

Welcome to

Journey through the Bible



**Book by book
Bible study**

The Silence of God and The Suffering of Job

**Probing when and why
believers suffer**

What Did We Learn From Job 1–2? These chapters revealed:

- ☆ Undeserved suffering is real and is a legitimate category of suffering.
- ☆ Job's integrity persisted in spite of his loss
- ☆ Satan accuses and tempts believers.
- ☆ God has ultimate power; He protects and has sovereign control over His creation.
- ☆ No one is immune from trials, not even great and godly people.

Physically, Job suffered intense personal pain and disease, including:

- ulcerous boils from head to toe (2:7),
- itching, running sores (2:8),
- degenerative changes in facial skin (2:12),
- loss of appetite (3:24),
- had unrelenting pain (6:10)
- had insomnia (7:4),
- hardened skin, worms in the boils (7:5),

Emotionally: Job's suffering included:

- Job was grief-stricken over the loss of his children (1:20),
- was depressed (3:24–25),
- lacked a sense of inner tranquility (3:26),
- experienced troubled thoughts (7:4, 13–14),
- had no taste for life, despised life (9:21),
- was without joy (9:25; 30:31),
- his spirit was broken, (17:1)
- suffered from loneliness (19:13–19)
- searches in vain for God (23:3)

Job's Reaction to His Suffering

- "I wish I had never been born," 3:1–10
- "I wish I had died at birth," 3:11–19
- "I wish I could die now," 3:20–26

My Reaction to Suffering?

What is it that I most fear to lose?

What is it that could potentially come into my life that might cause me to doubt God?

What do I consistently resort to or associate with bad things when they happen to me?

Wrong Reactions to Suffering!

- ☆ I can't love anything or anyone too much or God will take it/him/her away from me.
- ☆ I'm just not spiritual enough yet for God to give me the thing/person/position I want.
- ☆ Every time God blesses me, I get ready because I know something bad is about to happen.

They reflect a negative view of God!

GRACE

Based on Job 2:10

"Unmerited Favor" =
getting what we do not deserve.

This includes undeserved blessing from God.

This also includes undeserved pain and suffering we receive either through His direct command or with His permission (Remember God's promise in Romans 8:28!)

False Theology of Job's Friends

"Retribution Theology"

Sin = Suffering, and Suffering = Sin

"Prosperity Theology"

Godliness = Health and Wealth = Godliness

True Theology in Job

Undeserved suffering is not traceable to a specific act of personal sin or disobedience as its direct cause.

Suffering Related to Sin

- ☆ Suffering has its basis in sin. Therefore, in that way, sin is related to all suffering.
- ☆ Suffering is the natural outworking of man's original "Fall" and is evidence of his inherited fallen nature; therefore man along with Satan is responsible for suffering in humanity.
- ☆ While it is theologically correct that sin is at the base of all of man's woes and problems, the Book of Job shows that not all suffering is connected with personal responsibility.

Undeserved Suffering is,

Undeserved suffering is not traceable to a specific act of personal sin or disobedience as its direct cause.

A Major Objective of Job:

is to counteract & disprove the legalistic theology of the three friends of Job that God's grace and love are not present during suffering and that all suffering is punishment for one's personal sin.

ELIPHAZ

Job is a sinner because he suffers, sinners deserve the pain they receive

Bases his views on a secret vision (4:13-21).

He backs his theology with tradition and history, using Job as a case in fact (15)

His basic message is that Job's "wickedness is great and his sins are endless." (22:5-15).

God is the initiator of Job's suffering (5:17-18).

Prosperity will return once sin is admitted (22:21)

BILDAD

Job suffers because he will not admit sin,
Job deserves what he's getting.

Bases his views on tradition (8:8-9).

He has a correct premise, God is not unjust, but a wrong application, "Job has sinned and therefore must repent" (8:2-3).

He tells Job that he is evil, and that his children have been judged by God for their sin (8:4).

believes that Job is getting what he deserves due to the evil Job has committed (8:8-9).

Job is an evil man; he doesn't know God (18:21)

ZOPHAR

I agree with my friends,
Job deserves more pain than he is getting
appeals to his own superior understanding of God and His wisdom, and attacks Job's righteousness and motivation for serving God (just like Satan did in, 1:8-9).

Job is NOT getting ALL that he deserves (11).

In his own superiority, Zophar accuses Job of:

Pride, 20:6

Being a poor father, 20:10

Loss of appetite and vigor due to sin, 20:11-14

Oppressing the poor, 20:19

EFFECT ON JOB

"Why was I ever born?" 3:20

"I'd rather be dead, I despise my life!" 7:16

"I don't believe God will listen to me!" 9:16

"Why won't God answer me?" 10:1-7

"I can't take anymore of this" 14:18-22

"Nobody cares, or understands" 19:13-22.

"If only I knew where to find God." 23:3

"God has denied me justice!" 27:2

"What good is it to serve God?" 30-31

Job's Developing Negative Attitude

☆ Job accuses God of multiplying his wounds without cause, (9:17-20)

☆ God is unapproachable, (9:4-12)

☆ God is unfair and unjust, (9:17-24)

☆ God will not forgive me, (9:25-31)

☆ Job is in some sort of divine entrapment, God's lovingkindness is absent, (10:1-13)

☆ God has wronged me (19:6)

☆ The Almighty has terrified me (23:16)

What Do We Learn from Job 3-31?

These chapters reveal,

- The flaws in Job's theology.
- The flaws in the theology of his 3 friends.
- Job's sin and drift toward arrogance.
- The wrong way to comfort and counsel.
- Suffering & prosperity are not in proportion to the good or evil that a person does.
- Nevertheless, God still reigns over all the affairs of mankind!

Elihu: A Fresh Voice and Perspective

- Elihu's words are NOT a continuation of the doctrine of the three friends (32:1-3)
- Six chapters are devoted to Elihu's words.
- Job does not try to refute Elihu (33:32; 42:6)
- God does not rebuke Elihu, (42:7)
- Elihu offers a new understanding of the suffering of the righteous that Job and his three friends had not perceived. Elihu thinks that Job has been wrong in some of what he has said — he sees pride & arrogance in Job's attitude (33:17; 35:12; 36:9; 33:8-12).

God speaks to Job out of a storm, 38-39

"Where were you when I created ..."

The earth? The heavens? The animals?



Job's first response to God, 40:3-5

I am unworthy—how can I reply to you?
I put my hand over my mouth.
I spoke once, but I have no answer—
twice, but I will say no more." (40:4-5).

God speaks to Job again, 40-41

"Would you discredit my justice?
Would you condemn me to justify yourself?
Do you have an arm like God's, and
can your voice thunder like his?
Look at the ...

Behemoth? Leviathan? Lightning?



Job's second response to God:

"I know you can do all things;
no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ...
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
Things too wonderful for me to know. ...
My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.
Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes. (42:2–6).

WHAT DO WE LEARN IN JOB 38–42?

- ★ God is sovereign over creation and the entire universe.
- ★ The greatness of God and His grace to all creation.
- ★ Relationship with God is by grace through faith not by works.
- ★ The question is not "Where is God when it hurts?" But, "Where are we in relation to God?"
- ★ Job's crisis was a crisis of faith, not of suffering, but his relationship with God!

PRINCIPLES

- ★ No matter what happens, God loves you. He cares and is very involved in your life.
- ★ God uses everything that happens to you — even injustices and deep hurts.
- ★ Others do not always judge fairly what is going on in your life — be careful about the voices you listen to.
- ★ Blessings from God are not safe to have until one is willing to serve God without them!

See you next week!

**Psalms,
The Song book of the Saints
Read Psalms 27 & 37,**


