



# Thru the Bible in 2012

*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever. Isaiah 40:8*

## Ladies for Jesus Tuesday Bible Study Lesson

Readings for January 16, 2012 – January 22, 2012

Class Discussion: Tuesday, January 24, 2012

### Considering our Actions and Our Enemy

Jacob blessed each of his sons and then made a prediction about each one's future. The way the man had lived played an important part in Jacob's blessing and prophecy. Let's discuss a few of them . . .

**Actions of the sons brought blessings and prophecies from their father Jacob. (Genesis 49)**

Rueben (vs. 3-4):

Simeon and Levi (vs. 6-7):

Judah (vs. 8-12):

Joseph (vs. 22-26):

Our past also affects our present and future. By sunrise tomorrow, our actions of today will have become part of the past. Yet they will already have begun to shape the future. What actions can you choose or avoid that will positively shape your future?

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### **The Test of a Righteous Man: God's conversation with Satan**

Satan, originally an angel of God, had become corrupt through his own pride. He has been evil since his rebellion against God (1 John 3:8). Satan considers God as his enemy and since we, like Job, trust in God and are His people, he considers us as the enemy as well.

(Read Job 1:6-12)

From this conversation we learn a great deal about Satan.

1. He is accountable to God. (vs. 6)
2. He can be only one place at a time (vs. 6-7). His demons aid him in his work; but as a created being, he is limited.
3. Satan cannot see into our minds or foretell the future. (vs. 9-11)
4. Because Satan can do nothing without God's permission (vs. 12), God's people can overcome Satan's attacks through God's power. On this side of the cross, resurrection and Pentecost, we access God's power through our relationship with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, Who guides us in all truths. (John 16:13; Philippians 4:13; 1 John 4:4)
5. God puts limitation on what Satan can do (1:12).

Satan's response to the Lord's question in Job 1:7 along with 1 Peter 5:8 tells us that Satan is real and active on earth. Knowing this about Satan should cause us to remain close to the One Who is greater than Satan – God Himself. In what ways are you cultivating your close relationship with the Lord?

### ***Thinking further . . .***

- Why was Job's wife spared when the rest of his family was killed? Could it be that her very presence caused Job even more suffering through either her chiding or her sorrow over all they had lost? What effect did this have on her?
- *Job's ultimate choice:* Job was experiencing extreme physical pain as well as grief over the loss of his family and possessions. He can't be blamed for wishing he were dead. Job's grief placed him at the crossroads of his faith, shattering many misconceptions about God (e.g. he makes you rich, always keeps you from trouble and pain, or protects your loved ones). Job was driven back to the basics of his faith in God. He had only two choices: (1) He could curse God and give up, or (2) he could trust God and draw strength from him to continue.