

## HEALTH & HEALING



### 4. Cause of Sickness (2)

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#### Introduction

We have discovered that sickness entered the world after the first man and woman sinned, and as a result mankind came under a curse, which ultimately led to death. Satan became the ruler of this world and his intention has always been to steal, kill and destroy. He is the source of sickness.

There are times when sickness is a direct result of a person's sin, but as we have seen this is not always the case. There is an interesting story in the Bible of a man called Job. Job suffered greatly, but we are clearly told that it was not because of his sin.

#### Scripture Reading: Job 1:6 – 2:10

- ☐ Satan is known as 'the accuser'. Here we see him coming to God to accuse Job. What does he accuse Job of? Job 1:9-11, 2:3-6

*(He accuses Job of only loving God and being righteous because God has blessed him and that his righteousness is selfish and he is only like that because he gets something out of it.)*

- ☐ What were the areas in Job's life that God allowed Satan to strike? Job 1:12, 2:5,7

*(First God allowed Satan to strike everything that Job owned: his 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 500 oxen, 500 donkeys and his many servants, his 7 sons and 3 daughters. Secondly, he allowed Satan to strike Job's body and he was covered with painful sores.)*

- ☐ Why do you think God allowed Satan to do this?

*(God allowed this so that Job's motivation for righteousness would be proven and shown to be genuine, and Satan would be silenced.)*

Sometimes when a person suffers their family and friends make it worse! This is what happened to Job.

- ☐ What reasons did Job's three friends give to explain why they thought he was suffering? Job 4:7-8, 8:5-6, 11:14-15

*(They all said it was because Job had sinned that he was suffering and if he put away his sin he would be healed.)*

- ☐ Did Job believe his suffering was because of his own sin?

*(He knew this was not true.)*

Job was right! His suffering was not because of his sin as God had clearly said that he was righteous. So why was he suffering? Job struggled with this question just as many who suffer sickness and loss today do. Finally God spoke to Job, but he did not answer his questions directly. However when Job saw and heard God speak he understood how great God is and that some things were too wonderful for him to know. See Job 42:3. After this revelation Job was healed and God restored what he had lost, in God's way and time. We believe God heals today, but it may not always be at the moment we want. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

- ▣ Why do you think there is sometimes a delay in a person receiving their healing? Discuss. Has this ever been your experience? If so, what have you learnt from this?
  
- ▣ There are times when we don't see a person healed in this life. How can the verse in Revelation 21:4 encourage us?

### **Conclusion**

We have seen that sickness is not always caused by a person's own sin. One day when Jesus met a blind man the disciples asked him, "Who sinned, this man or his parents?" It was commonly thought that a person's sin or that of his parents was the cause of sickness. However Jesus replied, "Neither. This was so the glory of God would be seen in this man's life." God's glory was seen as Jesus then healed the blind man. As Job confessed, there are some things we don't know. We don't have all the answers about healing, but we can trust the One who is the Great Physician.