



What Would Job Say

About Suffering?

Job 42:17

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NEVADA • JULY 23, 2023

• All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted.

• God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.

• Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

A. The Story of Job

1. The name Job (Heb. **יֵהוָה** *jee-obe*) means, "Where is God?"
2. The person, Job, is famed for his patience in suffering (but he wasn't really.)
3. It is said of Job, "There once was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil." (Job 1:1, NLT)
4. God and Satan had a talk and God allowed Satan to afflict Job but set boundaries on Satan's attack.
5. In one afternoon, Job lost everything—his fortune, his flocks, his family, and on the next day, he even lost his health.
6. Job ends up on the ash pile of life with even his wife discouraging him.
7. Job had three friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar) who were terrible ministers and counselors. They said, "...Listen! God is doubtless punishing you far less than you deserve!" Job 11:6, NLT
8. With stress like this, pursuing patience wasn't at the top of Job's 'To do' list. Job says, ¹⁹ Why won't you (God) leave me alone, at least long enough for

me to swallow! ²⁰ If I have sinned, what have I done to you, O watcher of all humanity? Why make me your target? Am I a burden to you? - Job 7:19–20, NLT

9. God was silent for some time but when He did speak, He had choice words for Job—in the form of 77 questions—all pointed to God's sovereignty.
10. Job repented, his friends were rebuked, and God restored and doubled everything back to Job.

B. What Would Job Say About Suffering?

1. The question is not "why," but "who." ("Who is God?" and "Who am I?")
2. We can either live as *God's servant* or *Satan's slave*.
3. It's not about our comfort—it's about God's glory.
4. We need to be very careful who our friends and counselors are.
5. The book that tells his story, *The Book of Job*, is not about suffering. It's about Job's process and character amid suffering.
6. The sovereignty of God and the constancy of His love towards his own does not mean that we should not expect adversity.
7. There is a limit to man's understanding—that's not true of God.
8. When we are in a storm, answers won't cure or comfort—only God's presence will.
9. God is the creator of all things, the one who comprehends all things, the One who controls all things. He is also the one who cares about all things and will soon cure all things.
10. **Our goal is to keep our faith strong and make sure our heart belongs completely to God while persevering in the care of God's sovereignty.**

C. A Closing Thought

Job 42:17, NASB95 - ¹⁷ And Job died [Heb. **יָמוֹת**, pronounced *ya-mot*, is in **Qal** verb stem (refers to a process that is not completed, is a step in a process but not the last step; **Incomplete** meaning there is a promise or assurance of "completion" in the future. The Septuagint (the Greek copy of the OT) adds a phrase for clarification, "(Job) will rise again with those whom the Lord will raise up.") **an old** [an honorable reference to a older] **man and full** [as "old" represents a lot of days; "full" represents the type of days. In Job's case, there was wisdom and satisfaction at the end] **of [his] days**. [This phrase is a fulfillment, of sorts, of Psalm 91:16, "With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation." **Maybe, this is not a reference just to our "death and resurrection."** **Better yet, I believe this means being with God now, and in heaven in the future, forever—because we gave our heart to Him in the past.** NOTE: Psalm 91 was not written to just King David or just Israel but to all who have given their hearts to God. Application: We need to make sure our heart is completely His—always, but especially in a season of suffering. Suffering is not about our comfort; it's about God's glory!]