

Overview of Job

Who are the main characters?

What happens?

Where and when does the story happen?

What topics are addressed?

Read Job 1,2

Who caused Job's suffering?

Who or what

- Took his oxen and donkeys? (1:11-12,15, 2:3)
- Killed his sheep? (1:11-12,16, 2:3)
- Took his camels? (1:11-12,17, 2:3)
- Killed his children? (1:11-12,19, 2:3)
- Ruined his health? (2:5-7)

Why did Job suffer? (1:6-12, 2:1-6)

Summarize/Highlight Job 3-37

What is the counsel of Job's friends? 4:7; 5:8,25-27; 8:6,20; 11:12-15

What is Job's position? 3:11,20; 7:11,20-21; 10:3; 12:2-4; 13:15-16; 16:2, 19:25-26

Summarize/Highlight Job 38-41

What does God teach Job? 38:1-4; 40:2,8

Read Job 40:3-5; 42:1-9

What does Job learn from his suffering?

- About the cause of it?
- About God?
- About himself and his friends?

Some key points from Job:

- God is worthy of praise, even when He withholds blessing and allows suffering
- The primary purpose of suffering could be to glorify God through it
- Suffering might not be the direct result of sin
- We should try to learn from suffering
- God's hand is in our suffering, as may be Satan's and man's hand

Questions on suffering

- What do we tell people who are suffering?
- What are the different categories of suffering, (for Christ's sake, self-induced, from others, etc), and do we deal differently with different types?
- Is suffering sometimes for discipline? How do we recognize this and respond if God wants us to change course? Is it punishment or consequences or just training?
- Is saying that suffering has a purpose the same as saying it is from God?
- What is the difference between God allowing or causing or ordaining suffering?
- If God is loving, why is there suffering?

Thoughts on suffering and God's sovereignty:

- Christians are called to suffer
 - Php 1:29 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake ...3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;
- Our call to suffer comes from a God tender beyond description
 - The Son cares immensely, throughout His life "He had compassion on them"
 - The Father cares immensely, He defends the oppressed, cares for the poor
- Jesus endured the thrashing due His creatures for their rebellion against His Father.
 - He made covenants, and took our punishment for our breaking of them
 - He starved, and was tempted
 - He was doubted, and then hated
 - As He suffered, He upheld the universe
 - He bore loneliness in the garden, His worst hour
 - He bore incredible torture
 - He bore God's wrath due all of us
 - This is the One who asks us to trust Him when He calls on us to suffer
- God runs the world
 - Psalm 139:16, And in Thy book they were all written, The days that were ordained [for me], When as yet there was not one of them.
 - God's hand is behind: mildew (Lev 14:34-35), blindness, deafness (Ex 4:11), Chance, the lot (Prov 16:33), disaster in the city (Amos 3:6), The king's heart (Prov 21:1)
 - Prov 16:4 ¶ The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, Even the wicked for the day of evil.
 - Psalm 115:3 But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.
 - Lam 3:37-38 ¶ Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, Unless the Lord has commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High That both good and ill go forth?
 - Gen 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.
 - God decreed Jesus' death and the manner (Acts 2:22-23, 38; 4:27-28)