

During his sufferings and frustrations, Job seeks answers to the reason for his suffering. His friends who are supposed to be encouraging him, soon turn against him and begin accusing him of being a hypocrite. However, Job continues to attest to his innocence. Constables writes, "The lamentable fact that the friends endorsed Satan's view of Job as a hypocrite. Thinking to defend God, they became Satan's advocate insisting that he whom God designated as His servant belongs to the devil." (Page 55). Job believes that the source of his sufferings is God. He believes that God has unjustly singled him out even though God knows that he is innocent. The judgment of the wicked is certain, however, Job does not see himself as among the wicked. Job does not know why he is suffering, and his friends are unable to offer any substantiated insights into this suffering. Since God is not answering him, Job decides to place God on trial. Constables writes, "God's irresistible power and inscrutable behavior made Job afraid (23:13-17). Nevertheless, he determined to confront God with His apparent injustice." (Page 57) The idea of placing God on trial has many ramifications. Is God unjust in allowing an innocent man to suffer when God knows the man is innocent? Is it that God is not the God of justice that He claims to be? Watson writes, "In the dialogues, Job infers that God is angry and portrays His actions as incomprehensible, yet he continues to seek the reason for God's actions, as demonstrated by repeated attempts to force God into court to defend his justice." (Page 333). The source of Job's suffering is Satan not God. Satan is the one who steals his wealth and destroys his family (Job 1:11-20) and takes away his health (Job 2:7).

It is futile for anyone to place God on trial and expect to be successful. On what does man base the success of this trial? Is it on his own righteousness? Watson writes, "We may also be lured into believing that our righteousness does (or should) earn us special consideration from God. It is critical that we as Christians understand that righteousness is solely an end, never a means. Righteousness is not a bargaining chip but is rather the offering that God asks of us which we owe to him as our Creator and Savior. Righteousness should be our natural response to the fact that God is God." (Page 336). Proverbs 2:6 (NKJV) states, "The Lord gives wisdom, from his mouth came knowledge and understanding." On

what grounds can a mortal man find God guilty of any infraction? "As for God, his way is perfect..."

Psalm 18:30 (NKJV). Man does not possess the wisdom, the knowledge nor the understanding that is

required to bring a successful case against God. The apostle Paul reminds the believers in Corinth,

"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (1

Corinthians 1:25), (NKJV).

The book of Job is inviting believers to place God on trial and hold Him accountable for the many unanswered questions addressed to God. However, the outcome of this trial is known before it begins.

The book of Genesis 1:1 declares, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." The apostle

John in John 1:3 writes, "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." (NKJV). God who is omniscient and possesses all wisdom and power can annul any case brought

against Him, seeing He knows every detail of the case before it is presented. By placing God on trial, the

best believers can hope for is to see that God is a God of mercy and love. Because of these attributes

God has not destroyed humanity. Job and all believers need to know that God is God and will always be

the eternal and unchanging God (Malachi 3:6).