

# We Will Get Through This: “The Why of Suffering” 4/26/2020

## Job 1: 8-22

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### INTRODUCTION:

#### Book of Job – Over view

- It was written at the same time the Book of Genesis was written
- It focuses entirely on the issue of pain and suffering
- In form it is written as a 6-part play. Except for the opening prologue and ending epilogue the main body is in poetry, making it an epic poem.
- Outline: Begins with a short dialogue between God and Satan (Ch. 1-2). The central section (Ch. 3-41) is made up of long dialogues between Job and his friends. The book ends with a short conversation between God and Job and a note on how Job’s life turned out in the end.

*Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.”*

*<sup>9</sup> “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. <sup>10</sup> “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. <sup>11</sup> But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.”*

*<sup>12</sup> The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.”*

*Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.*

*<sup>13</sup> One day when Job’s sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, <sup>14</sup> a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, <sup>15</sup> and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”*

*<sup>16</sup> While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”*

*<sup>17</sup> While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”*

*<sup>18</sup> While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, <sup>19</sup> when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”*

*<sup>20</sup> At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship <sup>21</sup> and said:*

*“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,  
and naked I will depart.*

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*The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away;  
may the name of the Lord be praised.”*

<sup>22</sup> *In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. Job 1:8-22*

WHEN IT COMES TO THE QUESTION OF WHY?:

### I. AVOID PAT ANSWERS

Two Common Responses

- The Religious Response

- Cynical Response

How Each Response Views God

- The Religious
- The Cynical

Job 1 Tells Us:

- Both views are \_\_\_\_\_.
- God’s relationship to \_\_\_\_\_.

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1. God does not cause pain & suffering.

What was Jesus' response to Lazarus' death?

*"Jesus wept."* John 11:35

*"Our faith is in a God who comes to rescue His creation from the absurdity of sin and the emptiness of death, and so we are permitted to hate these things with a perfect hatred. As for comfort, when we seek it, I can imagine none greater than the happy knowledge that when I see the death of a child, I do not see the face of God but the face of his enemy. It is a faith that has set us free from optimism and has taught us hope instead."*

2. God is in control.

The real question is not why is there so much pain and suffering in the world?  
The real question is why is there so much good in the world?

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3. God will defeat evil's intent. He will turn evil's intent on its head so that it accomplishes the opposite of evil's intent

*"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."* 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

*"Never again will they hunger;  
never again will they thirst.  
The sun will not beat down on them,  
nor any scorching heat.  
For the Lamb at the center of the throne  
will be their shepherd;  
'he will lead them to springs of living water.'  
'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"* Revelation 7:16-17

"If evil/suffering is an enemy of God why doesn't he get rid of it now?

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## II. WALK BY FAITH

*“Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:  
“Who is this that obscures my plans  
with words without knowledge?”* Job 38:1-2

When it comes to the answer to the question of Why?:

- It’s important to avoid pat answers

The Dangers of Manufacturing Pat Answers

*“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”* 2 Corinthians 5:7

The Value of Walking by Faith

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...”* Ephesians 2:8

### III. EMBRACE GRACE

*"Naked I came from my mother's womb,  
and naked I will depart.  
The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away;  
may the name of the Lord be praised."  
In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. (vs. 21)*

*"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body... For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."*  
2 Corinthians 4:7-10, 17

### Grace and the Cross of Christ

- God trusts us more than we trust him
- God will turn evil upon itself and accomplish the opposite of evil's intent

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- Death, disease, disaster, and disappointments are God's enemies
- The suffering of Jesus signals evil's doom!

*"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'" He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"*

God does not give us a full explanation as to the question of "Why?"  
But He does provide us with a final answer:

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