

Understanding the suffering of Job

- ❖ Job is the oldest book in the bible. It is believed that Job was alive before Abraham.
 - ❖ *Ezek. 14:12-14* Job was a righteous man but he was surrounded by wickedness.
 - ❖ His sufferings lasted only 6 to 9 months.
 - ❖ He was maybe in his 60'... lived for another 140 years after the incident.
 - ❖ Job's theology was not all correct but his heart was right. God called him an upright man who shunned evil.
Job did not have a bible to read, and he had not received a clear revelation of God yet.
 - ❖ It is believed that Elihu might have been the one who wrote the book, he was a witness to everything.
- Many people use Job's life to prove that sickness is sometimes part of God's master plan and that God works with the devil to purify us and test our faith.

According to *2 Tim. 2:15* We must rightly divide and interpret the book of Job, scripture interpreting scripture and also through the clear revelation we have received through Jesus.

2 Tim. 2:15 Study earnestly to present yourself approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

Heb. 1:1-3 (...) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person (...).

It has 4 parts

Job 1 and 2... the author narrates the situation.

Job 3 thru 31... Job, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar are speaking.

Job 32 thru 37.... Elihu speaks.

Job 38 to 41... God is speaking.

First we should pay attention to what God says before and above all

Job 38:2 "Who is it who darkens counsel without knowledge?"

Job 42:7 "My wrath is aroused against you and your 2 friends for you have not spoken of me what is right..."

Even Job admitted that what he said was wrong...

Job 42:3 "I have uttered things I did not understand"

God is saying that what Job and His 3 friends said in chapter 3 through 37 were dark counsel without knowledge... what they said was wrong!... and yet people take the words of Job and of his friends and teach them as truth.

In the Bible all that is written has been truly recorded according to what was said by the person but it does not automatically mean that they all are statements of truth.

Example:

John 8:48+52 It was recorded what was said by the Pharisees, that Jesus possesses a demon? It is truly recorded, but is it a statement of truth?

Matt. 12:24 They also said that Jesus cast demons by Beelzebub? Is it true, yet it is in the Bible.

The friends of Job, also said some things and these things were accurately recorded.

Job 25:6; Job 15:15-16

How much less man, who is a maggot, and a son of man who is a worm.

Is this true? Not according to *Psalms 8:4-8* and *Psalms 139*.

So What were the friends of Job saying that God opposed?

❖ **It was God's punishment and Judgment on Job because Job was in sin**

Bad things only happen to sinners.

Job 8:3-6; Job 11:13-15; Job 4:7-9

© Remember that during the first 2400 years, until the law, God did not impute sin to people
Rom. 5:13; Rom. 3:25

Often time when people are in sin, they open the door to the devil, but it is wrong to assume that sin is always the cause of sickness. This will bring a lot of confusion and condemnation on people.

James 5:16 **IF** they have committed sin... sin might or might not be a possibility.

John 9:1 Has he sinned or his parents... Jesus said neither.

❖ **God did all of this to Job to teach him and correct him *Job 5:17-18***

How did God teach Job... by revealing Himself, and by giving him His Word.

It is still his #1 method... The Word will make man

2 Tim. 3:16-17 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

God has also sent us the Holy Spirit to teach us

John 14:26 *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

Who did this to Job and why did this happen?

❖ **God did not do all of this to Job**

In *Job 1:8* the devil appeared before God. God was not dangling Job before the devil like a carrot.

The Lord knew what Satan was up to.

1 Pet. 5:8 (...) *The devil always walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.*

Luke 22:31 Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.

Rev 12:10 ...for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

All the Lord did was bring this out in the open: "you already have set your heart upon Job"
Who brought calamities to Job?

Job 2:7 The devil

Job 1:22 Job didn't sin in his words by blaming God for all this like his 2 friends did.

❖ **Why did God allow this to happen?**

Job 1:12 Jehovah said to Satan, Behold, all that he has is in your power.

The Lord was simply pointing out that all Job had was already in Satan's power.

The devil is the god and ruler of this world.

2 Cor. 4:4 in whom the god of this world (age) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving ones

Luke 4:6 All this power I will give you, & the glory of them; for it has been delivered to me & I give it to whomever I will.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are from God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

There is very little info about the devil in the old testament. Why?

People had no authority over him and the only way God could protect them is if they had a legal covenant with Him. Job didn't have a covenant with God. God wanted to bless him, and He did.

But when Satan protested and accused Job (*Rev 12:10*) God had to turn him over to Satan because there was no legal contract (covenant) between Job and God. He had to allow this in order to be just. Man had given his authority to Satan, so without a covenant (man inviting God), God could not go against men's will and interfere with the devil, who had become men's master.

Rom. 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you yield yourselves..... you are slaves to him whom you obey;

God wanted to bless man and this is one reason why the Lord started making covenants with man. The covenant had to be done legally ... man inviting God and choosing to enter into a covenant with Him. All covenants were only partial until Jesus came. Then God made a covenant with Jesus, and when we receive Jesus we enter into a covenant with God.

Today, In Jesus, we not only have a covenant with God, but also have regained the Authority (In Jesus Name) that Adam had lost and given to the devil.

Matt. 16:19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Mark 16:17-18 these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

When Elihu comes on the scene to contradict Job and His 3 friends. He declared:

- ❖ All of this happened because there isn't a mediator yet. He prophesied the Messiah who would pay the ransom for sin *Job 33:23-29*.
- ❖ God is justice – everything has to be done legally.
- ❖ God is good.
- ❖ God is mighty and worthy of worship.

After Elihu declares the goodness and majesty of God... God reveals Himself to Job.

So What can we learn from the book of Job?

1) In the midst of problems, Job still worshiped God and trusted in Him

God was very proud of Job, because in the midst of it he kept his integrity and loyalty to God.

Job 1:20 Even when his wife wanted him to curse God.

James 5:11 Look at the perseverance of Job (his loyalty and integrity).

We can learn from Job's attitude in the midst of trials. His perseverance was not because he endured sickness but because he did not let go of God in the midst of trials. It is interesting to see that the devil's attempts was not to kill Job, but to get him to curse God, to abandon God.

Trials and sufferings are not meant to make us better, but to destroy us (Jesus said it in *John 10:10*). If sufferings alone were making us better and stronger, then the whole world would be strong and in love with God. But it is **our faith in God and our attitude** in the midst of sufferings that put us over, make us stronger and purifies us as gold.

TODAY

John 16:33 When we suffer, we should praise the Lord, not for the sufferings but for His deliverance, His goodness and compassion, because He has overcome the world.

1 Cor. 15:57

Job did not have a bible to teach him or comfort him. Job did not have the knowledge & authority we now have.

2) In the midst of persecution, we must pray for our persecutors

Job 42:10 Job prayed for his 3 friends.

When someone has hurt us, we should pray for them.

Matt. 5:44 Jesus commanded us to love our enemies, bless those who curse us, do good to those who hate us and pray for those who despitefully use us and persecute us.

3) God's desire was to bless Job... not to disqualify him

James 5:11 "You have heard of the perseverance of Job and the end intended by the Lord."

God was trying to get Job into the right position to receive His blessings

Job 42:3 God revealed Himself to Job who immediately repented of his ignorance and realized that he had said some wrong things about God..

Job 42:10 God was able to bless him twice as much as before.

Like Job we must come to the place where we realize that we cannot do it by ourselves but we must depend on God and on His goodness... simple trust and faith.

→ **People say that the book of Job is about suffering but it is really about deliverance and God's compassion.**