



Does the Lord give and take?

One of the most quoted scriptures that I hear in the body of Christ is Job 1:21. This verse says, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. **The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away**; Blessed be the name of the LORD." While this is

scripture, it must be read in context of who made the statement. The book of Job is a dialog between Job and his friends. Job stated that the Lord gives and the Lord takes, not God. Job later went on to repent in Job 42:3 stating that he spoke of things he did not know.

The Lord is not an Indian given. The gifts and calling of God are without repentance (Rom 11:29); meaning once He gives it is final. I have heard people say God will bless you but if you are not behaving right, He will take away your blessings. That theology violates scripture. A predominate scripture that is used to support the Lord taking away is John 15:2. John 15:2 states, "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit". Here, it says He takes away but we need to dive deeper into the meaning of the original translation of the word take away. The Greek word for take away is *airō* and it means to raise, elevate, or lift up. This does not mean that God is the author of cutting things off in our life but if a branch is not producing fruit, it is lifted up to a position where it can get sun light and grow.

If we are not bearing fruit, He will lift us up and cleanses us through the word. It is not through tarring us down or hurting us. The word purge in this verse is *kathairō* and means to cleanse. A religious mindset will interpret this scripture as God performing something harmful to His children but He wants us to bear fruit and His way of doing that is by lifting us up (Jn 15:8).