

When Good People Suffer (1)

Looking on Suffering (2)

Trying to Understand Suffering - Round 1 (3-14)

- Job's lament (3)
- Eliphaz speaks (4-5)
- Job's response (6-7)
- Bildad speaks (8)
- Job's response (9-10)
- Zophar speaks (11)
- Job's response (12-14)

Trying to Understand Suffering - Round 2 (15-21)

- Eliphaz speaks (15)
- Job's response (16-17)
- Bildad speaks (18)
- Job's response (19)
- Zophar speaks (20)
- Job's response (21)

Trying to Understand Suffering - Round 3 (22-31)

- Eliphaz speaks (22)
- Job's response (23-24)
- Bildad speaks (25)
- Job's response (26-31)

Trying to Understand Suffering - Round 4 (32-37)

- Elihu denounces Job and his friends (32-33)
- Elihu refutes Job's complaints (34-35)
- Elihu defends God (36-37)

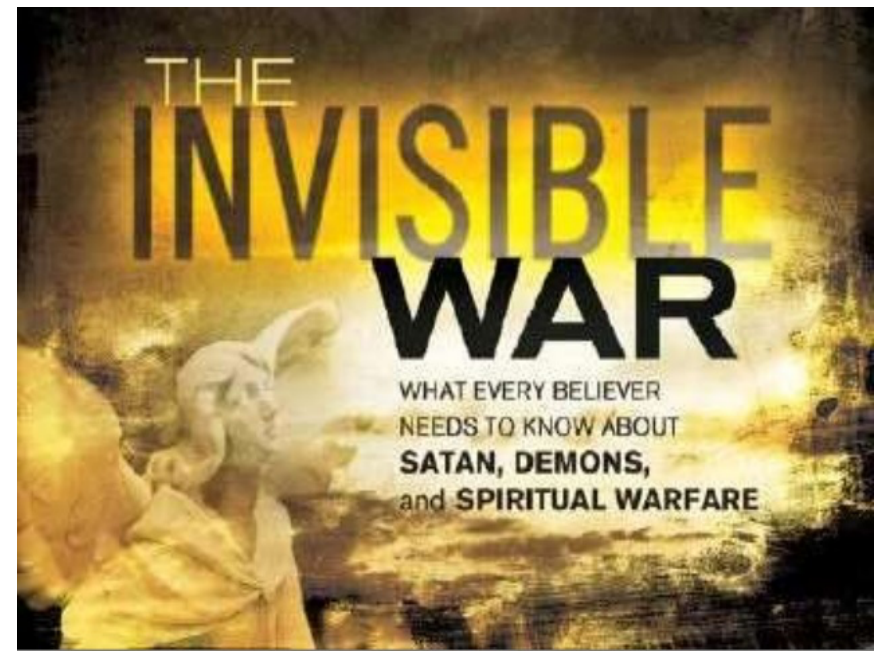
Suffering, God's Answer (38-41)

- God's questions for Job (38:1-40:2)
- Job's response (40:3-5)
- God has more questions for Job (40:6-41:34)

End Intended by God (42)



Sowing the Word



Job 1

September 1 - September 7, 2016

So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading. (Nehemiah 8:8)

Helpful Online Sources:

Precept Austin - Amazing online resource with many commentaries and helps: including David Guzik, Chuck Smith, John MacArthur, Ray Stedman, C.H. Spurgeon, John Piper and many more!
http://preceptaustin.org/Job_commentaries.htm

You Version - with multiple translations. You can get this online or with a mobile device. They even have audio files of the Bible that you can listen <http://www.youversion.com/>

Calvary Roswell - Previous messages and overview studies by Pastor Jim in Job:
<http://www.calvaryroswell.com/biblestudies/WednesdayBibleStudies/Job/Index.htm>

If you have questions during the week, please drop us an e-mail at jim@calvaryroswell.com or phil@calvaryroswell.com

For a digital form of this booklet, an mp3 version of the teaching, videos and slides from the teaching, visit our website at

<http://www.calvaryroswell.com/biblestudies/index.htm>

With the Word Bible Commentary

Most of this book is poetry, but it is not fiction. Job was a real person in a real place who suffered real trials ([Ezek. 14:14–20](#)). James points to Job as an example of endurance, which means faithfulness under trial ([James 5:11](#)). Job did get impatient with himself, his circumstances, and his friends, but he did not turn away from his faith in God.

The book describes three encounters: Job and Satan (chaps. [1–2](#)), Job and his friends (chaps. [3–37](#)), and Job and the Lord (chaps. [38–42](#)). His friends did their best to convince Job he was suffering because he was a sinner, but Job refused to compromise his integrity. In spite of some rash statements, Job spoke the truth, but his friends did not ([Job 42:7](#)).

It is usually said that the book of Job deals with this question: “Why do the godly suffer?” Actually, the theme goes deeper than that. Satan accused Job of serving God only because God blessed him. Unfortunately, there are people like that, people with “commercial faith” who say to God, “If you bless me, I will serve You!” (See Satan’s temptation of Christ in [Matt. 4:8–10](#).)

The basic question is not “Why do the righteous suffer?” (there are many answers to that question) but “Is our God worthy of our worship and service, or must He ‘buy’ us with His blessings?” Satan was not only slandering Job; he was also slandering the Lord! He was saying, “God would not have any followers if He did not reward them!”

As you read, note the many images used by the speakers. These similes and metaphors help us see ourselves, the world of nature, life and death and, most of all, almighty God. (God is called “Almighty” thirty-one times in Job.) Job suffered so that you and I might learn some valuable lessons about what it really means to trust the Lord.

JOB 1

Job knew nothing about Satan’s challenge to God and had no idea that the enemy was using him as a reason for slandering the Lord. Neither did Job know that God would use his sufferings to defeat Satan. God’s people are soldiers on the battlefield, but there are times when they are the battlefield!

If you obey God only because He blesses you, the shallowness of your faith will show up in the testing time ([Matt. 7:24–27](#); [13:20–21](#)). Faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted ([James 1:1–8](#); [1 Pet. 1:3–9](#)).

When Satan accuses you before God (or to yourself), remember that Jesus Christ is your defending Advocate in heaven; turn your case over to Him ([Zech. 3](#); [Rom. 8:31–39](#); [1 John 2:1–2](#); [Rev. 12:10](#)).

Study Questions for Job 1

1. What kind of man was Job, morally and spiritually? Why does God bring up the person of Job with Satan? According to Satan, why did Job serve God? Does Satan control events in our life?
2. Why do the righteous suffer, while it seems that the wicked are seen to prosper? Is the amount of our suffering a proper indication of our faithfulness? Can God trust man to serve Him simply for righteousness sake?
3. What permission did God grant Satan? What limit did He place on him? What does this tell us about Satan, God, and suffering? Have you ever misplaced the “blame” of some suffering in your life?
4. Describe the tragedies that occurred in verses [14–19](#)? What do we learn from these events about the power of Satan? How did Job react to these tragedies? How might our reactions be to such calamities?