

# Job

## *The Raw Reality of Hope in Suffering*

### Introduction

**John 10:10a (NKJV) — 10a** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

I have to lead well in suffering because Jesus is worthy and the world is watching.

Job speaks directly to faithful sufferers and is instructive on how to follow God while in deep pain.

The question for Job and for us is will we continue in relationship with God when that is all we have?

“If we love God for something less than himself, we cherish desire that can fail us. We run the risk of hating him if we do not get what we hope for.” (Thomas Merton)

**Job 1:8 (NKJV) — 8** Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”

Job’s suffering was not a result of his sin but of his faith.

God doesn’t make mistakes and sees the end from the beginning

God could have said, I know Job’s heart and that he will never curse me, because He did. But He didn’t. That leaves

us with only option – God permitted the suffering that Job would face and He had a purpose for it.

**Job 1:9–11 (NKJV) — 9** So Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? **10** Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. **11** But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”

**Job 1:12 (NKJV) — 12** And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

**Job 1:20 (NKJV) — 20** Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

Do you see that? What did Job do?

**Job 1:21 (NKJV) — 21** And he said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.”

When our treasure is God Himself and not His good gifts and when we know that all our good gifts are His, then we can worship when all the good gifts are taken because we still have God who is our treasure.

**Job 2:3 (NKJV) — 3** Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity,

although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause.”

When loss of possessions and family could not do it, the enemy sought to attack Job health.

**Job 2:10b (NKJV) — 10b** “... Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

“Sometimes God temporarily puts us in a position where we have every earthly reason to give up on God ...

Furthermore, there is a sense in which God must allow these temporary and tragic interruptions in his goodness is his is to prove the reality of our relationship with him.”

**ILLUS:** George Muller after the death of his wife Mary from rheumatic fever: “I miss her in numberless ways, and shall miss her yet more and more. But as a child of God, and as a servant of the Lord Jesus, I bow, I am satisfied with the will of my Heavenly Father, I seek by perfect submission to His holy will to glorify Him, I kiss continually the hand that has thus afflicted me.”

## The Raw

Job did not hide or internalize his struggles; he spoke about them openly to God and before others.

**Despair ... Job 3:11 (NKJV) — 11** “Why did I not die at birth? Why did I not perish when I came from the womb?

**Fear ... Job 3:24–26 (NKJV) — 24** For my sighing comes before I eat, And my groanings pour out like water. **25** For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, And what I

dreaded has happened to me. **26** I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, for trouble comes.”

**Bitterness ... Job 7:11 (NKJV) — 11** “Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

**Blame ... Job 7:17–20 (NKJV) — 17** “What is man, that You should exalt him, That You should set Your heart on him, **18** That You should visit him every morning, and test him every moment? **19** How long? Will You not look away from me, and let me alone till I swallow my saliva? **20** Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, So that I am a burden to myself?

**Belief in God’s Presence ... Job 9:14–1 (NKJV) — 14** “How then can I answer Him, And choose my words to reason with Him? **15** For though I were righteous, I could not answer Him; I would beg mercy of my Judge. **16** If I called and He answered me, I would not believe that He was listening to my voice.

**God is Far Away ... Job 9:33 (NKJV) — 33** Nor is there any mediator between us, who may lay his hand on us both.

**Can’t God See Me ... Job 10:4 (NKJV) — 4** Do You have eyes of flesh? Or do You see as man sees?

**Determination ... Job 13:15a, 16a (NKJV) — 15** Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him ... **16a** He also shall be my salvation

**Truth ... Job 14:1, 5 (NKJV) — 1** “Man who is born of woman Is of few days and full of trouble ... **5** Since his days are

determined, the number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass.

**Despair ... Job 14:7–10 (NKJV) — 7** “For there is hope for a tree, If it is cut down, that it will sprout again, And that its tender shoots will not cease. **8** Though its root may grow old in the earth, And its stump may die in the ground, **9** Yet at the scent of water it will bud And bring forth branches like a plant. **10** But man dies and is laid away; indeed he breathes his last and where is he?

**Brokenness ... Job 17:1 (NKJV) — 1** “My spirit is broken, My days are extinguished, The grave is ready for me.

**Hopelessness ... Job 17:15 (NKJV) —15** Where then is my hope? As for my hope, who can see it?

**Future ... Job 19:23–27 (NKJV) — 23** “Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! **24** That they were engraved on a rock with an iron pen and lead, forever! **25** For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; **26** And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, **27** Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

**God Where Are You ... Job 23:3–6 (NKJV) — 3** Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, That I might come to His seat! **4** I would present my case before Him, And fill my mouth with arguments. **5** I would know the words which He would answer me, And understand what He would say to me. **6** Would He contend with me in His great power? No! But He would take note of me.

While starting strong, the severe and extended trials had caused Job to view the world through his suffering.

## The Reality

**Job 38:3–12 (NKJV)** — **3** Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. **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? **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!’ **12** “Have you commanded the morning since your days began, And caused the dawn to know its place,

**Job 40:3–5 (NKJV)** — **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.”

## The Hope

**Job 42:1–5, 10a, 12a (NKJV)** — **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 ... **10a** And the LORD restored Job's losses ... **12a** Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning ...

#### New Vision

When we find ourselves in a place where all we have is a relationship with God – we see Him more clearly than ever and understand that He is enough

**Truth ... Job 14:1, 5 (NKJV) — 1** "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble ... **5** Since his days are determined, the number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass.

**Determination ... Job 13:15a, 16a (NKJV) — 15**  
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#### Complete Restoration

**God is Far Away ... Job 9:33 (NKJV) — 33** Nor is there any mediator between us, who may lay his hand on us both.

**Psalms 34:18 (NKJV) — 18** The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

**1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV) — 5** For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

For Job on earth and in eternity. For us, we are certain in eternity.

Future Blessing

**Future ... Job 19:23–27 (NKJV) — 23** “Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! **24** That they were engraved on a rock with an iron pen and lead, forever! **25** For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; **26** And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, **27** Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

## Conclusion

God is big enough to handle our questions. Job prayed, struggled, questioned, and – by seeing God for who He really is – overcame.

This was not because Job received an explanation or reason.

“God allows ... tragedy to happen to Job, and he does not apologize or explain himself. Job remains forever ignorant of the true cause of his suffering. So when Job worships this God ... it proves how much Job values God over any other relationship.



“God ... does not merely permit evil but commands it, controls it, and uses it for his purposes ... [The] God who knows how to use supernatural evil to serve his purposes of ultimate good can and will use the darkest invasion of my life for his definite and invincible plans for my good in Christ.” (Ash)

This was never more clear and true of suffering than with Jesus. If Job was blameless – Jesus was more so. If Job’s suffering was because of the enemy – Jesus was more so. If Job’s suffering led to the worship of God – Jesus was more so. If Job’s suffering was while in relationship with God – Jesus was more so. If Job’s suffering led to a relationship with God – Jesus was more so.

But you don’t have to understand God’s ways to trust Him.

What does God want? Just for us to hold on to and not give up on Him.

A relationship with God for God is the only saving relationship.

Job proves that suffering is not a sign of God’s anger or judgment but a way to see God more clearly than we ever could have in safety and comfort.

“When God allows extreme and inexplicable suffering ... that God is ... delivering us opportunity, in the midst of unhidden and public grief, to worship God as God, for his own sake, regardless of [what] we might gain or lose. Such worship is painful, costly, and deeply honoring to God as the Lord.” (?)

**ILLUS:** Broken Hallelujah Lyrics

I can barely stand right now  
Everything is crashing down  
And I wonder where You are

I try to find the words to pray  
I don't always know what to say  
But You're the one that can hear my heart

And even though I don't know what Your plan is  
I know You make beauty from these ashes

I've seen joy, I've seen pain  
And on my knees, I call Your name  
Here's my broken hallelujah  
With nothing left to hold onto  
I raise these empty hands to You  
Here's my broken  
Here's my broken hallelujah  
Hallelujah  
Hallelujah (here's my broken hallelujah)

You know the things that have brought me here  
You know the story of every tear  
'Cause You've been here from the very start

And even though I don't know what Your plan is  
I know You make beauty from these ashes

I've seen joy, I've seen pain  
And on my knees, I call Your name  
Here's my broken hallelujah  
With nothing left to hold onto  
I raise these empty hands to You  
Here's my broken  
Here's my broken hallelujah  
Hallelujah  
Hallelujah (here's my broken hallelujah)

When all is taken away, don't let my heart be  
changed  
Let me always sing hallelujah  
And when I feel afraid, don't let my hope erased

Let me always sing (always sing)  
Let me always sing hallelujah  
Hallelujah

In the end, Job gained more than he lost. And the same is true for us – in Heaven.

But while we are here – how we suffer matters!

**1 Peter 5:8–11 (NKJV) — 8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. **9** Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. **10** But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. **11** To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

In truth, in righteousness, walking in the gospel, shielded in faith, protected in salvation, and standing on the Word.

“The magnificence of his worship is because it was in grief, not because it replaced grief. Let your tears flow freely when your calamity comes. And let the rest of us weep with those who weep.” (MacArthur)