

Job

Suffering - Guidance From Sin?

Job 32-37

- Gathering: How do you respond when someone says they have a message from God for you?
- Today's Focus: After Job's three friends have given up, young Elihu is compelled to share his "God-given" wisdom that Job's experiences are intended to turn him from sin and pride.
- Key Verses: *Yet if there is an angel on his side as a mediator .. to be gracious to him and say, "Spare him from going down to the pit, I have found a ransom for him..." Job 33:23-24*
- Stop and consider God's wonders. Job 37:14*

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Review of Studies 1 - 3

Job - A Righteous Man Suffers (*Chapters 1 & 2*)

- First OT book of poetry - Hebrew poetry is based on parallelism
- What happened to Job? = Richly blessed, lost everything, covered with painful boils
- What had Job done to deserve his suffering? = Nothing
- Did Job realize the reasons behind his suffering? = No
- How did Job respond to his losses? = mourned losses, but blessed God

Suffering - Persuasion to Repent? (*Chapters 3 - 14*)

- How did Job's friends explain the cause & solution to Job's troubles?
= Job had sinned greatly & needed to repent, God would respond & restore him
- Were Job's friends correct? = No, Job had done nothing to bring this on
- Did Job agree with his friends' analysis? = Disagreed - "I am blameless"
- What did Job ask of God? = What charges? Stop scaring me and speak with me

Suffering - Punishment for the Wicked? (*Chapters 15 - 21*)

- Per Job's friends, who receives the kind of suffering Job has seen?
= The wicked is tormented his whole life. Disaster is ready when he falls.
- Did Job agree? = No. The wicked grow old, gain power, prosper & are happy
- What reward can the faithful expect? = After death I will see God.

Review of Last Week (*Chapters 22 - 31*)

The Friends' Last Gasp - *Chapters 22, 25, 26 & 27*

- How did Eliphaz conclude? = You're punished for evil, return to God & be restored
- Were the friends effective in showing Job his sin? = No. I am righteous.

Job Looks to God - *Chapter 23*

- Where does Job turn after giving up on his friends? = To God.
- If Job can't find God, why does he call to Him? = He knows where I go.
- How does Job feel standing before God? = I am terrified before him. I fear him.
- What does Job want to be able to face God? = someone to arbitrate between us
- Who is Job's arbitrator? = My advocate is on high. My intercessor is my friend.
- Do we have an intercessor? = Jesus lives to intercede for us.
- How does the Spirit intercede for us? = With groans that words can't express.

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Review of Last Week - continued (*Chapters 22 - 31*)

Beyond Man's Understanding - *Chapter 28*

What hidden things are man skilled at finding? = silver, gold, copper, gems

What is man unable to find? = Wisdom, He doesn't comprehend its worth.

How valuable is wisdom? = Cannot buy with gold, silver, gems...

Who knows where to find wisdom? = God alone understands the way to wisdom.

How can man find wisdom? = Fear of the Lord is wisdom, to shun evil is understanding.

From Awed to Mocked - *Chapters 29 & 30*

For when did Job long? = When in his prime, God blessed him, children were around.

How was Job treated in his earlier days? = Honored by youth & elders, As a king

How was Job now being treated? = Mocked & detested by kids of worthless men

Did Job feel protected and supported by God? = I cry to God and no answer

Sins I Could Have Committed - *Chapter 31*

Why did Job give a list of sins? = If I had done these, I would deserve suffering

It's My Turn To Speak - *Chapter 32*

Why did Job's friends give up after 3 rounds?

Job 32:1 = "because he was righteous in his own eyes."

Why hadn't Elihu spoken before? Why did he speak up now?

Job 32:2-5 = Waited because they were older. Angry that the 3 gave up.

Although he was young, why did Elihu believe he had wisdom to share?

Job 32:8-9 (6-9) = It is the breath (spirit) of God that gives understanding, not just age

Why does Elihu say he will not give the same futile arguments? - Others attacked Job in defense

Job 32:14 (10-14) = Job has not spoken against me, I won't answer with your arguments.

How anxious or hesitant was Elihu to speak? = Old, dry wineskins burst easy; not new ones \neq lots to say

Job 32:18-19 (15-22) = My spirit compels me to speak. Like wineskins ready to burst

Listen To God Speak To You - *Chapter 33*

Did Elihu speak from his head, from his heart or as God?

Job 33:3, 6 (1-7) = My words are from an upright heart. I am man just like you.

Did Elihu correctly restate Job's position? = No, didn't claim to be sinless, just blameless

Job 33:8-9, 12 (8-11) = "I am pure & without sin, I am clean & free from guilt

Job 7:21 = "Why don't you pardon my offenses & forgive my sins?"

Job 13:26 = "You make me inherit the sins of my youth."

Did Elihu agree with Job's complaint that God never answers man?

Job 33:13-14 = God speaks in different ways, though man may not perceive (NIV)

What are ways Elihu says that God speaks to man?

Job 33:15-16, 19 (12-22) = Dream or vision, sending sickness or pain

Per Elihu, what is God's purpose in speaking to man? = Key point of Elihu's speech

Job 33:17-18 = To turn man from sin & pride, to protect from death & hell

How can man be saved from hell?

Job 33:23-25 (23-30) = If a special angel mediates and provides a ransom. (Christ)

What insights into God's wisdom does Elihu display? = Speaks to man in many ways, Provides a savior

What ignorance of God's wisdom does Elihu display? = Suffering is direct result of a sin or sins

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The Trial - Chapter 34

Who does Elihu call upon to judge Job?

Job 34:1-4 = Men of learning, let us discern for ourselves

Why doesn't Elihu call upon God to judge Job?

Job 34:21-24 (21-30) = God sees man's every step. He punishes immediately, without trial

How just is God as a judge?

Job 34:11-12 (10-15) = He gives man what he deserves. Impossible for God to be unjust.

Job 34:18-19 (16-20) = He shows no partiality. He treats all men the same, rich or poor.

What are the charges against Job?

Job 34:5, 7-9 (5-9) = Job associates with sinners, he says it's useless to try to please God

Where does Job fall short in returning to God?

Job 34:33 (31-33) = Should God reward you on your terms, when you refuse to repent?

What is the verdict of this trial?

Job 34:34-37 = Job doesn't make sense, is an evil man, rebels against God & mocks God

Man's Relationship With God - Chapter 35

How does Elihu respond to Job's claim that God will vindicate him (Job 13:18)?

Job 35:1-3 = Why should God care about pleasing you if you don't care about pleasing Him?

How does man's sin or righteousness affect God?

Job 35:6-7 (4-8) = Your sin(s) cannot hurt God. He doesn't benefit from your righteousness

How does man's sin or righteousness affect man?

Job 35:8 = Your sins hurt other men, your goodness helps other men.

Why does God not answer when men cry out?

Job 35:9-10,12 (9-13) = Men cry out, but don't look to God. God ignores their empty pleas.

Why should Job not expect God to answer him?

Job 35:14 (14-16) = Because Job says he can't see God

Is Elihu's God one who stays with his creation or one who ignores it?

God's Purpose for Suffering - Chapter 36

Where does Elihu claim to get his great knowledge?

Job 36:3-4 (1-4) = God gave me perfect knowledge

Why do men suffer, according to Elihu?

Job 36:8-10 (5-12) = So God can show them their sin and get them to repent

How do the wicked respond to God's guidance through suffering?

Job 36:13 (13-15) = They do not cry to God for help

Based on man's response to suffering, how does God respond?

Job 36:6 = The wicked are killed, the righteous is restored

What is God trying to do through Job's suffering?

Job 36:16 (16-21) = He is trying to get Job to return to the righteous

Is Elihu correct in his understanding of suffering?

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Our God Is An Awesome God - Chapters 36 & 37

Can Job be expected to understand God and His ways?

Job 36:26 (22-26) = God is great and beyond our understanding

Job 37:14, 18 (14-18) = Consider God's wonders. Can you make clouds, lightning, skies?

How does God take care of his people?

Job 36:27, 31 (27-33) = He takes water from the earth and sends rain to nourish his people

How does Elihu describe God's voice?

Job 37:2-4 (1-5) = His voice is the thunder that follows lightning

How does God use storms to both punish the wicked and bless the godly?

Job 37:11-13 (6-13) = Lightning to punish, rain water to show his love

Is God rightly punishing Job or unfairly oppressing him?

Job 37:23 (19-24) = God is way beyond man & always just. He cannot oppress unfairly.

In what ways are Elihu right about God? = Almighty, Beyond understanding, All powerful

In what ways are Elihu wrong about God? = Beyond our reach, Lightning to punish, Voice is thunder

Does Job agree or disagree with Elihu's view of God?

Job 9:1-13 = Agree – Almighty, Beyond understanding, All powerful

Job 10:8-12 = Disagree – God made us and loves & cares for us

Job 12:13-25 = Agree – God has power to do whatever to man that He wants

Job 26:5-14 = Agree – God & His works are beyond our understanding

Closing Prayer

Next Week - *God is in Control* (Job 38-42)

Course Summary

Week 1	Job - A Righteous Man Suffers	Job 1-2
Week 2	Suffering - Persuasion to Repent?	Job 3-14
Week 3	Suffering - Punishment for the Wicked?	Job 15-21
Week 4	Suffering - Beyond Man's Understanding?	Job 22-31
Week 5	Suffering - Guidance From Sin?	Job 32-37
Week 6	God is in Control	Job 38-42