

## The Ultimate Job

Remember Job said, *"I am the innocent sufferer!"*

No, Job, you're not, There is only One whom God has ever afflicted who didn't deserve it.

Job says, *"I've been cut off from God!"*

No, Job, you don't know what it's like to be cut off from God when you're innocent, when you love him with all your heart.

In all humanity and in all of Scripture there is only one who has been completely cut off and who was totally innocent.

**Jesus Christ.**

Think how much better we have it than Job, yes, he saw God at great price, but we know the real *innocent Sufferer*. We know the real *Intercessor of our souls before God*.

*Blessed, are those who believe without seeing me." John 20:29*

### Community Group Questions:

1. What part of Job's suffering can you relate to?
2. How do you reconcile unfair circumstances with God's purpose for your life?
3. Have you considered when you whine about your circumstances, how you might be putting God on trial?
4. Time to speculate. Why do you think God let Satan attack Job?

Sierra Community Church August 6th, 2023 Part 1 When God Comes Close-Dan Wilvers



### When Job Meets God *Trusting God in the face of unjust suffering*

*"My ears had heard of you but now  
my eyes have seen you." Job 42:5*

The Book of Job is an ancient story, most probably during the time of the Patriarchs, (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) so it predates Moses and the Israelite people.

Everyone who reads Job assumes it will answer the question of *"Why does God allow suffering?"* It doesn't.

Instead the real questions God asks in this book are: *Is God just? Does he order the world according to justice?*

So the vast portion of the book seeks for the answer of **"How is Job's suffering to be explained?"**

### Chapters 3-31

#### Job and his friends argue over the meaning of Job's suffering

Because Job's culture like our own today says:  
Wise and good people; God will bless  
Evil, ignorant people will be punished.

**Job's argument is clear:** *"I'm innocent, therefore my suffering isn't punishment from God."*

God tells us, *Job is righteous and blameless. Job 1:8*

#### **Job concludes that either:**

God doesn't run the world according to justice,  
or worse, God is simply unjust.

#### **Job's friend's conclusion:**

Job is being punished for something he's done

Job disagrees and takes up his case directly with God.  
*"How I wish a court would hear my case! Here I sign my name to show I have told the truth. Now let the Almighty answer me; let the one who accuses me write it down.*  
*Job 31:35*

### Chapter 32-37

**Job has a fourth and younger friend named Elihu.**

Who has the same assumption as the other friends.  
God is just and he orders the universe according to his justice.  
However he has a more sophisticated conclusion about why good people suffer. Elihu says:

*God may use suffering to help others avoid future sin.*  
*God might use suffering to build character/to teach people valuable lessons.*

But Elihu cannot say what is the cause of Job's suffering.

### Chapter 38-42

**God shows up in a whirlwind**

*Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind Job 38:1*

God asks "Who are you, over and over again?"

- **When dealing with suffering, listen to God.**

For four chapters God rebukes Job.

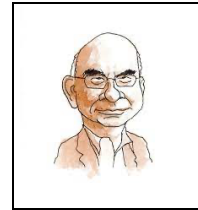
*"Job where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? ... Tell me, if you know so much.*  
*Job 38:4*

*Is it at your command that the eagle soars, and builds its nest on high? Job 39:27*

*"Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let the person who accuses God give him an answer!"... (Job) "Indeed, I am completely unworthy—how could I reply to you?"*  
*Job 40:2,4*

*Who has confronted me that I should repay? Everything under heaven belongs to me!*  
*Job 41:11*

**And Finally:** *'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?'*  
*Job 42:3*



*"Either you are competent to judge God's knowledge and you can sit in judgment on him, or else He is superior and competent to sit in judgment on you, but there's nothing in the middle. "* Author/Teacher Tim Keller

**You can push this argument even further:** *"If there is no God, then what in the world are you complaining about? But if there is a God, how dare you think you would know better?"*

**That's God's infallible logic in the Book of Job.**

**God's grace to Job:**

God understands how hard this was on Job, and by his presence Job is immeasurably changed.

*I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes.*  
*<sup>6</sup>I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance."*  
*Job 42:5,6*

**So why is there suffering in the world?**

The only answer we get is that we live in an extremely complex and amazing world and at this stage at least, it isn't designed to prevent suffering.