

Why does a kind and loving  
God allow human suffering?

The Book of Job deals with this question.

Study Job over several days,  
don't try to take it all in at one  
reading.

The Challenge

Job chapter 1

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.

Job 1:2 Seven sons and three daughters were born to him.

Job 1:3 His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

Job 1:4 His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

Job 1:5 When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

Job 1:7 The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."

Job 1:8 The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."

Job 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD,  
"Does Job fear God for nothing?

Job 1:10 "Have You not made a hedge  
about him and his house and all that he  
has, on every side? You have blessed the  
work of his hands, and his possessions  
have increased in the land.

Job 1:11 "But put forth Your hand now and  
touch all that he has; he will surely curse  
You to Your face."

Job 1:12 Then the LORD said to Satan,  
"Behold, all that he has is in your power,  
only do not put forth your hand on him."  
So Satan departed from the presence of the  
LORD.

Job 1:13 Now on the day when his sons  
and his daughters were eating and drinking  
wine in their oldest brother's house,  
Job 1:14 a messenger came to Job and  
said, "The oxen were plowing and the  
donkeys feeding beside them,



Job 1:15 and the Sabeans attacked and took them. They also slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

Job 1:16 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

Job 1:17 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and took them and slew

the servants with the edge of the sword,  
and I alone have escaped to tell you."

Job 1:18 While he was still speaking,  
another also came and said, "Your sons and  
your daughters were eating and drinking  
wine in their oldest brother's house,

Job 1:19 and behold, a great wind came  
from across the wilderness and struck the  
four corners of the house, and it fell on the  
young people and they died, and I alone  
have escaped to tell you."

Job 1:20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

Job 1:21 He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."

Job 1:22 Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

# The Second Challenge

Job chapter 2

Job 2:1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD.

Job 2:2 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."

Job 2:3 The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause."

Job 2:4 Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life."

Job 2:5 "However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face."

Job 2:6 So the LORD said to Satan,  
"Behold, he is in your power, only spare his  
life."

Job 2:7 Then Satan went out from the  
presence of the LORD and smote Job with  
sore boils from the sole of his foot to the  
crown of his head.

Job 2:8 And he took a potsherd to scrape  
himself while he was sitting among the  
ashes.

Job 2:9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!"

Job 2:10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.



Job 2:11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, they came each one from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite; and they made an appointment together to come to sympathize with him and comfort him.

Job 2:12 When they lifted up their eyes at a distance and did not recognize him, they raised their voices and wept. And each of them tore his robe and they threw dust over their heads toward the sky.

Job 2:13 Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights with no one speaking a word to him, for they saw that his pain was very great.

Consider Job's wife.

She lost her ten children.

She lost her livelihood.

Her husband for whom she loves and cares is afflicted and she is powerless to help him.

Do you think this situation put a strain on their marriage?

Consider Job's friends.

Eliphaz the Temanite.

Bildad the Shuhite.

Zophar the Naamathite.

These are compassionate men. They care about Job. They came to comfort him.

They say many good things. Unfortunately, they are not much help.

Consider Job's suffering.

It was both physical and emotional.

He wanted to die.

Job 3:11 "Why did I not die at birth, Come forth from the womb and expire?

Job 3:20 "Why is light given to him who suffers, And life to the bitter of soul,

Job 3:21 Who long for death, but there is none...

Thousands of years ago, Job basically asks some of the questions that we ask today.

Why is this happening to me?

What did I ever do to deserve this?

Why doesn't God let me die and end my suffering?

Why? Why? Why?

Eliphaz the Temanite.

Bildad the Shuhite.

Zophar the Naamathite.

Their basic answer? Job must have sinned.

He must have done something to deserve his treatment.

What was Job's response?



Job 6:24 "Teach me, and I will be silent;  
And show me how I have erred.

Job 19:7 "Behold, I cry, 'Violence!' but I get  
no answer; I shout for help, but there is no  
justice.

Job 23:3 "Oh that I knew where I might  
find Him, That I might come to His seat!

Job 23:4 "I would present my case before  
Him And fill my mouth with arguments.

# Elihu's Wisdom

Job 32:1 Then these three men ceased answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.

Job 32:2 But the anger of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram burned; against Job his anger burned because he justified himself before God.

Job 32:3 And his anger burned against his three friends because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.

Job 32:4 Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were years older than he.

Job 32:5 And when Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of the three men his anger burned.

Elihu had respect for his elders and was patient.

*This* you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger; (James 1:19)

Elihu demonstrated this.

Job 33:8 "Surely you have spoken in my hearing, And I have heard the sound of your words:

Job 33:9 'I am pure, without transgression; I am innocent and there is no guilt in me.

Job 33:10 'Behold, He invents pretexts against me; He counts me as His enemy.

Job 33:11 'He puts my feet in the stocks; He watches all my paths.'

Job 33:12 "Behold, let me tell you, you are not right in this, For God is greater than man.

Job 33:13 "Why do you complain against Him That He does not give an account of all His doings?

## Elihu's wisdom

We answer to God.

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. (Hebrews 4:13)

God doesn't answer to us!



Job 34:10 "Therefore, listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do wickedness, And from the Almighty to do wrong.

## Elihu's wisdom

Elihu did not know the cause of Job's problems, but he did know that God didn't do it!

# God's Response

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said,

Job 38:2 "Who is this that darkens counsel By words without knowledge?

Job 38:3 "Now gird up your loins like a man, And I will ask you, and you instruct Me!

Job 38:4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding,

Job 38:5 Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it?

Job 39:19 "Do you give the horse his might? Do you clothe his neck with a mane?

Job 39:26 "Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars, Stretching his wings toward the south?

Job 39:27 "Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up And makes his nest on high?

Job 40:2 "Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it."

Job 40:7 "Now gird up your loins like a man; I will ask you, and you instruct Me.

Job 40:8 "Will you really annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me that you may be justified?"

*By the way...*

Do you know the steps  
to human enlightenment?

*By the way...*

Do you know the steps  
to human enlightenment?

1. There is a God.



*By the way...*

Do you know the steps  
to human enlightenment?

1. There is a God.

2. You are not Him!

Job becomes enlightened

Job chapter 42

Job 42:1 Then Job answered the LORD and said,

Job 42:2 "I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

Job 42:6 Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes."

Job 42:10 The LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the LORD increased all that Job had twofold.

Job 42:11 Then all his brothers and all his sisters and all who had known him before came to him, and they ate bread with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversities that the LORD had brought on him. And each one gave him one piece of money, and each a ring of gold.

Job 42:12 The LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had 14,000 sheep and 6,000 camels and 1,000 yoke of oxen and 1,000 female donkeys.

Job 42:13 He had seven sons and three daughters.

Job 42:14 He named the first Jemimah, and the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch.

Job 42:15 In all the land no women were found so fair as Job's daughters; and their father gave them inheritance among their brothers.

Job 42:16 After this, Job lived 140 years,  
and saw his sons and his grandsons, four  
generations.

Job 42:17 And Job died, an old man and  
full of days.

Why does a kind and loving  
God allow human suffering?

1Pe 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,  
1Pe 1:7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1Pe 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;



Why does a kind and loving  
God allow human suffering?

Maybe God is testing our faith.

The real answer after studying the book of  
Job is that we don't know!

God has His reasons and He doesn't answer  
to us!

Isa 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.

Isa 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

So what do we know?

God is our Creator.

We are His children.

He loves us and wants us to go to heaven.

He understands suffering!

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and the Word  
was God.

Joh 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things came into being through  
Him, and apart from Him nothing came  
into being that has come into being.

Joh 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was  
the Light of men.

Joh 1:5 The Light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Joh 1:6 There came a man sent from God,  
whose name was John.

Joh 1:7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.

Joh 1:8 He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.

Joh 1:9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

Joh 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

Joh 1:11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

Joh 1:13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Joh 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Consider Christ's suffering....

His children that He created crucified Him!

He created the iron that made the nails that they drove into His hands and feet.

He was in excruciating physical pain and incredible emotional torment.

He understands suffering!

Are you suffering?

How are you suffering? Physical pain?  
Illness? Marital Problems? Loneliness?  
Money problems? Something else?

Are you suffering because of guilt brought  
on by sin?

Are you suffering from a broken  
relationship with God your Father?



God has not promised us that we will not suffer in this life.

He has promised us a home in heaven.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

*1. HEAR the Word (Rom. 10:17)*

*2. BELIEVE the Word (Heb. 11:6)*

*3. CONFESS Christ (Rom. 10:9,10)*

*4. REPENT of your sins (Luke 13:3)*

*5. BE BAPTIZED into Christ (Mark 16:16)*