



Job:

Choose Joy

Week 1

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Journey Class, May 2022

My Interest in the Book of Job

- Disliked the book
- Intrigued by the age of the book
- Intrigued by the common perplexity



1. God's ways are infinitely higher than our ways

- As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isa. 55:9

2. God gave us Scripture to teach, guide and inspire us

- All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17

3. God wants to be known by us

- Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD." Jer. 9:23-24

4. Scripture is Singularly Perfect

- Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. Isa. 8:20
- For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 2 Tim. 4:3-4

5. How we learn

- You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. Deut. 6:7

Basic Fact Summary:

- **Job is blameless**
- **Job is prosperous (wealth, family, health)**
- **Satan credits Job's prosperity with his obedience and faithfulness to God**
- **God allows Satan to destroy Job's wealth & family and finally his physical health**
- **Job remains faithful to God despite horrific adversity**
- **Job is visited by 3 friends who blame his tragedy on his sinful behavior and urge his repentance**
- **Job knows he is blameless and pleads with God for justice**
- **A 4th man, Elihu, enters the scene and reprimands Job's 3 friends and Job**
- **God then directly reprimands Job's 3 friends and chastises Job**
- **Job repents for his lack of understanding**
- **God then provides Job with twice his original wealth and another 10 children**

Premise of Job's 3 friends:

- A. God is in control of everything
- B. God is just
- C. God has allowed Job to suffer
-- therefore --
- D. Job must have sinned

Job's Friends' Belief: Suffering is Evidence of God's Punishment

The friends' conclusion is false:

We know that Job did not sin, he did not cause his own suffering:

- Then the LORD said to Satan, "**Have you** considered **my servant** Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." Job 1:8
- After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because **you have not spoken** the truth about **me**, as my servant Job has. Job 42:7

Job's Friends' Belief: Material suffering is Evidence of God's Punishment
Flipside: Material Prosperity (Health and Wealth) is Evidence of God's Favor

Is this true?

A. Scripture

B. Observation

Is Material Prosperity (Health and Wealth) a Sign of God's Favor?

...Who shows no partiality to princes and does not favor the rich over the poor,
Job 34:19

and His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “neither this man or his parents sinned, but this happened that the works of God would be displayed in him. John 9:2-3

“In this world you will have trouble...” John 16:33

...it is appointed for men to die once... Heb. 9:27

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy...But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matt. 6:19-21



God's Favor?

Job's Friends' Belief: Suffering is Evidence of God's Punishment
Flipside: Material Prosperity (Health and Wealth) is Evidence of God's Favor

- A. God is in control of everything
- B. God is just
- C. God loves us
- D. Salvation is only found through placing our faith in Jesus
- E. God wants us to have a great life, here and now
- F. A great life includes material prosperity (Health and Wealth)

Implication & Job's Friend's Central Message: Misfortune is the fault of those who Suffer

Common Rebuttal to Prosperity Theology



A. God is in control of everything



B. God is just



C. God loves us



D. Salvation is only found through placing our faith in Jesus

E. God wants us to have a great life, here and now

F. A great life includes material prosperity (health and wealth)

G. God wants us to have the best life for eternity, in Heaven

H. Christians are called upon to suffer in this world

By 2006, three of the four largest congregations in the United States were teaching prosperity theology

“as children of God, we are overcomers and more than conquerors and God intends for each of us to experience the abundant life He has in store for us.”

–Joelosteen.com

“If you want to know what following the will of God looks like in practice, look at Jesus, who was brutally tortured and murdered on the cross for our sins. Look at the apostles and martyrs who died on account of proclaiming the Gospel.

These people didn’t receive back what they lost in earthly prizes or see their bank accounts increase. They sacrificed their lives for the sake of God’s true word in order to receive the gift of heaven.”

-Brendan Clarey, Opinion contributor, USA Today 1/9/2020

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

Rom. 14:17-18

What is a Great Life?



A. God is in control of everything



B. God is just



C. God loves us



D. Salvation is only found through placing our faith in Jesus



E. God wants us to have a great life for eternity, in Heaven



F. God wants us to have a great life, here and now

- I have come that they may **have life**, and have it to the full. John 10:10b
- And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Rom. 8:28
- So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Cor. 4:18

*You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You,
Because he trusts in You. Isa. 26:3*

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! Matt. 7:9-11

GOOD
Reliance on God

BAD
Reliance on Self

GOOD

- Veggies
- Homework
- Bedtime

BAD

- Candy
- Videos
- Up Late


GOOD

- Candy
- Videos
- Up Late

BAD

- Veggies
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Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Job 38:4

- A. God is in control of everything
- B. God is just
- C. God loves us
- D. Salvation is only found through placing our faith in Jesus
-  E. God wants us to have a great life for eternity, in Heaven
- F. God wants us to have a great life, here and now
- G. Christians are called upon to suffer in this world

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

John 16:33