

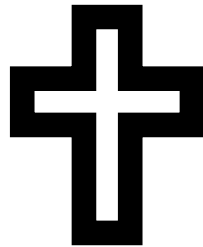
Twelve Lessons

on

The Book of Job

by

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THE BOOK OF THE EMPTY CHAIR – LESSON 1

Job 1:1

Introduction: The book of Job is necessary for the believer. Everyone will experience some of the heartaches Job managed to survive.

1. Job 1:1 – *“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.”*
2. No one knows where Uz is, but it is not in Israel, the community of the promise. It is not in the Old Covenant land flowing with milk and honey. So it might as well be anywhere in the world. Uz is the land where Job lived (Job 1:11). Two possible locations are Hauran, south of Damascus, and the area between Edom and northern Arabia. The exact location of the land of Uz is unknown, but it was probably east of the Jordan River in the Syrian or Arabian desert.
3. Typically, Uz could be anywhere tragedy raises its ugly head. It could be Oklahoma City, New York City, or the disease stricken countries of Africa.
4. In Job’s home, there were empty chairs, there were boils covering his body, a wife who questions his beliefs, and friends who turn their back on him. This could be duplicated in the lives of believers, worldwide. The book of
5. Job deals with this problem, Job loves God, and God loves him, acknowledging Job to be a righteous man. Why does God treat him the way he does? That is a real question, isn't it? It is always raised at the time of tragedies. There are Christians not getting their heart's desire, not able to have children, contracting illnesses, men facing sudden redundancy, the wretched husband who walks out on a Christian wife, leaving her and the four children. There is a child who runs out into the street and gets knocked down by a car. Why do such things happen?
6. Why them? Why are we here while they are not? Am I less of a sinner? Why has God allowed it? Such questions must erupt again and again on our pilgrimage through life. Can the Book of Job help us? If it can, then what a book it would turn out to be. Job was true believer and here is God's inspired commentary on the issue of believers who suffer. Maybe in one sentence in one sermon there will be a truth that will just be the key to open up a puzzling part of your life. Maybe some light will be given, and that's all you need.
7. We will study the benefits derived from the book of Job. William Henry Green lists a number of these in his book, "Conflict and Triumph: The Argument of Job Unfolded" which has been recently republished by the Banner of Truth: We will discuss these in this lesson.
 - a. Benefit Number 1 – To drive us to God so that we will learn always to take refuge in Him.
 - b. Benefit Number 2 – To train us for the Christian warfare.
 - c. Benefit Number 3 – To intensify our hatred of sin.
 - d. Benefit Number 4 – To add to our knowledge of ourselves.
 - e. Benefit Number 5 – To lead us to growth in grace.
 - f. Benefit Number 6 – To wean us from love for this world.
 - g. Benefit Number 7 – To heighten our future glory.
 - h. Benefit Number 8 – To testify to the glory of God’s grace.

Lesson Goals:

1. To explain that suffering will not always be understood.
2. To visualize how God charges some with suffering.
3. To understand how God gets glory through a believer’s suffering.

Definitions of Important Terms and/or Phrases:

1. Suffering – Agony, affliction, or distress; intense pain or sorrow. Suffering has been part of the human experience since man's fall into sin (Gen 3). The Psalms, one-third of which are laments, include graphic descriptions of suffering (Ps 22). The theme of the Book of Job is the problem of suffering and why God permits the righteous to suffer. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
2. Righteousness – The cross of Jesus is a public demonstration of God's righteousness. God accounts or transfers the righteousness of Christ to those who trust in Him (Rom 4:3-22; Gal 3:6; Phil 3:9). We do not become righteous because of our inherent goodness; God sees us as righteous because of our identification by faith with His Son. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
3. Morning Star – In 2 Peter 1:19, *“Until the daystar arise in your hearts,”* the word is literally, “light-bringer.” It is applicable, therefore, not only to the planet Venus, seen as a morning star, herald of the dawn, but to the sun itself, and is used here as a title of Our Lord. (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia).

I. SUFFERING IS GIVEN AS AN MYSTERY – Why do the righteous suffer? – Job 14:1 – “*Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.*” Heb. 12:5-14, Rom. 8:28, Psa. 119:67 & 71

A. Suffering is Universal

1. Troubles and Sufferings come to all classes, rich-poor, proud-humble, educated-uneducated, saint-sinners.
2. There is Mental, Physical, Spiritual Troubles.
3. Many folks that appear free but down in their hearts, may be bearing some kind of burden.

B. Suffering in General – The Bible teaches that suffering in general is a result of sin.

1. If there had never been any sin, it is reasonable to believe there'd never been any suffering. As long as there's sin, there'll be suffering
2. Don't misinterpret that statement. Just because a person is suffering, does not necessarily mean he's sinned.
3. Job's comforters made that mistake.
 - a. The book of Job written to show that's not so.
 - b. Saints do suffer but not necessarily because of sin.
 - c. Suffering comes sometimes when your doing right. Examples – Daniel, Paul, Timothy.
4. Truth is some people suffer because of someone else's sin.
 - a. Husbands-wives
 - b. Parent's-children
 - c. Children-Parents (wild oats)
5. When we see the unsaved suffering, we console ourselves by saying – “*Wages of sin is death; the way of the transgressor is hard; you reap what you sow; be sure your sins will find you out.*”
6. But when we see the righteous suffer, it is a different problem. We ask why?
 - a. We become perplexed. Often we resent, rebel, become stubborn, and blame God.
 - b. Some things we'll never understand, we just believe and trust God.
7. God has never promised to exempt us from suffering but gives us strength, grace, to bear, and victory to overcome.
8. If God freed us from suffering there would be a temptation to serve God in order to escape them. God does not want us to serve him because of the fishes and loaves, but to serve him out of love.
9. If we never suffered, we wouldn't know how to be sympathetic. Jesus suffered to become the Perfect Comforter
10. Some of the best and most precious things have come to us through suffering (Jesus suffered to let us know how much he loved us).
11. Suffering reveals grace. When the world sees a child of God suffer yet has light and glory they know there is something to their God. The greatest proof of salvation is to put it to the test and see it victorious.
12. Why Do Christians Suffer?

II. SUFFERING GIVEN AS A TRUST

A. Consecration – That God can trust them with the Ministry of suffering.

1. In the book of Job – Satan came and God got satisfaction out of reminding Satan that Job was a righteous man. Job 1:8 – “*Hast thou considered my servant Job?*”
2. Satan insinuated and accused Job of serving God for nothing.
3. Satan said – Let me have his property; his sons & daughters. What did Job do? – “*The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.*”
4. Satan came back and accused Job again. Job 2:3 – Again God told it again – Satan probably wished the question of Job would be dropped.
 - a. Satan “afflicted Job” – His wife and friends turned their back on him and accused him. It was a dark hour
 - b. Job – “*Though he slay me, yet I will trust in Him*” – He may put me in the fire, but I know that I shall come forth as gold. Even though the skin worms devour this body of mine, yet I know I shall see my redeemer.

B. Conclusion

1. Point: Job couldn't understand his afflictions but he glorified God by bearing them in the right way.
2. Point: If Job Had Known he was being put on exhibit for the world to see the faith God had in him.
 - a. If he could have known the blessing his story has been to others, he would have had a shouting spell right then.
 - b. To know that an Eternal God trusted him with the ministry of suffering.

c. Could God trust us that much? Be careful how you bear your afflictions. Don't betray his trust.

III. SUFFERING GIVES JESUS A CHANCE TO GET GLORY

A. Point: It takes darkness of night to bring out the beauty of the stars. It takes clouds and storms to see the rainbow.

B. Same with Suffering – Many times we don't appreciate the beauty of Jesus the Bright and Morning Star until the dark night of testing.