

Job

The name Job means **persecuted**. We study Job second in our series because Job lived during the same time as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We know that Job was a historical man from Ezekiel 14:14, 20 and James 5:11. The central message of the book of Job is, "Why do Godly people suffer?"

Chapters 1-2 – The Sovereignty of God in Suffering

In these two brief chapters, Job loses his possessions, his status, his family (except his wife), his home, and his health.

What do we learn about suffering in Job 1-2?

- Suffering is often undeserved (1:1,8, 2:3)
- Suffering is often unexpected (1:13-19)
- Suffering is often unimaginable (2:8)
- Suffering is always painful (1:20)

What do we learn about the sovereignty of God?

God is sovereign over angels (6), demons (12), nations (15,17), nature (19), disease (2:7), death (2:6), comfort and calamity (1:20-21, 2:10)

What do we learn in these 2 chapters?

1. God's design for our lives on this earth includes suffering (Whose idea was it for Satan to test Job? It was God. – see 1 Peter 3:17, 5:10, and Rev. 2:9-10)
2. The Sovereignty of God is the only foundation for praise in the middle of pain. --Notice that Satan is silenced and we don't see Satan again until Jesus when he is silenced again!
3. Our pain on this earth can only be understood rightly from the perspective of heaven (Notice that this is a rare time in the Bible where we have Heaven's perspective.

Chapters 3-31 The Sufficiency of God in Suffering

At this point we are introduced to three of Job's friends who discuss the theme, "Why does God allow the righteous to suffer?" Their Discussion is Divided into a triad:

Eliphaz vs. Job 4-7

Eliphaz vs. Job 15-17

Eliphaz vs. Job 22-24

Bildad vs. Job 8-10

Bildad vs. Job 18-19

Bildad vs. Job 25-31

Zophar vs. Job 11-14

Zophar vs. Job 20-21

Elihu speaks 32-37

Job's friends come to him to console him but settle on a wrong truth – **God blesses the righteous, but punishes the unrighteous**. Therefore, Job has been unrighteous and needs to repent and get right with God so that God will again bless him.

This is a wrong truth that we still see a lot today – God wants to bless you and so if you just have a little more faith, then God can give you what you want – career, promotion, blessings. This message talks about the blessings of God but steers clear of suffering and hardship. The truth is.....

- There are many Christians in China who have more faith than most of America who will NEVER experience anything but persecution
- You may be the most Christ-like person in your church and find out tomorrow you have the worst form of cancer known to man

This entire section presented by Job's friends is WRONG, and God tells them so.

Great Truths in Chapters 3-31:

We want an explanation, but God gives us identification. 25 Times in the book of Job, he asks WHY? His friends tried to give him explanation and did not help at all. God gives Job HIMSELF in deep suffering (42:5).

When the gifts of God are gone, God is still good.

- A false gospel sees suffering as evidence of the displeasure of God
- The true gospel sees suffering as a means to more deeply treasure God

In the confusion of our circumstances God is all-wise (Job 28:12-28)

Wisdom = knowledge + perspective + experience and our God is perfect in all 3 areas

In the depth of our despair, God is our hope (Job 19:23-27)

- God will Heal our Bodies
- We will see His face

Chapters 32-37 - The Purpose of God in Suffering

Another man, Elihu, then says to Job that he must become humble and teachable and more patient. He says that Job is sinning because of suffering and not vice versa. And God corrects the other three but says nothing to dispute Elihu:

- God uses suffering to Reveal His glory (33:12)
- God uses suffering to Refine our Faith (33:14-30)
- God uses suffering to teach us to Rely on Him (34:13-15)
- God uses suffering to bring us to Repent of and Renounce all sin in our lives (36:17-21)
- God uses suffering to lead us to our reward in Him (37:21-24)

Chapters 38-42 -The Power of God in Suffering

Finally, God speaks and instead of an explanation from God we get a revelation of God.

1. His power if great

- He is the Creator (38:1-38)
- He is the Sustainer (38:39-39:30)
- He is the Savior (40:1) – This is the first time LORD has been used since Job chapter 2 – The point here is that the God who has the power to do all of these things desires a personal and intimate relationship with men and women like us.

2. His purpose if guaranteed (42:2)

--Satan was used to accomplish the will of God

3. His knowledge is perfect (42:3)

4. His mercy if personal (42:5)

Job 42: 7-16 - The Final Word

Is the message of Job that if we are faithful to God that we will get all of the things that we have lost back? NO! The final word of Job is that suffering does not have the last word. Cancer does not have the last word. Disease does not have the last word. Death does not have the last word. **God has the last word!**