

Job 38-42 • Chapter Study

INTRO

We conclude our study in Job tonight & the series *When Suffering Comes* Sunday as we take a look at **How to Prepare for Suffering**.

Stretching over 29 chs, Job's 3 friends each took multiple shots at advising him out of his trouble.

Job replied to each round, *first* dismantling their diagnosis, showing it to be wide of the mark –

Then, renewing his request God explain the reason for the catastrophe he'd endured.

Each round saw Job become more indignant as he *defended* his innocence and *demand*ed an explanation.

Then, another 6 chs are a 4th guy named Elihu.

Out of respect for his elders, he kept silent till what he heard *provoked* him to speak up.

He was frustrated Job's friends were unable to silence him.

Elihu said God is so great, Job so puny in comparison, it was ludicrous for Job to both >>

-- Maintain his innocence

-- *And*, demand anything from God.

Where Elihu erred was in his selective hearing.

He disregarded the times Job warned that his pain moved him to say things he didn't really believe.

Elihu also dismissed Job's *amazing affirmations of faith* in the midst of his horrific suffering.

No, Elihu was incensed Job's *darkest* moments & *direst* words.

When Elihu finished, before Job could reply, God intervenes.

Really, there was nothing for Job to say to Elihu because he'd already said it all.

Now that man is all talked out, God steps in.

Ch38

¹ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

God appears as something often seen in an arid wilderness – a whirlwind.

If you've spent any time in the desert, you've seen one.

Their common name is "dust-devil;" not a fit name for one used as the manifestation of God.

If some guy had strolled up to where these 5 sat and said, "I'm God."

They'd have said, "Uh, riiiiiiight. Suuuure you are."

But when a whirlwind appears off in the distance, then moves toward them and pauses not far away, and a voice speaks from it – far more likely to get their complete attention.

God doesn't need to announce Himself. They KNOW it's Him.

Now God speaks directly to Job →

² "Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge?"

Job assumed he knew things he didn't.

As I shared last Wed & Sun, Job's *request* God provide a reason for all he's endured, morphed over time into a strident *demand* God explain Himself.

In the absence of that explanation, Job's gone so far as to suggest God could do a better job of running things.

Let's pause there a moment and think about that, less we criticize or condemn Job.

On the surface, it's *ridiculous* to say a perfect God could do something, anything, *better*.

A perfect God, is (you know) >> PERFECT! What He *does* is perfect. It *couldn't* be better.

So when we read Job's complaint in the middle chs, it's easy for >>

- Couch Quarterbacks,
- HQ Generals,
- Bleacher Coaches,
- Classroom Critics,

To condemn him.

But chances are, everyone of us has to one degree or another done what Job did.

If you've ever said, "Why? did God allow this or that?"

And you meant that "why" not as a mere mental exercise but with emotion because it was a question of justice?

What you wanted to know, *needed to*, "How is this *fair*? >>

How does this *fit* within God's goodness & love?"

If you've ever asked that – you've replayed Job.

God will answer Job's long request, but not at all the way he assumed or expected.

The answer, the reason God ultimately gave Job was far better than what he asked for.

Because as Eph 3:20 says, God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or even think.

God does that for Job by asking him a long list of questions.

It begins by God telling him that's what he's going to do. So it's best Job Man-Up >>

³ Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

Here we go ...

⁴ "Where were you when I laid the foundations 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 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

Job based his request, then demand, God explain why he'd suffered so much based on what he knew about God, that He is good and just, so there had to be a good reason.

BUT: While what Job knew about God was true, He IS good and He IS just, there was far, far more about God, Job didn't have a clue about.

As for Job's emerging complaint that God could do a better job of running things >

God shows him how little he knew about those "things"

He asks, "Where were you when I created Earth? → How did I do it?"

"How big is Earth? What holds it up? What's it all made of?"

"Where were you when the angelic choir sang back-up to Creation?"

⁸ "Or who shut in the sea with doors, when it burst forth and issued from the womb; ⁹ When I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band; ¹⁰ When I fixed My limit for it, and set bars and doors; ¹¹ When I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, and here your proud waves must stop!'"

Where was Job when God shaped the land & carved the seas basins?

¹² "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 ends of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? ¹⁴ It takes on form like clay under a seal, and stands out like a garment. ¹⁵ From the wicked their light is withheld, And the upraised arm is broken.

Do you make the sun rise?

The last phrase of v13 is a common Biblical idiom linking evil with darkness.

The wicked prefer the cover of darkness to do their dirty deeds.
Light exposes them so they prefer the night to conduct their schemes.

The dawn ends the opportunity for evil.

God sees all, while Job woke & slept with the rising & setting of the sun.
He & his friends made much to do of the treatment of the righteous & the wicked.

The fact is, they had little clue about these things.

While they had no knowledge what the wicked did in the dark, God knew it all.

16 "Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in search of the depths?"

Job knew nothing of Earth's many hidden secrets.

In vs17-21, God quizzes Job on something everyone takes for granted because it's so common = Light!

He asks Job, what it *is* and what happens that causes darkness.

In vs 22-30, God asks another question about something so common = Water.

How does water turn to ice?

And how does it *defy* what happens in every other case when something freezes?

Water *expands* when it freezes while everything else *contracts*.

If water *didn't* expand, the bottoms of the ocean would freeze and there'd be no life on Earth.

Explain that, Job.

Then God takes Job from Earth into the far reaches of space.

31 "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, or loose the belt of Orion?"

Constellations. What power do you have over the stars Job?

32 Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs?"

Mazzaroth is an ancient term for the constellations of the Zodiac.

They were used as the calendar by which they knew when to plant & harvest.

Job was unable to make the sun rise. >> How about moving the stars thru their annual course?

33 Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?"

Some use this as support for astrology >> The idea that the stars exert a spiritual influence on things on Earth.
That's not what God's saying.

He meant how the constellations in the sky were the calendar ruling the seasons.

Most of us spend the majority of our lives *indoors*. // The night-hrs are inside w/artificial light.

We rarely look up at night and see the stars.

We're so "earth-bound" we lose perspective, scope.

Part of the fun of a vacation is to be in a place that encourages the outdoors & no light pollution to see the stars.

Job lived in an ancient ME w/o street-lights & neon signs. There was no light pollution.

So the panorama of that glorious night-sky was always just a lifting of the head away.

[Planets and stars] [2nd slide]

34 "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that an abundance of water may cover you? 35 Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, and say to you, 'Here we are!'" 36 Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart? 37 Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven, 38 When the dust hardens in clumps, and the clods cling together?"

Can Job control the weather; making the rain fall or lightning flash?

Interesting that God speaks of wisdom in relation to weather.

A major factor driving the most advanced computer design and programming is the attempt to study and forecast weather.

Climate computers are some of *the* most advanced computers there are.

And a good part of the development of algorithms and artificial intelligence centers on this area.

Yet, as sophisticated as these systems are, they still aren't able to accurately predict the weather or climate change.

They've gotten better, but are still a long way from dependable forecasting as anyone who's planned a picnic or vacation knows.

³⁹ "Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, ⁴⁰ When they crouch in *their* dens, or lurk in their lairs to lie in wait? ⁴¹ Who provides food for the raven, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?"

If you have a pet, you know what a chore it can be to keep it fed.

God takes care of ALL the animals, big to small.

Science has cataloged about 8,700,000 animal species.

But biologists estimate there's between 50 & 100 million.

Each species has millions, some billions & trillions of individuals.

God takes care of them all.

Ch39

¹ "Do you know the time when the wild mountain goats bear young? Or can you mark when the deer gives birth? ² Can you number the months *that* they fulfill? Or do you know the time when they bear young? ³ They bow down, They bring forth their young, They deliver their offspring. ⁴ Their young ones are healthy, They grow strong with grain; They depart and do not return to them."

When a human child is born, it depends ***completely*** on its parents for survival.

It take ***years*** for a boy or girl to survive on their own.

Among animals, many can make it on their own within a couple hours of birth.

Others stay with their mother for a few months before taking off.

Only God could plan & operate the amazing complexity of nature.

⁵ "Who set the wild donkey free? Who loosed the bonds of the onager, [=synonym for wild donkey]

⁶ Whose home I have made the wilderness, and the barren land his dwelling? ⁷ He scorns the tumult of the city; He does not heed the shouts of the driver. ⁸ The range of the mountains *is* his pasture, and he searches after every green thing."

Another mystery from nature. // Some donkeys are wild, others domesticated.

Though it's the same species some are tame while others would *never* be.

The wild ones are *free*, but live in harsh conditions, ever searching for food.

They'd *have* plenty if they'd just submit to being tamed, but won't.

Then God speaks of an even larger animal -

⁹ "Will the wild ox be willing to serve you? Will he bed by your manger? ¹⁰ Can you bind the wild ox in the furrow with ropes? Or will he plow the valleys behind you? ¹¹ Will you trust him because his strength *is* great? Or will you leave your labor to him? ¹² Will you trust him to bring home your grain, and gather it to your threshing floor?"

While *domesticated* oxen pulled plows, a wild ox would **never** submit to a yoke.

Again; same species, but their internal nature was a mystery.

God tailors these questions specifically to Job who'd had thousands of oxen and donkeys.

They were part of his fortune; something he was intimately knowledgeable of.

And one of the things he'd taken for granted was the mystery of why some donkeys and oxen can be domesticated but others can't.

Catch that! Don't miss it. → Life is **FILLED** with mystery.

The problem is, we've become so *inured* to it by reason of familiarity, we're no longer bothered by it.

We don't even think about it.

Opposite charges attract, while like charges repel → + vs - // N & S ends of a magnet.

Yet the nucleus of an atom is composed of protons w/a + charge.

What holds it together? Mystery!

→ Yet it's the composition of the very world in which we live.

The mystery of matter doesn't stall us from going to work, school, or WalMart.

Light = Particle or wave?

Laws of Physics says one or other. But we now know, light is both at the same time. Mystery!

→ But we don't walk around with our minds blow, refusing to get on with the business of living because of the mystery of light.

Job took the accepted mystery of donkeys and oxen in stride and got on with life without a second thought.

But when the mystery of **why** he was *blessed* beyond measure, then *stressed* beyond measure came, life came to a screeching halt with his *insistence* for an END to that mystery.

My precious friends, please hear this: Life is FULL of mystery.

There are some things we will never know this side of heaven.

Being that we're creatures and NOT God, there's every likelihood there'll even be some mysteries in Heaven.

But for sure, there are mysteries now as we're not given the backstory to every situation.

We learn Job's backstory in chs 1&2 precisely so we'll see NOT having all OUR backstory **IS** part of our story.

Our story is a Mystery, a Thriller, a Drama, a Comedy, a Musical, a Tragedy, and an Epic all rolled into one.

¹³ "The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, But are her wings and pinions like the kindly stork's? ¹⁴ For she leaves her eggs on the ground, and warms them in the dust; ¹⁵ She forgets that a foot may crush them, or that a wild beast may break them. ¹⁶ She treats her young harshly, as though they were not hers; Her labor is in vain, without concern, ¹⁷ Because God deprived her of wisdom, and did not endow her with understanding. ¹⁸ When she lifts herself on high, she scorns the horse and its rider.

The ostrich is an odd creature demonstrating the complexity of nature.

Though a bird, it can't fly. But running at up to 40 mph, it's faster than some horses

It nests on the ground with more than one laying in a nest.

Sometimes so many are laid they spill out where they're stepped on & crushed.

Ostriches will just as soon sit on another nest as their own.

Because of their cavalier manner with eggs, many never hatch.

And though that seems a waste & danger to the ostrich population, it's the opposite.

If every egg hatched, there'd be so many ostriches, they'd consume all the food and die of starvation.

Extra eggs are an important source of food to other species.

All in all, their behavior is perfect both for the ostrich & other animals they live among.

The point is this, in God's wisdom, He made the ostrich exactly as it needs to be.

In contrast to the seemingly foolish ostrich is the horse that exhibits amazing intelligence & awareness.

¹⁹“Have you given the horse strength? Have you clothed his neck with thunder? ²⁰ Can you frighten him like a locust? His majestic snorting strikes terror. ²¹ He paws in the valley, and rejoices in *his* strength; He gallops into the clash of arms. ²² He mocks at fear, and is not frightened; Nor does he turn back from the sword. ²³ The quiver rattles against him, the glittering spear and javelin. ²⁴ He devours the distance with fierceness and rage; Nor does he come to a halt because the trumpet *has* sounded. ²⁵ At *the blast of* the trumpet he says, ‘Aha!’ He smells the battle from afar, the thunder of captains and shouting.

Trained for battle, a warhorse doesn’t flinch or balk at violence.

As contrary to nature as it seems, it **charges** into battle.

²⁶“Does the hawk fly by your wisdom, and spread its wings toward the south?”

This refers to the annual migration of birds.

They sly to warmer climes in Fall & Winter, then return during Spring & Summer.

Who tells them when to fly? What points the way to their destination?

Some birds fly thousands of miles, yet generation after generation, they fly to the same place.

Yet some have never been there before. How do they know?

The Bar-tailed Godwit makes an annual 7K mile, non-stop migration from Alaska to New Zealand.

Prior to migration, over half their bodyweight is stored fat to fuel the journey.

The Arctic tern travels 3 mns from the British Isles all the way to Australia, a trip of 14K miles.

Though several theories attempt to explain migration, its mechanics are still unknown.

²⁷ Does the eagle mount up at your command, and make its nest on high?

‘Eagle’ is another archaic word that probably ought to be ‘vulture.’

²⁸ On the rock it dwells and resides, on the crag of the rock and the stronghold. ²⁹ From there it spies out the prey; Its eyes observe from afar. ³⁰ Its young ones suck up blood; And where the slain *are*, there it *is*.”

Large birds of prey possess remarkably precise eyesight.

Vultures live in isolation, yet when a large animal dies, descend in mass the body.

They can strip a large carcass in a short time.

God mentions this to Job because he’d accused God of not paying attention; of not *seeing* him.

God made those great birds of prey. **OF COURSE HE KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING WITH JOB!**

Ch40

¹ Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said: ² “Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct *Him*? He who rebukes God, let him answer it.”

In one of his earlier complaints, Job said he wanted to give God a piece of his mind.

So God says, “You going to set **ME** straight Job?”

³ Then Job answered the LORD and said: ⁴ “Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth.

⁵ Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further.”

“I have nothing to say. I’ve opened my yap once too often.”

As we noted Sunday, Job’s response to the first 55 questions God posed him is more of a *reluctant* surrender than a whole-hearted *repentance*.

Job feels busted for his bad attitude.

But he's not got what he thinks he deserves – A reason for what he's suffered.

He knows there is one, and assumes he has a right to it. God OWES him.

So God fires up another round of questions ...

6 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: 7 "Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me:

God now *changes gears* and launches another round of challenges.

In the 3 rounds of back and forth with his friends, Job's ***maintained*** his innocence.

They'd said he suffered God punishing him for some especially wicked sin.

He said, "Nonsense!" While not perfect, he'd done nothing to merit such calamity.

The problem was, Job spent so much time defending himself, defense morphed into a vindication that bordered on a dangerous self-righteousness.

Another way to look at this is to ask >> What's the basis of ***our*** righteousness?

Our good works or faith in Jesus Christ? // Where do ***we*** find vindication?

In our own claims or in the pronouncement of God over us?

Job slipped from trusting God to ***make*** him good into thinking that He already was.

He needed to be broken of that, so God began another round of questions.

8 "Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?

See? → Job's shifted his view from how God sees him to how he seems himself.

9 Have you an arm like God?

Can you save yourself?

Or can you thunder with a voice like His?

Since Job was doing what ought to be only God's to do, He tells Job to carry on & see how all that works out.

10 Then adorn yourself with majesty and splendor, and array yourself with glory and beauty. 11 Disperse the rage of your wrath; Look on everyone *who is* proud, and humble him. 12 Look on everyone *who is* proud, and bring him low; Tread down the wicked in their place. 13 Hide them in the dust together, bind their faces in hidden *darkness*. 14 Then I will also confess to you that your own right hand can save you.

Hey Job, since you see yourself as so competent to judge yourself, go ahead and judge ***everyone***.

But wait, there's more! >> You can't ***just*** render verdicts; you have to ***carry out the sentence*** too.

Then God turns to 2 creatures Bible scholars have long debated over the meaning of, Behemoth & Leviathan.

15 "Look now at the behemoth, which I made *along* with you; He eats grass like an ox. 16 See now, his strength *is* in his hips, and his power *is* in his stomach muscles. 17 He moves his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are tightly knit. 18 His bones *are like* beams of bronze, His ribs like bars of iron. 19 He *is* the first of the ways of God; Only He who made him can bring near His sword. 20 Surely the mountains yield food for him, and all the beasts of the field play there. 21 He lies under the lotus trees, in a covert of reeds and marsh. 22 The lotus trees cover him *with* their shade; The willows by the brook surround him. 23 Indeed the river may rage, *Yet* he is not disturbed; He is confident, though the Jordan gushes into his mouth, 24 *Though* he takes it in his eyes, *or* one pierces *his* nose with a snare.

Several animals have been suggested as this Behemoth; elephants, crocodiles, & rhinoceroses.

Some suggest it might be a ***dinosaur***.

If Earth is only about 10,000 yrs old as some contend, it's possible man & dinosaurs lived at the same time – as there is indeed some fossil evidence for.

Foot-prints and what's called *soft-tissue* evidence.

Job is the oldest book of the Bible.

So this may be recording a time when humans & dinosaurs co-existed.

But more likely, the behemoth is a **hippopotamus**.

Everything that describes it fits the hippo well, except the reference to the tail as a cedar in v17.

Cedars are massive, stately trees while the hippo's tail is a stubby little thing.

But notice what v17 says about the behemoth's tail –

He moves his tail like a cedar.

It isn't the tail that's likened to a cedar, it's the way the behemoth MOVES it.

When a hippo is riled & prepares to charge, it lifts & stiffens its tail so it becomes like the rest of the hippo; a mass of strength.

There's some evidence the hippopotamuses that inhabited the ancient ME were significantly larger than those found today.

Ch41

¹“Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, or *snare* his tongue with a line *which* you lower? ² Can you put a reed through his nose, or pierce his jaw with a hook? ³ Will he make many supplications to you? Will he speak softly to you? ⁴ Will he make a covenant with you? Will you take him as a servant forever? ⁵ Will you play with him as *with* a bird, or will you leash him for your maidens? ⁶ Will *your* companions make a banquet of him? Will they apportion him among the merchants? ⁷ Can you fill his skin with harpoons, or his head with fishing spears? ⁸ Lay your hand on him; Remember the battle— Never do it again! ⁹ Indeed, *any* hope of *overcoming* him is false; Shall *one not* be overwhelmed at the sight of him? ¹⁰ No one *is so* fierce that he would dare stir him up. Who then is able to stand against Me? ¹¹ Who has preceded Me, that I should pay *him*? Everything under heaven is Mine. ¹² “I will not conceal his limbs, His mighty power, or his graceful proportions. ¹³ Who can remove his outer coat? Who can approach *him* with a double bridle? ¹⁴ Who can open the doors of his face, *with* his terrible teeth all around? ¹⁵ *His* rows of scales are *his* pride, shut up tightly *as with* a seal; ¹⁶ One is so near another that no air can come between them; ¹⁷ They are joined one to another, they stick together and cannot be parted. ¹⁸ His sneezings flash forth light, and his eyes *are* like the eyelids of the morning.

As the description of this creature called Leviathan goes on, it gets real interesting -

¹⁹ Out of his mouth go burning lights; Sparks of fire shoot out. ²⁰ Smoke goes out of his nostrils, as *from* a boiling pot and burning rushes. ²¹ His breath kindles coals, and a flame goes out of his mouth. ²² Strength dwells in his neck, and sorrow dances before him. ²³ The folds of his flesh are joined together; They are firm on him and cannot be moved. ²⁴ His heart is as hard as stone, even as hard as the lower *millstone*. ²⁵ When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid; Because of his crashings they are beside themselves. ²⁶ *Though* the sword reaches him, it cannot avail; Nor does spear, dart, or javelin. ²⁷ He regards iron as straw, *and* bronze as rotten wood. ²⁸ The arrow cannot make him flee; Slingstones become like stubble to him. ²⁹ Darts are regarded as straw; He laughs at the threat of javelins. ³⁰ His undersides *are* like sharp potsherds; He spreads pointed *marks* in the mire. ³¹ He makes the deep boil like a pot; He makes the sea like a pot of ointment. ³² He leaves a shining wake behind him; *One* would think the deep had white hair. ³³ On earth there is nothing like him, which is made without fear. ³⁴ He beholds every high *thing*; He *is* king over all the children of pride.”

Leviathan is first mentioned in 3:8.

Job said sailors & fishermen cursed Leviathan.

5 other passages speak of leviathan as a **creature of both water & land**.¹

The word comes from a root meaning “**twisting**” & gives us a clue to its identity.

This is most likely the **crocodile** which can grow to a massive size & is greatly feared.

Some of the largest crocs were over 30 ft!

In the ancient ME, they’ve were a perennial problem to all who made a living from the river.

It’s described here by the eye which is like the dawn.

When a croc surfaces, the first thing to break the water is its eye.

So Egyptians used the croc’s eye as a symbol for the dawn.

It can’t be tamed and before modern weapons, was inordinately difficult to catch or kill.

Crocodiles twist round & round once they’ve latched onto a large animal.

The croc fits well for everything in this description, but the fire & smoke from its mouth.

This moves some to suggest this may be a reference to the dragon.

I’ll deal with that in a moment – first, how might the croc fit this?

When they surface, they will sometimes blow water out of their nostrils in a mist that *looks* like smoke.

And they occasionally slap their jaws in such a way that the water sprays out. When the sunlight hits the drops it looks like fire.

So this may be a *poetic description* of the behavior of the crocodile.

A few scholars believe leviathan is merely a poetic device referring to a **mythical dragon**.

But why would God use a *fictional creature* to challenge Job, since it wasn’t real?

God’s point is that Job can’t control a single Leviathan.

On the contrary, it was a terrifying creature now one could tame.

Yet God made and takes care of ALL of them; **& all behemoths too**.

Ch42

These last 20 questions bring Job into the place he needs to be ...

¹ Then Job answered the LORD and said: ² “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. ³ You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴ Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ ⁵ “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. ⁶ Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

No longer just *reluctant*, Job is *repentant*.

For the fullness of v5, listen to last Sunday’s message.

⁷ And so it was, after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “My wrath is aroused against you and your 2 friends, for you have not spoken of Me *what is right*, as My servant Job has.”

Eliphaz was leader of the friends who’d come to comfort Job but ended up only adding to his misery with their errant counsel.

God tells them their theology was wrong. God hadn’t judged Job for hidden sin.

While Job was mistaken in his insistence God owed him an explanation, he’d spoken what was right in his response to them.

¹ Psa 74:12-14; 104:26; 89:8-10 Isa 27:1; 51:9

⁸ Now therefore, take for yourselves 7 bulls and 7 rams, go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you. For I will accept him, lest I deal with you according to your folly; because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has.” ⁹ So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the LORD commanded them; for the LORD had accepted Job.

God told them to make sacrifice in atonement for misrepresenting him.

By asking Job to officiate, it marked their acceptance that he was right with God.

¹⁰ And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

It was crucial Job extend forgiveness to his friends when *they* repented.

When he prayed for them, God set about to restore what the devil had taken.

Does that mean what his friends said would happen, happened?

That if Job would repent, God would restore blessing?

NO! They said restored blessing would be the mark of God's *justice*.

God restored Job's blessing *in grace*, because the charge of satan was false.

The contest was over. // Job's faith was proven true.

He never cursed God in all that had happened to him.

And while Job's faith was true, as we saw Sunday, it wasn't as deep as it could have been.

So God used what the devil meant for Job's ruin as a way to do THE BEST for Job.

He fastened Job's love for God, not in what he got from God, but in God Himself.

And since Job was as safe as a human being could be with wealth, God restored his fortune.

¹¹ Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the LORD had brought [allowed] upon him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and each a ring of gold. ¹² Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had 14 thousand sheep, 6 thousand camels, 1 thousand yoke of oxen, and 1 thousand female donkeys.

These numbers are double what he had before.

¹³ He also had 7 sons and 3 daughters.

Same as before. God restored what the enemy had taken.

¹⁴ And he called the name of the first [daughter] Jemimah, [=Gorgeous as the Day] the name of the second Keziah, [Fragrant] and the name of the third Keren-Happuch. [Rainbow] ¹⁵ In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. ¹⁶ After this Job lived 140 years, and saw his children and grandchildren for 4 generations. ¹⁷ So Job died, old and full of days.

Conclusion

1 more Sunday in the Series, *When Suffering Comes*.

We're going to see some practical ways to prepare ahead of time for those inevitable times of suffering that not only come in life, but I believe we're uniquely heading into in our time.