

How Big Is God?

God's Comfort Is Bigger Than Our Suffering

I. Introduction

- A. Job 1:1-5 (NLT) ¹There once was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil. ²He had seven sons and three daughters. ³He owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 teams of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and he employed many servants. He was, in fact, the richest person in that entire area. ⁴Job's sons would take turns preparing feasts in their homes, and they would also invite their three sisters to celebrate with them. ⁵When these celebrations ended—sometimes after several days—Job would purify his children. He would get up early in the morning and offer a burnt offering for each of them. For Job said to himself, "Perhaps my children have sinned and have cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular practice.
1. The Book of Job is the story of everybody!
- B. Job 1:6-12 (NLT) ⁶One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the LORD, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them. ⁷"Where have you come from?" the LORD asked Satan. Satan answered the LORD, "I have been patrolling the earth, watching everything that's going on." ⁸Then the LORD asked Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil." ⁹Satan replied to the LORD, "Yes, but Job has good reason to fear God. ¹⁰You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is! ¹¹But reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!" ¹²"All right, you may test him," the LORD said to Satan. "Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but don't harm him physically." So Satan left the LORD's presence.
- C. Job 1:20-22 (NLT) ²⁰Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. When he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship. ²¹He said, "I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The LORD gave me what I had, and the LORD has taken it away. Praise the name of the LORD!" ²²In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God.
- D. Job 2:3-6 (NLT) ³Then the LORD asked Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil. And he has maintained his integrity, even though you urged me to harm him without cause." ⁴Satan replied to the LORD, "Skin for skin! A man will give up everything he has to save his life. ⁵But reach out and take away his health, and he will surely curse you to your face!" ⁶"All right, do with him as you please," the LORD said to Satan. "But spare his life."

1. "Does Job fear God for nothing?"
- Ε. Job 2:7-8 (NLT) ⁷So Satan left the LORD's presence, and he struck Job with terrible boils from head to foot. ⁸Job scraped his skin with a piece of broken pottery as he sat among the ashes.
 - Φ. Job 2:9 (NLT) His wife said to him, "Are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die."
 - Γ. Job 2:10 (NLT) But Job replied, "You talk like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?" So in all this, Job said nothing wrong.
 - Η. Job 2:12-13 (NLT) ¹²When they saw Job from a distance, they scarcely recognized him. Wailing loudly, they tore their robes and threw dust into the air over their heads to show their grief. ¹³Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and nights. No one said a word to Job, for they saw that his suffering was too great for words.
 - Ι. Job 3:1-4 (NLT) ¹At last Job spoke, and he cursed the day of his birth. ²He said: ³"Let the day of my birth be erased, and the night I was conceived. ⁴Let that day be turned to darkness. Let it be lost even to God on high, and let no light shine on it."
 - Ϊ. Job 3:8 (NLT) "Let those who are experts at cursing—whose cursing could rouse Leviathan—curse that day."
 - Κ. Job 3:10 (NLT) "Curse that day for failing to shut my mother's womb, for letting me be born to see all this trouble."
1. Mesopotamian Wisdom Literature
 2. "Whatever you are experiencing is what you have called upon yourself by how you live."
- Λ. Job 23:3-4 (NLT) ³"If only I knew where to find God, I would go to his court. ⁴I would lay out my case and present my arguments."
 - Μ. Job 38:1 (NLT) *Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind.*
 - Ν. Job 38:2-7 (NLT) ²"Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words? ³Brace yourself like a man, because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them. ⁴Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. ⁵Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? ⁶What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone? ⁷as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?"
 - Ο. Job 38:25-26 (NLT) ²⁵"Who created a channel for the torrents of rain? Who laid out the path for the lightning? ²⁶Who makes the rain fall on barren land, in a desert where no one lives?"

1. He is the God of gratuitous goodness!
- P. Job's story is our story!
1. Job finds out that God is loving beyond his wildest dreams!
- Q. Job 42:5 (NLT) *I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes.*
- R. Job 42:7 (NLT) *After the LORD had finished speaking to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "I am angry with you and your two friends, for you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has."*

S. Job 42:12-15 (NLT) ¹²So the LORD blessed Job in the second half of his life even more than in the beginning. For now he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 teams of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. ¹³He also gave Job seven more sons and three more daughters. ¹⁴He named his first daughter Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. ¹⁵In all the land no women were as lovely as the daughters of Job. And their father put them into his will along with their brothers.

1. Jemimah - - "Dove"
2. Keziah - - "Cinnamon"
3. Keren-happuch - - "Horn of eye shadow"
4. Now Job delights in, and gives to, the least strategic creatures in the eyes of the ancient world!
5. Can a human being hold onto God, and faith, and life, and love when it does not seem to pay off at all?

II. Conclusion