

# WOMEN IN THE WORD OF

## FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

“Job: A 12-Week Study” by Eric Ortlund

Week Twelve: Summary and conclusion

May 3, 2022

Studying the book of Job has been a challenging endeavor. It is ancient and often difficult to understand. It is a work of literature, mostly poetry, which makes it demanding for us to read. It examines some of the most profound questions and issues in life. But it has been worth the effort, for God has revealed to us so many marvelous truths in this tremendous work.

### Purposes of Job

From John Morrison:

1. To teach that in this fallen world, God permits bad things that do not necessarily imply God’s judgment or discipline.
2. To show that fallen people try to make sense out of difficult things for which there is no earthly answer rather than trusting God. (This was true of Job as well as his friends.)
3. To show that God has given Satan power in this world to wreak havoc, but he’s on a leash. He can do no more than our sovereign God allows.
4. To show that trusting the character, heart and person of our sovereign and good God is always right, even when we don’t understand.
5. To show that it is always impudent to insist that God explain Himself.

6. To remind us that we live in a perpetual spiritual battle in which God is displaying us before the angelic host. His goal in the battle is for our faith to honor Him, and Satan's goal is to get us to believe that God is not trustworthy and worthy of our obedience.

Ephesians 3:8-11

### Other purposes/lessons from the book of Job

1. We need to empathize with those who are suffering, and we should be especially sensitive and gracious when talking with or ministering to them.

2. Our words matter, and that we need to weigh them carefully before we speak.

3. Wisdom comes from God alone; we must go to the Source when we need wisdom.

Job 28

4. God transcends all human knowledge and understanding.

Isaiah 55:8-9

5. For now, evil and chaos are part of God's order. But they are under God's sovereign control and bounded by His goodness.

6. "A person reaps what he sows" is a general principle. God is not bound so that a person reaps only what he sows.

7. We see foreshadowings of the gospel in several places in the book of Job.

Job 16:19, 19:25, 33:24

8. Doubts and questions do not necessarily imply a lack of faith or rebellion against God. God does not expect us to live without expressing our emotions.

9. God reveals Himself to man in His time. He simply pointed Job to creation and nature. And it was enough.

10. For the believer in Jesus Christ, suffering is temporary. It may last weeks, months, years, or even decades, but restoration will come and will last for eternity.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

## Closing thoughts

And we know that <sup>1a</sup>God <sup>1b</sup>causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. Romans 8:28 (NASB)

More than that, I count all things to be loss <sup>1a</sup>in view of the surpassing value of <sup>1b</sup>knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, <sup>1c</sup>for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them *mere* rubbish, so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and <sup>1d</sup>the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; Philippians 3:8-10 (NASB)

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:3-5 (ESV)

Billy Graham:

The book of Job does not set out to answer the problem of suffering, but to proclaim a God so great that no answer is needed.

Charles Spurgeon:

We are not all like Job, but we all have Job's God. Though we have neither risen to Job's wealth, nor will, probably, ever sink to Job's poverty, yet there is the same God above us if we be high, and the same God with his everlasting arms beneath us if we be brought low; and what the Lord did for Job he will do for us, not precisely in the same form, but in the same spirit, and with like design. If, therefore, we are brought low to-night, let us be encouraged with the thought that God will turn again our captivity; and let us entertain the hope that after the time of trial shall be over, we shall be richer, especially in spiritual things, than ever we were before.

John Hartley:

In conclusion, the book of Job teaches that a person may serve God faithfully, whether his circumstances are bleak or filled with promise, for he has the assurance that God is for him, seeking his ultimate good. A person can triumph over suffering through faith in God.

To God Be the Glory!!!

Next week, May 10

Brunch and end-of-year celebration

## Resources for further study

### Job

1. *The Gospel According to Job*, Mike Mason
2. *Job: An Introduction and Commentary*, Francis I. Andersen
3. *The Book of Job*, John E. Hartley
4. *Job: A Man of Heroic Endurance*, Charles Swindoll
5. *Let God Be God: Life-Changing Truths from the Book of Job*, Ray Stedman
6. *The Book of Job: God's Answer to the Problem of Undeserved Suffering*, Gleason Archer, Jr.

### Suffering and Loss

1. *Where is God When It Hurts?*, Philip Yancey
2. *Disappointment with God*, Philip Yancey
3. *Joni*, Joni Eareckson Tada or *Joni: An Unforgettable Story*, updated in 2021
4. *When Life Isn't Fair: Why We Suffer and How God Heals*, Dwight Carlson, M.D. and Susan Wood Carlson
5. *A Severe Mercy*, Sheldon Vanauken
6. *A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows through Loss*, Jerry Sittser
7. *Miracle for Jen: A Tragic Accident, a Mother's Desperate Prayer, and Heaven's Extraordinary Answer*, Linda Barrick
8. *If God is Good: Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil*, Randy Alcorn

### Sovereignty of God

1. *The Sovereignty of God*, A. W. Pink
2. *Suffering and the Sovereignty of God*, John Piper and Justin Taylor
3. *A Place of Healing: Wrestling with the Mysteries of Suffering, Pain, and God's Sovereignty*, Joni Eareckson Tada

### Wisdom

1. *The Wisdom of God: Letting His Truth and Goodness Direct Your Steps*, A. W. Tozer
2. *The Wisdom of God: Seeing Jesus in the Psalms & Wisdom Books*, Nancy Guthrie
3. *God's Wisdom for Navigating Life: A Year of Daily Devotions in the Book of Proverbs*, Timothy Keller and Kathy Keller
4. *God's Wisdom for Your Every Need*, Jack Countryman
5. *Deeper: Real Change for Real Sinners*, Dane C. Ortlund