

Holding On to Hope

Part 1: When Your World Falls Apart (Job 1-2)

So Job was the richest, or the “greatest” man among all the people of the East. **What was it that made him great?**

We’ve met Job, so now we meet another key character in the story – Satan.
What does Satan really want?

How did Job respond?

Job revealed openly the depth of his sorrow.

Job resolved to worship God, regardless of his feelings.

Job recognized that he was a recipient and a steward of God’s gifts.

Job rejected the assumption that he shouldn’t have to suffer.

Job refused to blame God and become bitter.

Jesus, Greater than Job

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Part 2: Questions We Ask When Life Hurts (Job 3-37)

Who is to blame, or, what has caused my suffering?

Suffering is not punishment for sin.

Some suffering is the natural consequence of our sinful choices and the sinful choices of others.

Some suffering is the natural result of living in a fallen, broken world.

Some suffering is the supernatural work of Satan.

Suffering becomes a tool of loving discipline in the hands of our Father.

Why am I suffering? Why has this happened?

To make me fruitful

“Every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” (John 15:2)

To shape me into Christ’s likeness

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.” (Romans 8:29)

To equip me to comfort others

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” (2 Cor. 1:3)

To cause me to depend on him more fully

“For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.” (2 Cor. 1:8-9)

To reveal hidden sin or keep us from sin

“So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.” (2 Cor. 12:7)

To experience that Christ is enough

Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Cor. 12:9)

To discipline us for holiness

“He disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” (Hebrews 12:10-11)

To make me spiritually mature

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (James 1:2-4)

To give me the opportunity to live out genuine faith

To bring praise, glory and honor to Christ

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:6,7)

(Scripture references from NIV, NLT and ESV)

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Part 3: Hearing God Speak in Your Storms (Job 38-42)

**God revealed himself to Job
as Creator**

as Judge

as Sovereign

Job responded in submission

Job came to know God in a more intimate way

Abraham Kuyper:

“At first what our heart feels is that we cannot square this with our God as we imagined Him, as we had dreamed Him to be. The God we had, we lose, and then it costs so much bitter conflict of soul, before refined and purified in our knowledge of God, we grasp another, and now the only true God in the place thereof.

We fancy ourselves the main object at stake; it is our happiness, our honor, our future—and God added in. According to our idea we are the center of things, and God is there to make us happy. The Father is for the sake of the child. And God’s confessed Almightyness is solely and alone to serve *our* interest. This is an idea of God which is false through and through, which turns the order around and, taken in its real sense, makes self God, and God our servant.

Cast down by your sorrow and grief, you become suddenly aware that this great God does not measure nor direct the course of things according to your desire; that in His plan there are other motives that operate entirely outside of your preferences. Then you must submit, you must bend.

This is the discovery of God’s reality, of His Majesty which utterly overwhelms you, of an Almightyness which absorbs within itself you and everything you call yours. And for the first time you feel what it is to confront the living God. And then begins the new endeavor of the soul, to learn to understand this real God.

Job experienced restoration and resurrection