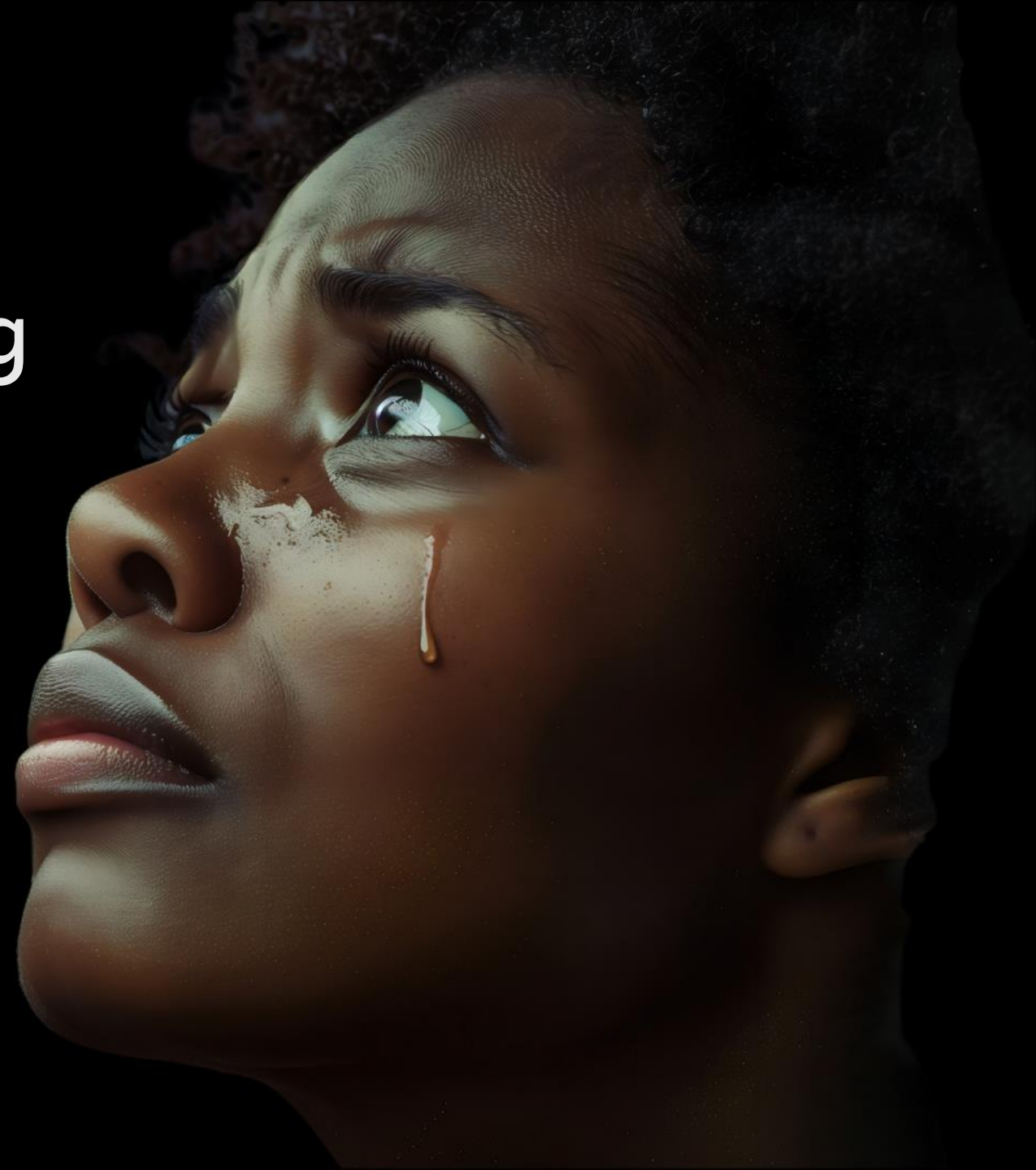
THE PROBLEM OF PAIN
God's Word on Suffering

Job's Testimony



An examination & response to the
The Problem of Pain

Job 1:1-22

An examination & response to the
The Problem of Pain

I. Common Responses to Suffering

A. Avoidance or Numbing

B. Emotional Expression

C. Internalization

D. Seek Explanation of Meaning

II. What God Teaches Us from Job's Life

A. A Look at His Faith

1. Up and Down, but not Out
2. Cursing
3. Praying
4. Questioning
5. Believing

6. We learn that no matter the lack of answers

a. Though he slay me, yet will I trust

b. Shall we accept good and no adversity from God?

c. I know my Redeemer lives and I will see Him in the last day!

B. A Survey of His Friends

1. Accuse (4-14)

a. Eliphaz- no innocent person ever perishes
b. Bildad- Your children were penalized for their sin
c. Zophar- Don't you know God has even forgotten some of your sin?
d. Job says, prove it!

2. Condemn (15-21)

a. Eliphaz- Your denial is hindering your relationship

b. Bildad- Your actions are those of one who knows not God

c. Zophar- This is what happens to wicked people

3. Castigate- reprimand severely (22-28)

a. Eliphaz- Your wickedness is great and sins endless

b. Bildad- There's no way you can be right...you had to do something, after all you're a man Job

c. Zophar- Is done with the situation

d. Job- If I could find Him, I'd plead my case, but however, I'll come forth as pure gold!

4. Admonish (Elihu) (32-37)

a. He is young but wise and moves the argument of the book

b. Condemns Retribution theology and the other three

c. Rebukes Job for maintaining innocence and insinuating fault with God

d. He prepares us for God's speech

C. God Speaks (38-42)

1. God bombards Job with over 70 questions, of which he is unable to answer any (38)

2. Job admits to being small potatoes in the grand scheme of things (40:4) and has spoken out of turn

D. His Finish (42)

1. He confesses God's Sovereignty (42:2)

2. He Admits his Ignorance (42:3, 5)

E. Lessons Learned

1. Bad things don't just happen to bad people

2. A moral life **untested** lacks true knowledge about and a true **relationship** with God

E. Lessons Learned

3. When we expect God to explain Himself, it **presumes** right, and accountability, and also the wisdom to understand His reasons.

4. A genuine relationship with the Creator, no matter how rocky, can withstand the pressures of life and suffering!



Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“The primal sin of humanity is to put the knowledge of good and evil before the knowledge of God”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer