

## **The Challenge, Part 2**

Read Job 2:1-3. Does God say Job passed the test?

Did Satan give up? What was his next attack (2:4-8)?

What did Job's wife advise (2:9)? Do people say the same thing today, but in a different way?

What did Job say to his wife (2:10)? Did Job pass the second test?

## **Job's Visitors**

Read Job 2:11-13. Who came to visit Job?

How did they try to comfort Job?

## **A Look Ahead**

Remember what Job had before Satan accused him? Job had many physical blessings, a good moral life, and a good relationship with God. What was taken away? What did he have left?

One problem with suffering is when we lose one thing, we feel like we lost everything. In the next study, we will see how Job and his friends deal with this problem.

# The Problem of Suffering



*The Book of Job, Part 1*

**Suffering.** At some time in life, everyone experiences suffering. Suffering can be physical, mental, or spiritual. Any kind of suffering can be one of the most difficult and testing times of our life. Often we have many questions about suffering. Why must we suffer? Did I do something to deserve it? Why doesn't God stop it? To discuss some of these questions, we will study part of the book of Job in the Bible. We will divide the book into three studies.

1. Losing Everything.
2. Why?
3. God's Answer.

### **Job: When Everything Was Good**

Job had a very good life. Read Job 1:1-5, then fill in the blanks below.

Job had a good physical life.

- He had \_\_\_\_\_ sons and \_\_\_\_\_ daughters.
- He had \_\_\_\_\_ sheep, \_\_\_\_\_ camels, \_\_\_\_\_ yoke of oxen, and \_\_\_\_\_ donkeys.
- Job also had many \_\_\_\_\_.
- In terms of his wealth, his wisdom, his respect, Job was the \_\_\_\_\_ man in the East.

Job had a good moral life. What does verse 1 say about Job's life and actions?

Job had a good spiritual life, a good relationship with God. Job knew a relationship with God was so important, what did he do for his sons and daughters?

### **The Challenge**

Read Job 1:6-8. What does God say about Job? What does God care about, Job's riches or his life?

What is Satan's accusation against Job (1:9-11)?

What is the only way to know if Satan's accusation is true or not?

What does God answer (1:12)?

If we belong to God, can Satan make any kind of attack against us without God's permission?

Read Job 1:13-19. What happened? List all the things Satan took away, and compare the list to what Job had at the beginning (list on the left).

Job lost his \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, almost all of his \_\_\_\_\_ and all ten of his \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Job's Response**

Read Job 1:20-22. What did Job do? What did he say?

Notice that Job didn't sin. If he complained, would that be sin? If so, how?

### Summary Statements

Job and his friends said a lot in the middle chapters of Job, some true, some not true. These are some of the things that Job and his friends said. Discuss each one and circle True or False next to each sentence.

True False If you live right and follow God, God promises you will have an easy, successful life.

True False If you have a lot of trouble and suffering in your life, you must have done some terrible sin to deserve punishment.

True False Sometimes God makes us suffer for no reason. (See Job 9:17.)

True False When we are not suffering, it is easy to misunderstand and look down on people who are suffering. (See Job 12:4-5.)

Read Job 16:7-14. Perhaps Job's biggest weakness in all of his suffering was this: he didn't think he could turn to God for help. He thought God had become his enemy. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. When we experience trouble, what can we do, and what can we believe that will help us?

# The Problem of Suffering



*The Book of Job, Part 2*

**Why do we suffer?** This is a difficult question to answer. Often, there is no clear answer. But any time we suffer, we usually ask “Why?” Job and his friends also asked why. In this study, we will two major responses to suffering; depression and looking for answers. We will see the dangers in both responses and look for the way God wants us to respond.

### **The first response: Depression**

At first, Job kept faith in God, he did not sin, he did not accuse God of doing wrong. Job still trusted God with his life. But as time went on and Job continued to suffer, what happened? Read Job 3:1. What did Job wish?

Does that mean Job lost his faith?

Read Job 3:20-26. Even though Job wants to die, what is one thing he doesn't do or suggest? (Remember Job 2:9.)

Even during his worst depression, does Job still have hope? Read Job 19:23-27.

### **The second response: Blame**

Job's three friends take turns telling Job basically the same thing. Read Job 4:7-9. What does Eliphaz say happens to innocent people? What happens to evil people?

What does that mean about Job? Why does Eliphaz think Job is suffering?

Read Job 4:17-19, 5:8, 17-19. Eliphaz clearly understands that we are sinful. What does Eliphaz think Job should do?

Read Job 8:3-7. Bildad's statement is a good summary of what the three friends believe. According to their beliefs, if you lived right and followed God, what will God do for you?

Is it true that if something bad happens to you, it happened because you did some sin? Read Luke 13:1-5.

Read Luke 9:23-24. If you follow Jesus, what kind of life does He say you will have?

Read Job 31:1-6, 35-37. After Job's friends are done speaking, after they tell Job he must have sinned and deserved God's punishment, what does Job answer? Where is Job's hope and trust?

Do you think Job could have said something better? What?

Why did God give so much back to Job?

- A. Job was righteousness.
- B. Job repented, so God rewarded him.
- C. God showed mercy to Job.

Read Job 42:7-9 (641). One thing was more important than God giving Job many blessings again. What did God want Job and his friends to do first?

### Our Lesson From Job

When we experience trouble, how does God want us to see it?

- A. The devil is making us suffer.
- B. God is punishing us because we did wrong.
- C. It is only chance, God is not involved.
- D. God is trying to teach me, to bring me closer to Him.

Name several things we can learn from Job's experiences.

1. When we suffer, we should not \_\_\_\_\_ God.
2. The right attitude to have is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Only \_\_\_\_\_ has the power to help us.
4. Our \_\_\_\_\_ actions aren't enough. We must trust in God to give us His \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

# The Problem of Suffering



*The Book of Job, Part 3*

**When we suffer, how do we get help?** This is what we most want to know. Where is the help? When will the pain end? Why must I suffer? In the first study, we saw Job suffer, but continue confident in strong faith. In the second study, Job began to question God and struggle with why he must suffer. Now in the last study, we see God's answer to Job.

### Elihu Speaks

When Job began suffering, 3 friends came and tried to help. But they didn't speak God's word right and only made Job angry. Now a fourth man, Elihu, speaks. Read Job 33:14-15, 19-20, 23-24 (p. 628). He says God warns people 3 different ways. What are they?

1. God speaks in a \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God disciplines people with \_\_\_\_\_ on their sickbeds.
3. God sends a \_\_\_\_\_ to tell people what is right.

The 3 friends said Job must have done some terrible sin, now God is punishing Job. Elihu says something a little different. Read Job 33:29-30 (628). What does he say? Does that make sense to you? (also see Hebrews 12:4-11, p. 1516)

Read Job 36:22-24 (632). When God disciplines us, can we tell God He is wrong? What should we do?

### God Answers Job

Read Job 38:1-7 (634). Through all of chapters 38 and 39, God talks about how much He takes care of the world. When Job was accusing and questioning God, did Job really know what he was talking about?

How does Job answer God now? Job 40:1-5 (638).

Does Job's answer give you an idea how Job sinned against God? Hint: Job was concerned about his right actions (Job 33:8-10), but God was concerned about righteousness. Is there any difference between right actions and righteousness?

Job's biggest problem may have been his P \_\_\_\_\_.

### God Restores Job

Read Job 42:1-6 (640). In the end, what did Job do?

Read Job 42:10-17 (641). What did God do for Job?

\_\_\_\_\_ sheep and goats      \_\_\_\_\_ camels  
\_\_\_\_\_ oxen                              \_\_\_\_\_ donkeys  
\_\_\_\_\_ children

How do those numbers compare with what Job had before he lost everything? Job 1:1-3 (588).