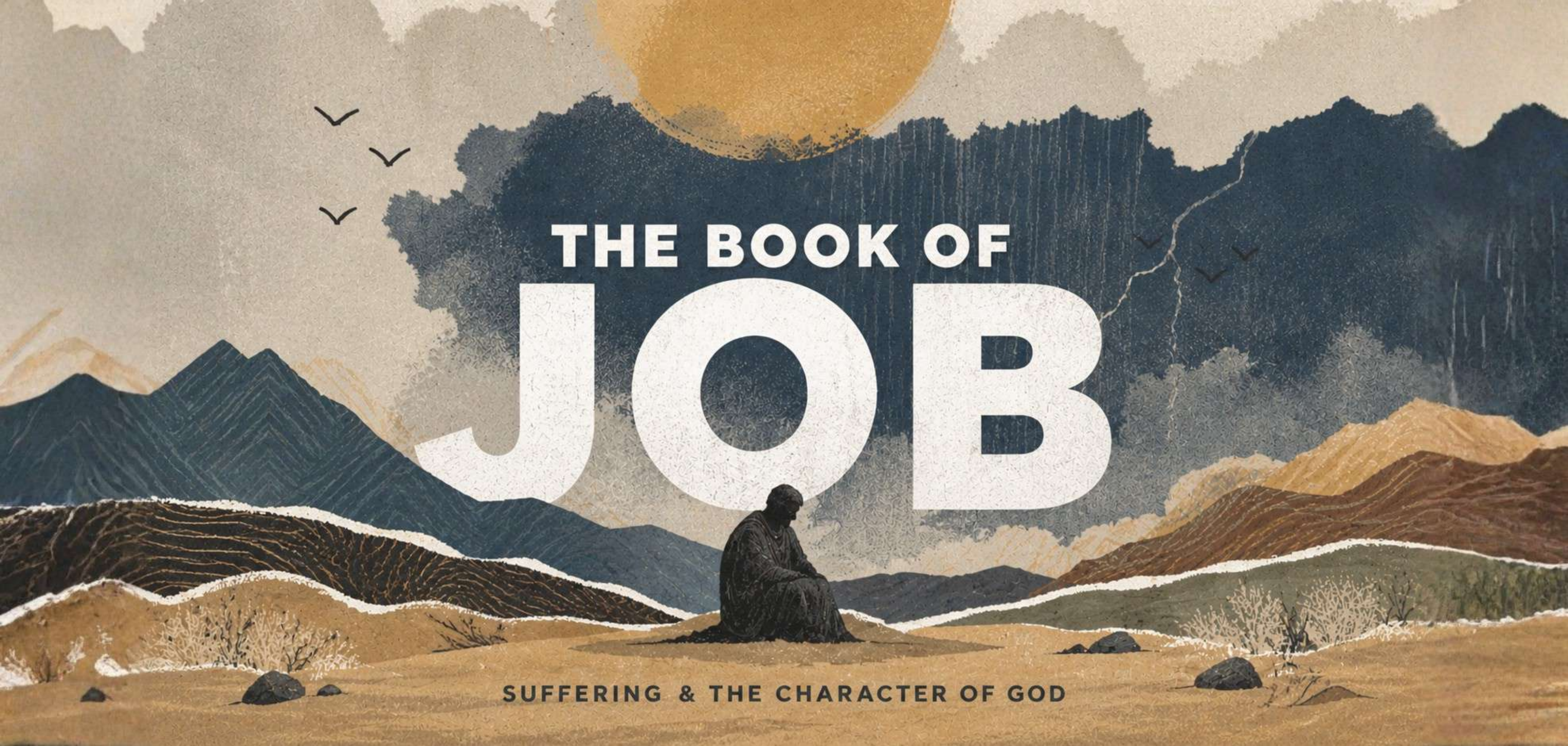




THE BOOK OF JOB

SUFFERING & THE CHARACTER OF GOD

THE HISTORICAL QUESTION

QUESTION

CONSENSUS

Was Job historical?

Possible, and perhaps even likely,
but not provable.

Does the Bible give enough information to
identify him historically?

No.

Is the book primarily concerned with
history?

No; it is primarily theological
wisdom literature.

Does the message depend on proving
Job's historicity?

No. The book's authority and theological
force rest on its inspired message about
God's wisdom, human suffering, and
faithful trust.

JOB'S LITERARY GENRE

1. WISDOM LITERATURE

- Proverbs (aphorisms)
- Instruction
- Dialogue
- Reflection and Meditation
- Wisdom Poetry, Parable, Drama, Fable
- Lament
- Disputation



2. KEY TAKEAWAY

Job is closest to a
“WISDOM DRAMA”
due to its literary structure.

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

² “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³ Dress for action like a man;

I will question you, and you make it known to me.

JOB 38:1-3

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶ On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷ when the morning stars sang together

and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

JOB 38:4-7

“Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb,
⁹ when I made clouds its garment
and thick darkness its swaddling band,
¹⁰ and prescribed limits for it
and set bars and doors,
¹¹ and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?

JOB 38:8-11

“Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place,
¹³ that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
and the wicked be shaken out of it?
¹⁴ It is changed like clay under the seal,
and its features stand out like a garment.
¹⁵ From the wicked their light is withheld,
and their uplifted arm is broken.

JOB 38:12-15

“Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?
¹⁷ Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
¹⁸ Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this.

JOB 38:16-18

“Where is the way to the dwelling of light,
and where is the place of darkness,
²⁰ that you may take it to its territory
and that you may discern the paths to its home?
²¹ You know, for you were born then,
and the number of your days is great!

JOB 38:19-21

“Have you entered the storehouses of the snow,
or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,
²³ which I have reserved for the time of trouble,
for the day of battle and war?
²⁴ What is the way to the place where the light is distributed,
or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth?

JOB 38:22-24

“Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain
and a way for the thunderbolt,
²⁶ to bring rain on a land where no man is,
on the desert in which there is no man,
²⁷ to satisfy the waste and desolate land,
and to make the ground sprout with grass?

JOB 38:25-27

“Has the rain a father,
or who has begotten the drops of dew?
29 From whose womb did the ice come forth,
and who has given birth to the frost of heaven?
30 The waters become hard like stone,
and the face of the deep is frozen.

JOB 38:28-30

“Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades
or loose the cords of Orion?

³² Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season,
or can you guide the Bear with its children?

³³ Do you know the ordinances of the heavens?
Can you establish their rule on the earth?

JOB 38:31-33

“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
that a flood of waters may cover you?
³⁵ Can you send forth lightnings, that they may go
and say to you, ‘Here we are’?
³⁶ Who has put wisdom in the inward parts
or given understanding to the mind?
³⁷ Who can number the clouds by wisdom?
Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,
³⁸ when the dust runs into a mass
and the clods stick fast together?

JOB 38:34-38

“Can you hunt the prey for the lion,
or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,
40 when they crouch in their dens
or lie in wait in their thicket?
41 Who provides for the raven its prey,
when its young ones cry to God for help,
and wander about for lack of food?

JOB 38:39-41

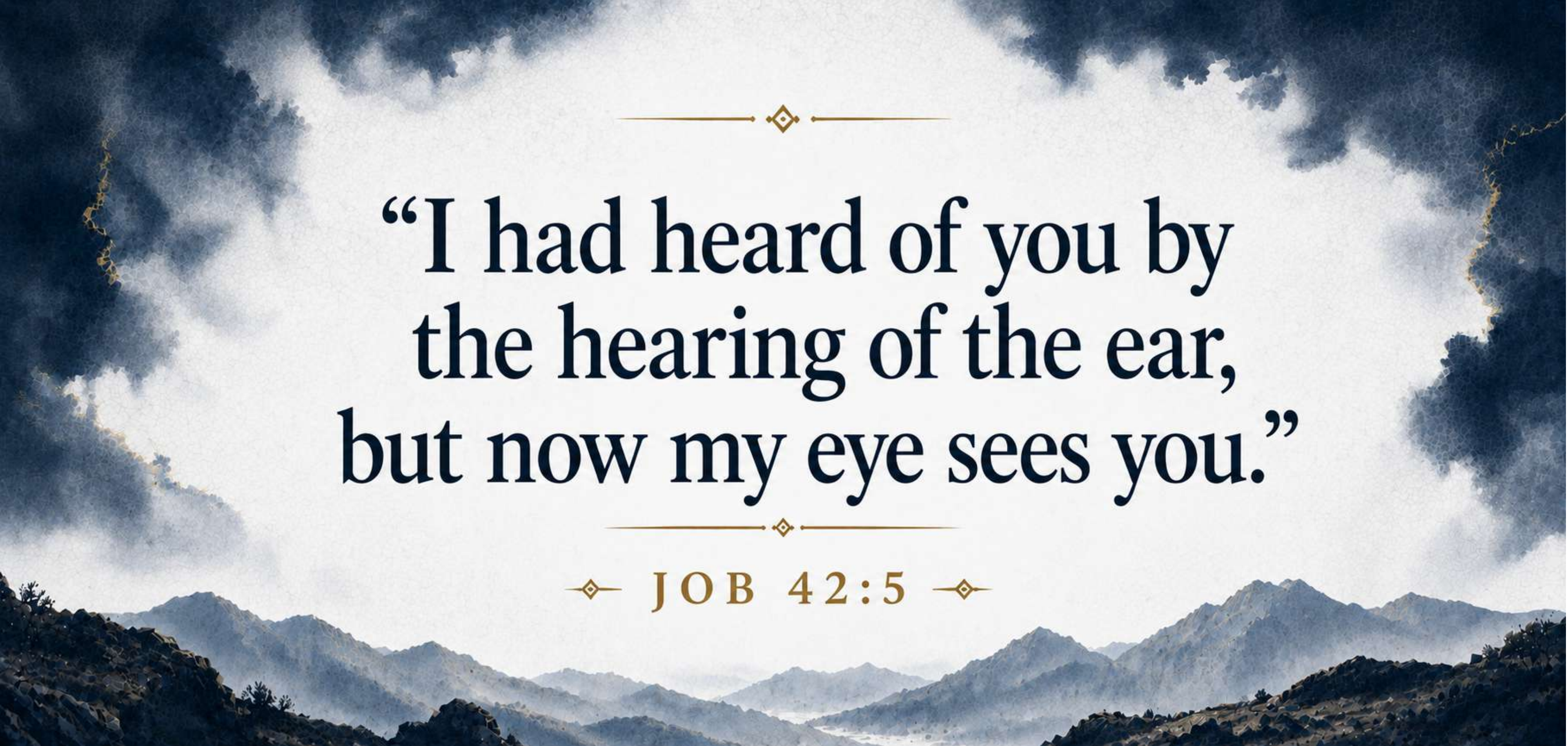
Then Job answered the Lord and said:

- ² “I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
³ ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
⁴ ‘Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you make it known to me.’

JOB 42:1-4

**5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;**
6 therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes.”

JOB 42:1-4



“I had heard of you by
the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you.”

— ◆ — J O B 4 2 : 5 — ◆ —

¹⁰ And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. ¹¹ Then came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and ate bread with him in his house. And they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil [disaster] that the Lord had brought upon him. And each of them gave him a piece of money and a ring of gold.

JOB 42:10-11

¹² And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. And he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. ¹³ He had also seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴ And he called the name of the first daughter Jemimah, and the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-happuch. ¹⁵ And in all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters. And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. ¹⁶ And after this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, four generations. ¹⁷ And Job died, an old man, and full of days.

JOB 42:12-17



LIVE

THE

TEXT

**WHY DO
GOOD PEOPLE
SUFFER?**

TWO PATHS



PATH 1

SUFFERING AS A DIRECT RESULT
OF OUR OWN SIN OR THE
EVIDENT SIN OF OTHERS.

When it comes to understanding our suffering,
there are two general paths.



PATH 2

SUFFERING FOR REASONS
BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING.

EXAMPLES INCLUDE:



NATURAL
DISASTERS



A CHILD BORN
WITH A DISABILITY



A SUDDEN
UNEXPLAINED
DEATH



AND OTHER
MYSTERIES
OF LIFE

LIVE THE TEXT



1.

Job invites us to trust God's wisdom when we suffer.

- *"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted."* // **JOB 42:2**
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2.

Our perfect example is Jesus.

- *"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."* // **LUKE 22:42**