

Is humanity hopeless?

Subject: Controversy/Conversion
 Objective: To show that God is still in charge of earth's affairs.
 Main Text: Job 1:8-11

ATTENTION

- I. It is becoming harder everyday to run the affairs of any nation.
 - a. Crimes are escalating
 - b. Drugs are devastating
 - c. There is global instability
 - d. There is economic devastation
 - e. Wide spread hunger
 - f. Ethnic hatred
 - g. Joblessness
- II. The good news is that this world is not in the hands of men.
- III. God is still in charge down here. (1 Samuel 2:10)
- IV. He is unequaled and unrivaled in His authority.

*“Our God is an awe some God
 He reigns in heaven above
 With wisdom power and might
 Our God is an awesome God.”*

NEED

- I. Although God is in charge of this universe, He is not responsible for the mess this world is in.
 - a. Can God be blamed for Adam's sin? NO! Adam choose to!
 - b. Can God be blamed for the Boeing 767 that crashed into the WTC? NO!
 - c. Can you blame God for AIDS, Anthrax or Terrorism? NO!
 - i. He does the best thing
 - ii. In the best way
 - iii. At the best time
 - iv. For the best purpose

- II. To make God responsible for Crime, Drugs, and Terrorism etc. is to make a devil out of God. (1 John 4:10)
- III. The Bible proves that the devil is responsible for the problems down here. (Luke 13:11, 12)
- IV. Jesus healed her but who caused her to have a curved spine? (Luke 13:16)
 - a. Who bound her? Satan!
 - b. Who set her free? Jesus!
- V. Satan is responsible for all the crimes and drugs; disease and pestilences. You name them!
- VI. God is not responsible but He allows it. WHY?
 - a. To prove to Satan that although he is the prince of the earth, there are still those on Earth who have made up their minds, that come what may, they plan to serve the Creator rather than the creature.

SATISFACTION

The story of Job

The Bible has a classic example of the great controversy as it relates to suffering. It is found in the book and the subject of the book reveals the mystery of human suffering.

- I. In rapid fashion Job loses his children and his live stock.
- II. Job is honest inside out and totally devoted to God. (Job 1:1)
 - i. The devil hates a man like that.
 - ii. He hates a man who is true to his wife.
 - iii. He hates a man who stays away from bad influences. GO ON!
- III. Job is not just blameless and upright, he is rich. (Job 1:2, 3)
- IV. The devil wants to break his loyalty to God but he must get God's permission. (Job 1:6-12) Explain each verse deliberately!
- V. Job does not know what is taking place in the supernatural realm.
- VI. But God is willing to play the game because in the great controversy, evil will never triumph.
- VII. Job Children are dead, his lives stock has totally depleted with in 24 hours. (Job 1:13-19)
 - a. The Sabeans killed his servants and took away his oxen.
 - b. The "Fire of God" burned up the sheep and the servants. (Was it indeed the fire of God?)
 - c. The Chaldeans carried away the camels.
 - d. A hurricane destroyed his children. (Hurricanes are called acts of God-are they?)

- VIII. In spite of these terrible loses, Job still worshipped God. (Job 1:21)
- IX. Did the Lord take anything away from Job? NO!
- X. Job doesn't know what is happening and so he blames God in a positive way.

Satan goes back to God

- I. God again meets with representatives of the universe and Satan arrives uninvited. (Job 2:1)
- II. God uses a bit of irony to humiliate Satan. (Job 2:3)
- III. Satan now seeks permission to afflict Job himself. (Job 2:4, 5)
- IV. Why was God willing to go along with Satan's plan?
 - a. God knew the outcome.
 - b. It was a test for Job. (Who Jah bless no man curse)
 - c. It was a message for Satan. (God is still in charge)
 - d. It is a message for us. (God will never leave us nor forsake us)

PUNCH: If Satan only knew what Job's story has done for you and me, he would have left Job alone.

- V. Satan afflicts Job and his body is filled with boils. (Job 2:7)
- VI. Job's wife unaware of God's guarantee that Job's life would not be taken, makes a foolish request. (Job 2:9)

VISUALIZATION

- I. Look at a turn around. A rich man is now poor. He had everything but now he has nothing.
 - a. Who made him poor? Satan!
 - b. Who stirred up the hurricane that destroyed his children? Satan!
 - c. Who stole his livestock? Satan!
 - d. Who tempted his wife to disbelieve and disobey God? Satan!
- II. What was the eventual outcome? (Job 42:12)
- III. This story shows that in the great controversy between good and evil God is in charge.
- IV. And if God is in charge humanity is not hopeless.
- V. 2000+ years ago, to show His love and concern for humanity God sent His son to die.
 - a. What He did
 - b. His suffering
 - c. The road to Calvary
 - d. On the cross
 - e. He is alive
- VI. Is humanity hopeless? NO! Our emancipator is alive!

VII. And one day soon there will be no more:

- a. Diseases
- b. Pestilences
- c. Famine
- d. Hurricane
- e. AIDS
- f. Cancer

*“O there’ll be peace in the valley for me some day
There will be peace in the valley for me O Lord I pray;
There’ll be no sadness, no sorrow, no trouble I’ll see
There’ll be peace in the valley for me.”*

APPEAL

1. If you have a choice between Christ and Satan who will you choose?
2. All who plan to choose Satan sit down!
3. If choosing Christ is important to you come to the altar!