

*God's Megaphone: Pain and Providence in the Book of Job, 5*

**Timeless Principles from Job 1–14**

Sunday Evening Bible Study

February 2, 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*

1. Both prosperity and adversity test our devotion to the Lord (1:1;cf., 2 Chron. 26:16).
2. Satan's objective is to glorify himself by turning people against God (1:11).
3. Satan's resources are limited so he focuses on strategic targets (2:3; cf. Mt. 4:3).
4. God is sovereign over Satan, who does nothing without God's permission (1:12; 2 Cor. 12:7).
5. God is sovereign over wicked people and permits injustice for his secret purposes (1:15; cf. Acts 4:27,28).
6. God is sovereign over dangerous weather and permits natural disasters (1:19).
7. God permits adversity in our lives for purposes we do not always understand (1:22).
8. Even if you do everything right, your life will include suffering (2:10).
9. Being faithful to God does not guarantee a great marriage (2:9).
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 (1:21).
11. All of God's questions are rhetorical—he teaches but never learns (1:7; cf. Gen. 3:9).
12. Life can change and plans can become obsolete in an instant (1:13).
13. Suffering is not equally distributed among the people of God (2:11).
14. Sometimes the best way to show support and give comfort is sitting in silence (2:13).
15. Nothing will happen to you that God does not permit for a good purpose (2:10; cf. Ro. 8:28).
16. God often permits (decreed will) what does not please him (moral will).
17. Suffering creates a platform for glorifying God (2:11).
18. The faith of the strongest believer can falter in the midst of pain (3:26; cf. Jer. 20:14-18; Lk.7:20).
19. Hedges work both ways, but they are still God's hedges (1:10 vs. 3:23).
20. Death is the great leveler and must be faced by the great and the small, wicked and blameless, even prosperity preachers (14:5-19).
21. All pain resulting from natural disasters or evil acts serve as a merciful warning to everyone that life is fragile and there is not much time left to repent (7:6;9:25; cf. Luke 13:1-5).

22. Either God is in control of all things or he is not in control of anything (12:10f).
23. The only thing worse than earthquakes under God's control, are earthquakes that aren't (9:6).
24. God often uses disaster to accomplish his good plan (Acts 8:1,4).
25. Pain is relative, for there is someone else whose circumstances are worse.
26. If you experience prosperity, it is not necessarily a sign that you are living a good life (12:6).
27. Knowing history will help you avoid faulty generalizations and bad theology (4:7,8; Gen. 4:8).
28. By teaching that if you give obedience to God he will give you health and wealth, prosperity theology seeks the gifts and not the Giver in a heresy as old as sin (4:7,8; cf. Gen. 3:4).
29. Be wary when a friend says, "The Lord told me..." (4:12-16)
30. Much bad advice is mixed with good theology (5:13; cf. 1 Cor. 3:19)
31. Good theology badly applied is like good medicine wrongly prescribed (5:18,27).
32. When comforting a friend in pain, don't speculate on the "Why" (6:24,25).
33. Just because someone is wrong on some points, doesn't mean they are wrong on every point (Job 5:13,17; cf., 1 Cor. 3:19; Heb. 12:5).
34. While we know *that* God ordains every event, we do not know *why* God ordained it (4:8).
35. Even if we knew "why", we wouldn't understand it and it wouldn't remove the pain (Isa. 55:8).
36. The objective in suffering is to make it to your funeral without disgracing God (6:10).
37. Sometimes our best friends can say the worst things (6:14,15; 8:4).
38. Life is hard and then you die—so lower your expectations to be more happy (7:1-10).
39. Even when we cannot understand God's painful hand, we can affirm his sovereign plan (9:1f).
40. The younger you are, the more you think you know about pain (11:1).
41. God is sovereign over unpunished crime, so no one gets away with murder (12:5,6; cf. Ro. 12:19; Mt. 10:26-28).
42. Those who endure suffering without denying God will strengthen and comfort those who suffer (6:11; 13:15; 14:14–17; James 5:11).
43. God often uses disaster to accomplish his good plan (1:20; John 9:2; Acts 8:1,4).
44. The ultimate purpose of every event is the glory of God (1:20; 12:23; cf. Jn. 9:2; Acts 8:1–4).
45. Human pride increases in proportion to human prosperity (11:3; 2 Cor. 12:7).
46. Every book in the Bible is about Jesus (9:2,33; 1 Tim. 2:5,6; Lk. 24:27)