

**Why Do These Things Happen
To God's People?**
by Derek Prince

— Study Note Outline —
TH1

Three Tape Series

- 4358 *The Sin Of Independence*
- 4359 *Job And His Accusing Friends*
- 4360 *God Challenges Job*

The Sin Of Independence
4358

I. Warning: Often We Do Not Understand

See Rom. 11:33b; Prov. 3:5; James 1:2–4

A. Reason no. 1: Man's root problem: The flesh—its basic desire to be *independent of God*

B. Analyze the fall (Gen. 3:1–7)

1. Satan's objective: To discredit God's Word
2. His method
 - a. Question
 - b. Deny
3. Eve's response:
 - a. Doubt
 - b. Disbelieve
 - c. Disobey
4. The motivation Satan used:
 - a. Distrust God's goodness
 - b. Be like God—but *independent*
 - c. Trust senses above God's Word, i.e. Eve *saw* . . . (Gen. 3:6) (This is born into all succeeding generations)
5. Remedy to reverse the process:
 - a. Trust God's goodness
 - b. Acknowledge dependence
 - c. Trust God's Word above the senses

II. Focus On Issue Of Independence

Two ways God brings us into dependence:

A. Waiting

1. Abraham—25 years for Isaac
2. Moses—40 years in the desert
 - a. Moses learned humility (meekness) (Num. 12:3)—Therefore God could trust him with authority
 - b. God acts on behalf of those who wait for Him (Is. 64:4)
 - c. To serve—to wait (1 Thess. 1:9–10)

B. Desperation

1. Israel—between Pharaoh and Red Sea—cried out (Ex. 14:9–10)
2. God waits to hear our cry (Is. 30:18–19; Ps. 50:15).

The desire to be independent of God is a terrible sin. Ultimately all those who persist in independence will be banished forever from God's presence.

C. Prayer: to desire:

1. *Not* to be esteemed
2. *Not* to be secure
3. *Not* to be in control

D. Pattern of Jesus (John 5:19, 30)

**Job And His Accusing Friends
4359**

I. Key Verse: Job 42:7–8

Job was right, his friends wrong.

II. What Is Revealed About Satan

- A. Satan takes his place among God's angels (1:6; 2:1 [compare 2 Cor. 11:14])
- B. God took the initiative and pointed Job out (1:8)
- C. In relation to God's people, Satan can only go as far as God permits—no long conversations (1:12; 2:6)
- D. Sometimes the issue is not resisting Satan, but asking: What is God trying to teach me?
- E. Within God's limits, Satan has some power:
 1. Over human agents (1:14–15, 17)
 2. Over the elements (1:16, 19)
 3. To inflict sickness (2:7)
- F. Satan impugns the character of God's servants (1:9–11; 2:4–5 [compare Rev. 12:10])

III. Main Points Of Job's Friends

- A. You have sinned—that is why all this has happened—more and more intense accusations (22:5–11)
- B. God never lets the wicked prosper (4:7–9)
- C. If you would acknowledge and repent, everything would go right with you (8:3–7)
- D. A “prosperity gospel” (5:17–26)
- E. A fearful catalog of terrors that await the wicked (20:20–29).
- F. Eliphaz reveals the source of his doctrine: a terrifying spirit (a “religious” spirit?) (4:12–16)
- G. The doctrine: presumption for a man to hope to be righteous before God—Bildad likewise (25:1–6) [God's final answer in Romans]

IV. Job's Response

- A. Reverent submission (1:20–22; 2:9–10)
- B. Lament—curses his day (3:1–26)
- C. Desires to die (10:18–21)
- D. Affirms his righteousness (13:15; 27:3–6)
- E. Complains that God has been unjust (27:2–4; 2:3)
- F. Longs for a mediator (9:32–35)

- G. Views God as vindictive and unconcerned (9:14–20, 30–31)
- H. God uses him for target practice (7:20)
- I. God watches man with a magnifying glass (7:17–18)
- J. No justice on earth (9:24)
- K. Flashes of prophetic revelation (19:25–27)
- L. His friends have failed him (6:14–17; 16:2–5)
- M. Rejects “prosperity gospel” as unrealistic:
 1. Many examples of innocent suffering (21:23–25; 24:1–12)
 2. Many examples of wicked who prosper (12:6; 21:7–15 [compare Ps. 73:3–9, 16–20])
- N. Recalls his former prosperity and glory (29:1–25)
- O. Now despised and mistreated in his own community (30:1–15)
- P. Eleven sins he never committed (31:1–40):
 1. Lusting after a young woman (31:1–4)
 2. Falsehood and deceitful actions (31:5–8)
 3. Adultery (31:9–12)
 4. Oppression of his employees (31:13–15)
 5. Withholding mercy from the poor, widows and orphans—on the contrary, he has always cared for them (31:16–23)
 6. Trusting in his wealth (31:24–25)
 7. Idolatry—of sun or moon (31:26–28)
 8. Rejoicing over his enemy’s misfortune (31:29–30)
 9. Failure to show hospitality to strangers (31:31–32)
 10. Failure to acknowledge sin through fear of man (31:33–34) [Oh! That I could plead my case directly with God! (31:35–37)]
 11. Injustice towards those who cultivated his land (31:38–40)

V. Biblical Picture Of “Prosperity”

- A. Joshua — Joshua 1:8
- B. Paul — Romans 1:10 (3 John 2) Acts 27:1–28:10
- C. Biblical prosperity = successfully accomplishing the task committed to us by God

God Challenges Job 4360

I. In The Universe

- A. God describes how he runs the universe
Challenges Job: Do you want to take over the job? (Job 38–40)
- B. Some areas that God deals with (38:4–41:34)
 1. Creation of the earth (38:4–7)
 2. Control of the sea (38:8–11)
 3. Sunrise and sunlight (esp. in relation to the wicked) (38:12–15)
 4. Dimensions of the earth—the nether world (38:16–18)
 5. Light and darkness (38:19–21)
 6. The elements: sun, rain, frost and cold (38:22–30)
 7. Constellations and heavenly bodies (38:31–33)
 8. Rain and snow [wisdom in the heart] (38:34–38)
 9. Living creatures (Job 38:39–39:30)

- a. Lions, ravens, mountain goats, deer, wild donkeys, onager, wild ox, ostrich, stork, horse, hawk, eagle
- b. Job: “I give up” (40:1–5)
- c. God: Can you take over dealing with the wicked? (40:6–14) Or powerful creatures, such as:
 - d. Behemoth (? Elephant) (40:15–24)
 - e. Leviathan (? Dragon) (41:1–34)
 - A type of Satan (v. 34 [compare Eph. 2:1–2])
- C. God is not remote and indifferent—continuously intimately concerned with His creation and all His creatures
 - 1. Example of the sparrow (Matt. 10:29; Luke 12:6)
 - 2. Contrary to Deism
- D. Job abases himself (42:1–6)
 - 1. Horizontally: he was truly righteous (1:8; 2:3; 42:7–9)
 - 2. Vertically: vile, unworthy (42:2–6)
- E. After Job encountered God, he had no more questions—perhaps this will be your answer also!
- F. God deals with the friends (42:8–9)
- G. Job prays for his friends—and is himself restored (42:10)
- H. God returns *double* to Job—except his children (compare 1:5)

II. Comments Of James

- A. Patterns of prophets (James 5:10)
 - 1. Suffering and endurance
 - 2. Compare Matt. 5:11–12; Heb. 11:37–38)
 - 3. How about today’s prophets?
- B. Two main lessons from Job (James 5:11)
 - 1. Job’s perseverance
 - 2. God’s end

III. Practical Lessons For Us

- A. We can never understand all God’s dealings (Rom. 11:33; Prov. 3:6)
- B. God never surrenders His sovereignty—never subjects Himself to a set of religious rules
- C. God deals with us all as *individuals*
- D. Foolish to compare ourselves with others (2 Cor. 10:12)
- E. A special *unique purpose* for each life (John 21:21–22)
- F. God is relentless in pursuing His purpose, e.g. sacrificed Job’s livestock and children
- G. God’s priorities are different from ours
 - 1. Spiritual over physical
 - 2. Eternal over temporal
- H. God is proud of His righteous servants (1:8; 2:3)
- I. Our high destiny (Eph. 1:12; 2:7)
- J. Interpreting Scripture (2 Pet. 1:20)
 - 1. Scripture = piano
 - 2. Holy Spirit = pianist