

God's Megaphone: Pain and Providence in the Book of Job, 2
Behind the Scenes of Your Suffering

Job 1:6–2:10
Sunday Evening Bible Study
January 12, 2020

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world” –C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

Behind the Scenes of Your Suffering (Job 1,2)

1. Job's Character (1:1) [Last Week]
2. Job's First Test: Prosperity—wealth and health (1:2–5) [Last Week]
 - 2.1 Children
 - 2.2 Livestock and agriculture
 - 2.3 The test of prosperity (Ezekiel 28:5; 2 Chronicles 26:16).
 - 2.4 Common wisdom: If God is good and I am good, my life will be good. So if anyone should have a “good life,” Job should.
3. Job's Second Test: The Adversity of Poverty—The loss of wealth and loved ones (1:6-22)
 - 3.1 Satan: literally, “the adversary or accuser”; created as angel, but rebelled.
 - 3.2 In heaven, he tries to turn God against people (Rev. 12:10).
 - 3.3 On earth, he tries to turn people against God (Gen 3:1; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; 1 John 5:19)
 - 3.4 Accusation: “Job worships you only because you buy his love not because you are worthy of praise.”
 - 3.5 Sabeans from south: Wicked people destroy farming operation.
 - 3.6 Fire from heaven: Natural disaster destroys sheep-livestock operation
 - 3.7 Chaldeans from north: Wicked people destroy camel-livestock operation.
 - 3.8 Mighty wind: Natural disaster destroys Job's children
 - 3.9 Job's Response: Passes the test with good theology (20-22)
 1. Who is man? Helpless creature who is born and dies.
 2. Who is God? Sovereign creator who gives and takes.
 3. What is worship? Ascribing worth to God for who he is, not what he gives.
4. Job's Second Test: The Adversity of Physical Pain (2:1–10).
 - 4.1 Satan's Accusation: “Not only is Job is willing to forfeit wealth to keep his health, but he is also willing to forfeit his children's skin for his own skin. But if you take his health, he will hate you.”
 - 4.2 Ashes: Garbage dump outside of city; the humiliation of disease.
 - 4.3 Job's Wife: “Do what Satan wants you to do” (Mt. 16:23).
 - 4.4 Job's Initial Response: Passes the test with good theology (2:
 1. Good comes from God.
 2. Trouble comes from God.
 3. God knows what he is doing.
5. Job's Three Friends (2:11–13).
6. Is Our Suffering God's Will?
 - 6.1 The Bible speaks of God's will in two senses:

Deut. 29:29 "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

"The Arminians ridicule the distinction between the secret and revealed will of God, or, more properly expressed, the distinction between the decree and the law of God; because we say he may decree one thing, and command another. And so, they argue, we hold a contrariety in God, as if one will of his contradicted another." (Jonathan Edwards)

6.2 The revealed (aka: moral, commanded) will of God (what should be)

1Th. 4:3 For this is **the will of God**, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;

1Th. 5:18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is **the will of God** in Christ Jesus for you

6.3 The decreed (aka: secret, sovereign) will of God (what shall be)

Col. 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by **the will of God**, and Timothy our brother,

6.4 God often permits in his decreed will what does not please him according to his revealed will.

Luke 22:3 vs. Acts 2:23

Luke 23:11, 21, 24 vs. Acts 4:27,28; Isaiah 53:4,10

1 Tim. 2:4 vs. Ephesians 1:4,5 Romans 9:15-16

Timeless Principles

1. Both prosperity and adversity test our devotion to the Lord.
2. Satan's objective is turning people against God.
3. Satan's resources are limited so he focuses on strategic targets.
4. God is sovereign over Satan who does nothing without God's permission.
5. God is sovereign over wicked people, and permits injustice.
6. God is sovereign over dangerous weather, and permits disaster.
7. God permits adversity in our lives for purposes we do not always understand.
8. Even if you do everything right, life will include suffering.
9. Being faithful to God does not guarantee a great marriage.
10. God gives us all that we have (sons, daughters, business, employees, health, life) and does no wrong in taking them back when he pleases.
11. All of God's questions are rhetorical and Socratic.
12. Life can change in an instant.
13. Suffering is not equally distributed among the people of God.
14. Sometimes the best way to show support is sitting in silence.
15. Nothing will happen to you that God does not permit for a purpose.
16. Suffering provides a platform to glorify God.
17. God often permits what does not please him (revealed will vs. decreed will)