



SOVEREIGN SUFFERING

[THE BOOK OF JOB]

Finding God in Disastrous Times - Answers From Job

INTRODUCTION ó The Unwavering Conviction of Biblical Counselors

óí seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.ö **2 Peter 1:3-4**

The Bible provides all we _____ for life and godliness.

But, the Bible does not tell us all we _____ to know.

Welcome to the topic of suffering!

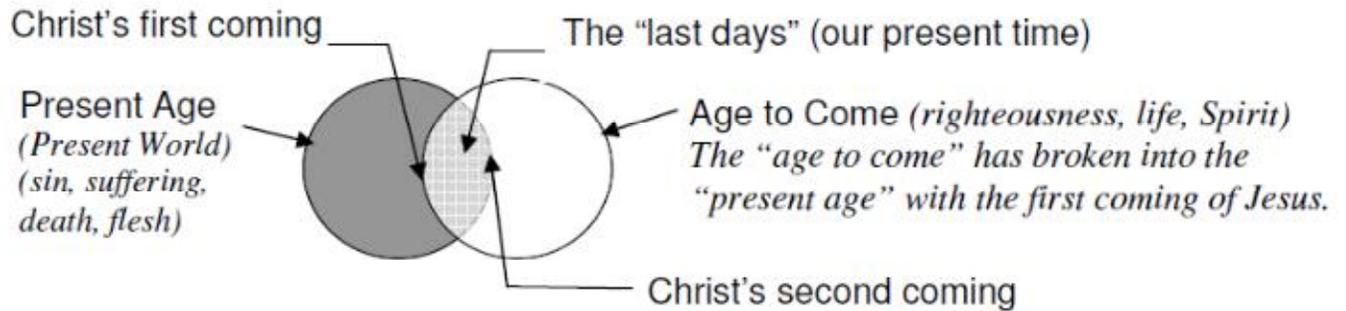
Does God have anything to do with the suffering you or your counselee face?

The POSITIONS - How People Think ...

1. _____ - I don't believe there is a _____.
2. _____ - But He is not _____ with suffering.
3. _____ - But He lacks the _____ to do anything about it.
4. _____ - God allows people to make their own _____.
5. _____ - God does not know the _____.

The PROBLEM - What People Are Trying to Do ...

The Christian is a "new creation" but still lives in the "old world."



LESSON ó Finding God in Disastrous Times: Answers From Job

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BOOK OF JOB

It is one of the best _____ to men.

It is 42 chapters long to remind us that the journey of suffering may take _____.

II. THE INSIGHTS FROM THE BOOK OF JOB

The Story - What Happened to Job?

1. His Character (1:1-5)

2. His Conflict (1:6-2:10)

The first question to ask: What is your first _____ when you encounter suffering? (cf. 1:20-22)

The second question to ask: How do you deal with the voice of others who offer you _____ counsel? (cf. 2:10)

3. His Counselors (2:11-37:24)

Note particularly Job's perplexity in chapter 3

- Curse vs. 1-10
- Lament vs. 11-19
- Confusion vs. 20-26

The third question to ask: As the one suffering, do you embrace the truth that a genuine and committed believer can experience unexplainable dark nights of the _____?

The fourth questions to ask: As the one counseling, are you _____ to serve fellow believers who genuinely suffer under God's sovereign hand?

4. His Consolation (38:1-42:17)

The fifth question: Are you willing to turn *from* the _____ you so diligently want answers to and desire explanation for, *to* the _____ you so desperately need?

The Statements - What Did Job Say?

" *Therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes.*" Job 42:6

This is NOT repentance over his _____. (See vs. 7-9)

It IS repentance over his _____. (See vs. 1-6)

" *The LORD restored the fortunes of Job ...*" (See vs. 10-16)

Summary ...In the between time (between the beginning and end of the Bible) we must put our hands over our mouths and admit there are things we don't _____, but that we are _____ to know that God does and that He will make everything right one day.

BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF JOB

I. JOB'S DISTRESS (1-3)

- A. HIS PROSPERITY (1:1-5)
- B. HIS ADVERSITY (1:6-2:13)
- C. HIS PERPLEXITY (3)

II. JOB'S DEFENSE (4-37)

A. THE FIRST ROUND (4-14)

- 1. Eliphaz (4-5) - Job's reply (6-7)
- 2. Bildad (8) - Job's reply (9-10)
- 3. Zophar (11) - Job's reply (12-14)

B. THE SECOND ROUND (15-21)

- 1. Eliphaz (15) - Job's reply (16-17)
- 2. Bildad (18) - Job's reply (19)
- 3. Zophar (20) - Job's reply (21)

C. THE THIRD ROUND (22-37)

- 1. Eliphaz (22) - Job's reply (23-24)
- 2. Bildad (25) - Job's reply (26-31)

D. YOUNG ELIHU SPEAKS (32-37)

- 1. Contradicting Job's friends (32)
- 2. Contradicting Job himself (33)
- 3. Proclaiming God's justice, goodness, and majesty (34-37)

III. JOB'S DELIVERANCE (38-42)

A. GOD HUMBLER JOB (38:1-42:6)

- 1. Through questions too great to answer (38:1-41:34)
- 2. Job acknowledges his inability to understand (42:1-6)

B. GOD HONORS JOB (42:7-17)

- 1. God rebukes his critics (42:7-10)
- 2. God restores his wealth (42:11-17)