and make a connection between his circumstances to His God. God had given him grace to receive the blessings. God would do the same for His trials.

Are you looking past the messenger to what God may be trying to remove in order to reveal real fruit?

- Is God removing your financial health to remove your longing for things?
- Is He bringing petty trials in your life because He is seeking to remove your oversensitiveness to people and events?
- Is God giving you authority to which it is difficult to submit because He is revealing your own lack of submission?

II. Look past the Delivery to the Deliverer (Philippians 4:6-7; Psalm 37:2 & Rom. 8:28)

The word *careful* here means "anxious or troubled." How does this happen. It happens when we look past what has been delivered to us and we consider again the goodness of the Deliverer. This is the story of the Bible—God, wisely placing in the paths of His children, those things that bring about His purpose and plan.

The word *ordered* here simply means "prepared." God has prepared a path for you to follow. Don't resist it. What He delivers is for us to receive and it is for our good—even when we are in the heat of the drought!

