

**St. Luke Ev. Lutheran
Church
Sermon by Pastor Anthony
E. Schultz
March 12, 2017
2nd Sunday in Lent
Job 1:13-22**



¹³ One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ¹⁸ While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ²⁰ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹ and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken

away; may the name of the LORD be praised.”²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Children of our Heavenly Father, precious in His sight for Jesus' sake:

Almost 20 years ago there was a movie called *Galaxy Quest*! It's about actors in a show called *Galaxy Quest* – painfully similar to Star Trek. Tim Allen is like Captain Kirk. Alexander Dane is like Spock. Some real space aliens see *Galaxy Quest* and think it's the *History Channel* – and recruit the *Galaxy Quest* cast to join them in fighting a real inter-galactic terror. Saris the Reptilian humanoid villain has no conscience – and is cruel and murderous. There is danger at every turn as people coated in clear gel go through the transporter – from one danger to another. Again and again you hear the powerful encouragement: “Never give up! Never surrender!” The physical and far more deadly spiritual danger is literally all around us. In a matter of moments painful and terrible things can happen. It is only by the grace of God that faith can say:

Never Give Up! Never Surrender!

I. The LORD gives and takes away

II. May the name of the LORD be praised!

The part of God's Word we are concentrating on is a part of the Old Testament that is made up of five books of Hebrew poetry. Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs – the Song of Solomon are Hebrew poetry. We have said before Hebrew Poetry does not rhyme like “roses are red violets are purple – sugar is sweet and so's maple surple!” Hebrew Poetry repeats a thought. **“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, he leadeth me beside the still waters, he restoreth my soul.”** Hebrew poetry does opposites. The first Psalm. Speaking of the

child of God: **He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.**" Contrasts! Sometimes it just goes up and up and up and up! **Praise the LORD, O my soul, and all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases; he redeems my life from the pit and crowns me with love and compassion. He satisfies my desires with good things, so that my youth is renewed like the eagle's.** Psalm 103

Job is lots of Hebrew poetry so it can be remembered and memorized and repeated and shared! When was Job written? It doesn't say – but there are some clues. If you read literature from long ago – you can find accounts that are similar from ancient Egypt, Sumer, Assyria, Babylon and Ugarit. Job talks about the **behemoth** and the **leviathan** – also mentioned long ago. In the book of Job – Job is the father, the grandfather – offering sacrifices for his grown up children. This also points to the times before Moses and Aaron and the priesthood – offering sacrifices in the Tabernacle for the people of **Israel** – who are also not mentioned.

In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. ² He had seven sons and three daughters, ³ and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East. Again God's Word is straight forward and to the point. Uz – somewhere in the ancient near east was the home of a man named Job. Job was **blameless** – literally translated *whole* or *complete*! This is the opposite of *iniquity* – a

failure to measure up. Holy – dedicated to God and belonging to God – again – the concept of completeness – nothing missing – nothing lacking! Blameless – upright – the opposite of dishonest and sneaky – opposite of a hypocrite – a man with a dishonest ♥! Job feared God – not trembling and falling down with fear like the cowardly lion, the tin man and the scarecrow when they first met the Wizard of Oz. This is a *fear to offend* – a profound concern not to do anything that offended God. Thus Job shunned evil – kept far *far* away from anything that was painfully obviously wrong. Job wanted no part of what was evil and hurtful and wrong! This most certainly does not mean Job was without sin – a rebellious ♥--dead in trespasses and sins! Job made his share of mistakes. But Job knew his sins were forgiven – by grace through faith in the Gospel promises of God. Job put his trust in his Heavenly Father who one day would send his Son to crush the Serpent’s head and wash away the sin that earns the wages of death!

² He had seven sons and three daughters, ³ and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East. Job was blessed by God in countless ways. Job had a great abundance of “things and stuff”. Job was known and respected by everyone – and his good reputation was wide spread. God’s Word says...⁶ One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. ⁷ The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the LORD, “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.” ⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns

evil.” ⁹“Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied.

¹⁰“Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

¹¹ But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.” ¹² The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.” Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

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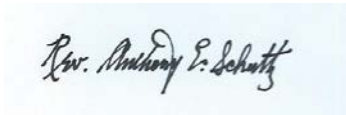
driving by Milwaukee when the Pastor hit a piece of metal on the freeway and it pierced the gas tank and in a moment the van exploded. All their children were in the van and 5 died – then a 6th – from 13 years old – all the way down to just 6 weeks – horribly burned and then they all died! I think it’s safe to say – as terrible as it might be – to lose all your “things and stuff” – my stuffed golden eagle from my Great Uncle Charlie – is it really mine? Or am I just storing it – for Matthew? The pocket~watch that my sainted Grandpa Edward Schultz gave to my Father who will one day give to me. Mine – or will I just check the time on it – for a little while – before Matthew checks the time on his bus? The prayer shawl I bought in Jerusalem when the Sabbath ended. If I lost all that stuff it wouldn’t matter at all – if my children and grandchildren are all ok. And if something should happen to my family – much less – my whole family – how horrible would that be?!

²⁰ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹ and said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.” ²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. Again – “we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. May the name of the LORD be praised!” Again – we read these words at the cemetery – literally standing by the grave of someone we love! Only the Holy Spirit filling your ♥ to overflowing can make you strong enough to say – **may the name of the LORD be praised!**

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. May the name of the LORD be praised! Never give up! Never surrender! It happened just 2 weeks short of 3 years ago. There was a terrible

fire in Boston. You know how it was so windy last Monday and Tuesday. Two very brave fire fighters were trapped in the basement of a building engulfed in flames. The fire was so terrible fire fighters were ordered – do not go back inside. Still they wanted to and were more than ready and willing to go back inside when they were ordered do not go back inside! And so two heroes died. Two fire fighters gave up their lives to rescue others from the horrible flames and black choking smoke! That’s what fire fighters do. That’s what police officers and sheriffs and state troopers do. They risk their lives and lay down their lives to save their neighbors. Even in the midst of such painful tragedy and loss God’s people can say, **“We brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. May the name of the LORD be praised** – until we are all safe together forever by grace through faith from Scripture for Jesus’ sake. Amen!

To God alone all glory!

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background, reading "Rev. Anthony E. Schmitt".