

God's Megaphone: Pain and Providence in the Book of Job, 7
“How Rosie Ruiz Makes Some Sense of Your Suffering”

Job 22-25

Sunday Evening Bible Study

February 16, 2020

1. Eliphaz: “Prosperity Theology 101: Manipulate God with good behavior” (22).
 - 1.1 God is distant, detached, and indifferent to our lives (22:1–5).
 - 1.2 Job is guilty of exploiting the poor (22:6–9).
 - 1.3 God is giving Job the punishment he deserves (22:10–20).
 - 1.4 Job should repent so God can restore his health and wealth (22:21–30).
2. Job: “My God (who feels very far way) cannot be manipulated” (23-24).
 - 2.1 God is inaccessible: His transcendence makes him different from us (23:1–12).

Excursion: What’s the difference between a test and a temptation?

1. God tests but never tempts (Jas. 1:13).
2. Satan tempts but never tests (Mt. 4:1).
3. The purpose of a test is to help someone succeed.
4. The purpose of a temptation is to cause someone to fail.
5. The same event can be Satan’s temptation *and* God’s test.
6. Job believed: 1) God knew his situation; 2) God was testing him; 3) Job would be better as a result.

- 2.2 God is immutable: He does not change his mind or his ways (23:13–15).

Num. 23:19 God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

Mal. 3:6 For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

“Immutability: God is unchanging in his being perfections, purposes, and promises, yet God does act and feel emotions, and he acts and feels differently in response to different situations.” (Grudem, 163)

- 2.3 God is terrible: His power strikes terror in the hearts of men (23:16–17).

Heb. 10:31 It is a fearful (*phoberon*) thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Heb. 12:21 Indeed, so terrifying (*phoberon*) was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”

2.4 God is unpredictable: His schedule is perfect but unknown to us (24:1–25).

Eccl. 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time.

Is. 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,
declares the Lord.

3. Bildad: “Compared to God, you are nothing” (25).

3.1 God is sovereign and high (25:1–3).

3.2 Man is sinful and low (25:4–6).

Timeless Principles

1. The fact that we cannot see God does not mean that God cannot see us (22:14; Jer. 23:23,24).
2. In any debate, prepare to be misquoted (22:13,14).
3. God designs our present suffering to accomplish our preferable future (23:10; James 1; 1 Peter 1:6,7)
4. We are not entitled to see God’s calendar (24:1; see Acts 1:7).
5. Everyone who commits adultery thinks he or she will keep it a secret (24:15).
6. Nothing much good happens after midnight (24:16).
7. Sufferers often mistake God’s patience for apathy (24:17)
8. Every book of the Bible is about Jesus (25:4;23:3; Mt.1:23).
9. Justice delayed seems like justice denied, but the delay is not as long as it seems (Job 24:24; see 2 Peter 3:8; Lk. 16:20).