

Job

Suffering - Punishment for the Wicked?

Job 15-21

Gathering: Do bad things happen to bad people and good things happen to good people?

Today's Focus: Job's friends try to help see that his troubles are the result of his wickedness.

Key Verses: *Why do the wicked live on, growing old and increasing in power?* Job 21:7

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in the flesh I will see God. Job 19:25-26

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Review of Studies 1 & 2

The Book of Job - Likely oldest book in existence, Story occurred around 1800 BC (time of Isaac)
First OT book of poetry - Hebrew poetry is based on parallelism

Job Loses His Belongings and Health - *Chapters 1 & 2*

What do we learn about Job? = Blameless & upright, God was proud of him

What did Satan ask God to do in Chapter 1? = Take away Job's blessings

What did Satan ask God to do in Chapter 2? = Take away Job's health

How did God respond in both cases? = Allowed Satan to do so within limits

What did Satan take from Job? = Property, business, family, health (boils)

How did Job respond to his losses? = Mourned losses, but blessed God

Did Satan win these battles? = No, Job proved Satan wrong by remaining faithful

Summary of Story

Was Job suffering as the result of a serious sin or sins? = No

What had Job done to deserve his suffering? = Nothing

Had God sent the suffering to test Job? = No, he allowed Satan

Did Job realize the reasons behind his suffering? = No

Was Job happy about what had happened? = No, he was filled with grief

Job Breaks the Silence - *Chapter 3*

What were Job's 3 wishes? = Wished he: Never been born; died at birth; would die now

Why did Job long for these? = He would be at peace & rest, not be in misery

The Causes and The Solutions - *Chapters 4, 5, 8 & 11*

What did Job's friends understand to be the causes of Job's troubles?

Eliphaz (4:7-11) = Only the evil receive trouble, the innocent never perish

Bildad (8:1-4) = Job's children were sinful

Zophar (11:1-6) = Job mocked God by claiming innocence as God was punishing

Where did Job's friends claim to receive their profound insights?

Eliphaz (4:12-5:7) = He was given a vision from God

Bildad (8:8-10) = From the wisdom of the elders

Zophar (11:7-12) = God's wisdom in this is beyond Job's understanding

What solutions did Job's friends offer?

Eliphaz (5:8-27) = Repent to God and he will restore you

Bildad (8:5-7) = Plead to God, be pure & upright, God will respond & restore you

Zophar (11:13-20) = Devote self to God & put away sin, God will remove troubles

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Review of Studies 1 & 2 (continued)

Job's Friend's Wisdom

In a nutshell, what did the friends understand to be the situation?

= These troubles from God are to persuade you to repent your great sin

Were Job's friends correct? = No, Job had done nothing to bring this on

Job's Response - *Chapters 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13 & 14*

Did Job agree or disagree with his friends' analysis?

Job 9:21 = Disagree - I am blameless

How did Job thank his friends for their support?

Job 6:14,21 = Friends should be kind to the troubled, you are of no help

Job 12:2 = You obviously have all the wisdom & it will be gone when you die

Job 12:7-8 = Even the animals, birds, fish & earth can teach you

Job 13:4-5 = You are quacks, you are wisest when you say nothing

What did Job ask of God?

Job 7:20 = Why am I your target? Have I become a burden to you?

Job 10:2 = What charges do you have against me?

Job 13:20-22 = God, give me 2 things: stop scaring me and speak with me

Job 14:13 = Let me die & raise me when you're not angry

With Friends Like These - Eliphaz = Example of how the friends get stronger in condemning Job

How did Eliphaz address Job after the silence was broken?

Job 4:4-6 = You have helped others, now you need help. Take hope in your righteousness

How did this change after Job rejected his friends' advice?

Job 15:1-6 = You're full of hot air. You reject God. You condemn yourself

How did Job respond to Eliphaz's accusations?

Job 16:1-5 = You are miserable comforters. What ails you? I would comfort you

How did Eliphaz change after Job rejected the second round of advice?

Job 22:5-10 = You are a very evil man. That's why you are having troubles

How did Job reply to this last charge?

Job 29:11-13 (7-17) = I was known for charity. I helped the poor, orphans, dying, widows

How would you feel or respond if you were Job?

Job 17:4 = God has closed their minds to reason, but they will fail

Why did Eliphaz believe he was right and Job was wrong?

Job 15:9-10 (7-13) = You don't know more than us. The wise elders are on our side

What support did Eliphaz claim even greater than the wise elders?

Job 15:17-19 = Wise men have known this since the first of our forefathers

What reason does Eliphaz give that man can't be as pure as Job claims to be?

Job 15:14-16 = Angels aren't even that pure. Man is vile & corrupt

How does this differ from Job's view of man's relation to God?

Job 10:12 = God gave life, showed kindness, watched over man

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The Wicked Suffer (Eliphaz) - Chapter 15

According to Eliphaz, who receives the kind of suffering Job has seen?

Job 15:20 = The wicked is tormented his whole life

What kinds of torments do the wicked experience? = Write list on board

Job 15:21-24 = Sounds, attacks, darkness, sword, wanders, death looms, anguish, terror

Why should the wicked expect these things?

Job 15:25-26 = *Because he shakes his fist at God ... defiant*

How does Eliphaz explain prosperity we might see among the wicked?

Job 15:27-29 = Though he may prosper, he will live without friends & lose his wealth

How does Eliphaz compare the wicked to a plant?

Job 15:30-33 = Stays in darkness, fire destroys shoots, God blows away blossom, stripped of all

What is the offspring of the wicked?

Job 15:34-35 = They give birth to trouble, evil, deceit

Is Eliphaz correct in describing reality?

The Wicked Suffer (Bildad) - Chapter 18

What is the meaning of the wicked being in darkness?

Job 18:5-6 = When an Arab meets misfortune, he says "fate has put out my lamp"

What kinds of traps await the wicked?

Job 18:7-8 (7-10) = "his own schemes throw him down", ...consequences of his sins

What kind of life does Bildad say the wicked can expect?

Job 18:12 (11-14) = Disaster is ready for him when he falls

What kind of legacy does the wicked leave?

Job 18:17 (15-20) = No memory is left of him

Is Bildad correct in describing reality?

The Wicked Suffer (Zophar) - Chapter 20

What does Zophar say about the joy and pride of the wicked?

Job 20:5-7 (4-11) = Joy and pride is brief, the wicked will perish forever

How does evil taste to the wicked?

Job 20:12-14 (12-16) = Evil tastes sweet, but makes him sick after eating it

Does the wicked get to taste his successes?

Job 20:18 (17-19) = He will give back the fruit of his work, uneaten

What happens when the wicked has eaten his fill?

Job 20:22-23 (20-28) = the full force of misery and God's anger will come down on him

How does Zophar say this is assured?

Job 20:29 = This is the fate & heritage allotted by God for the wicked

Is Zophar correct in describing reality?

Discerning The Wicked and The Righteous (Job) - Chapters 16 & 17

How do the wicked respond to Job's troubles?

Job 16:10-11 = They are happy about Job's misfortune and attack him when he is down

How do the righteous respond to Job's troubles? = Don't use Good News version here

Job 17:8 (6-9) = The righteous are appalled and stirred up against the godless

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The Wicked Prosper (Job) - Chapter 21

Does Job agree that the life of the wicked is full of troubles?

Job 21:7 (1-7) = Why do the wicked grow old and gain power?

What proof does Job offer that the wicked also prosper? = Write list on board

Job 21:8-13 (8-16) = Children prosper, safe homes, good upon good, enjoy life, die in peace

What proof does Job offer that the wicked is not punished in life?

Job 21:17,29-31 (17-21, 27-33) = He is spared from calamity, he is not accused or punished

Can we expect equal treatment through life?

Job 21:22-26 = One man prospers, another suffers, both die

What reward can the faithful expect? = Don't use Good News version here

Job 19:25-26 (23-27) = I know that my Redeemer lives. After death I will see God

Job Responds to His "Friends' Wisdom" - Chapters 16, 17 & 19

How does Job feel about his friends' advice and how he should respond?

Job 16:2-3, 6 (1-6) = They are *miserable comforters*, It doesn't help whether he speaks or not

How has Job responded to what has happened to him? = He has mourned & remained righteous

Job 16:7, 15-17 (7-17) = God has attacked, but he hasn't fought back

What friend does Job look to for help?

Job 16:19-21 (18-21) = A mediator in heaven who intercedes with God on Job's behalf

How helpful are the friends that Job has on earth?

Job 17:1-2, 10, 12 (16:22-17:16) = Even in his final days they mock him out of their foolishness

How does Job respond to his friends after Bildad speaks the second time? = It's between me and God

Job 19:2-4 (1-6) = *How long will you torment [and] shamelessly attack me?*

What concerns Job more than the attacks of his friends?

Job 19:7-8 (7-12) = The attacks by God

Why does he believe his friends are against him?

Job 19:13, 19 (13-20) = God has turned them against him

What does Job ask of his friends?

Job 19:21-22 = Their pity and support as God attacks him

Since they don't support him, how does Job conclude his comments about his friends' miserable comfort?

Job 19:28-29 = You should be concerned over punishment for the evil way you are treating me

How does Bildad respond to Job's comments?

Job 18:2-3 (1-4) = Be sensible and stop calling us stupid beasts

Why does Zophar respond even knowing that Job will reject what he says?

Job 20:2-3 = I understand the situation and have to reply, no matter what you think of me

Closing Prayer

Next Week - *Suffering – Beyond Man's Understanding?* (Job 22-31)