

ROUTE 66: The Book of Job

Let's turn in our Bibles, this morning, to the Book of Job... And, I want to BEGIN by reading the OPENING VERSE... It says: ***"There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job..."***

Now... Let me CROSS-REFERENCE THIS with something we read in Genesis Chapter 10... A passage OFTEN referred to as **"The Table of Nations."**

You see, this Chapter *lists* for us ALL the descendants of Noah, and his three sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth—and ALL THE PEOPLE GROUPS who descended from them...

Verse 6 of Genesis 10 tells us that ONE of Noah's sons, **Ham**... His **SONS** are Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan... Verse 8 says that Cush begot Nimrod... And verse 10 says the beginning of **HIS** kingdom was Babel... (where the "Tower of Babel" took place)...

Verse 22 tells us of **ANOTHER** of Noah's sons, **Shem**... He had a son named Eber... Verse 25 says that Eber had TWO sons; one of whom was named Peleg...

Now, this name **"Peleg"** means *"Division."* – And, Verse 25 says he was named this is because ***"...in his days, the earth was divided."*** – Many Bible scholars believe...

That Peleg was born in—or around—the SAME time as what happened at Babel took place – as God **DIVIDED** the people around the earth – and THAT is WHY he was named this...

Now... Peleg has a brother named Joktan... And Verse 29 says that Joktan has a son named **"Jobab."** – And MANY scholars believe that this **"Jobab"** in Genesis Chapter 10 **IS** actually the one **WE** think of as Job...

Now—IF THAT IS TRUE—THAT would mean that JOB... lived and walked the earth at a time long after Babel... And, not long after the flood of Noah itself...

It's also interesting that—in Verse 23 – ANOTHER of Aram's sons was **UZ**... And—if we look BACK at Job 1, Verse 1—we read Job was: ***"a man in the land of Uz..."*** – It's POSSIBLE that Aram's son **"Uz"** eventually became associated with an entire REGION...

Now... We have no way of knowing that for SURE... But we **DO** know Job was a REAL person... Both Ezekiel Chapter 14 & James Chapter 5 BOTH mention Job...

Based on the STYLE of the Hebrew language used in this Book – many scholars believe the Book of Job to be **THE** OLDEST book of the Old Testament. – E.W. Bullinger writes:

"Ancient it is beyond dispute. It probably belongs to the period [of]... Genesis... Its lesson is the OLDEST lesson we could have..." – Mike Mason said: *"[this may be] the earliest of ALL written accounts of a human being's relationship with... the one true God."*

It's been said that *"[The Book of Job] is **key** to understanding the whole Bible..."*

Now... that's the possible TIME-FRAME when the Book of Job TOOK PLACE... As to the ACTUAL WRITING of the book, it could have been much later...

The author, date, and exact **OCCASION** of the Book of Job are ALL uncertain. It COULD be that Job wrote this book... I – personally – DO NOT BELIEVE that...

In Chapter 19:23... Job says: ***“Oh, that my words were written! – That they were inscribed in a book... with an iron pen and lead forever!”*** -- From those verses, it seems Job did NOT write this book...

Some have suggested Moses... Others have suggested one of the men who contributed to Proverbs & Ecclesiastes... some have said Solomon.

Those who attribute the Book to Moses opt for a 15th century B.C. date... Others opt for a 2nd century B.C. date – Some assign it to the time of Solomon, about the mid-10th century B.C.

William Hendriksen writes: *“The... fact that... there is a wide diversity of opinion seems to prove it is impossible, on the basis of available evidence, to establish a date.”*

But, Dr. Graham Scroggie said: *“The value of the book is quite independent of [the] date, and is—as to its great message—dateless.”*

Thomas Carlyle called this Book: *“...one of the grandest things ever written... There is nothing written... in the Bible or out of it, of [such] equal literary merit.”*

It's considered a MASTERPIECE of Hebrew poetry, and appears FIRST among the POETIC books – or WISDOM BOOK – and serves to introduce the reader to the idea of Hebrew poetry...

Hebrew poetry is DIFFERENT from what WE think of as poetry... Hebrew poetry involves more the RHYMING OF IDEAS, than SOUNDS... – As for a STRUCTURE...

Chapters 1 & 2 provide a prologue—a “framework”—within which the rest of the book takes place... We know—from these Chapters—that Job was an EXTREMELY prosperous man...

He had ***“...sevens sons and three daughters... seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that THIS MAN was the GREATEST of all the people of the East.”***

Based on CURRENT ANIMAL PRICES, Job's LIVESTOCK NET WORTH ALONE was around \$56 MILLION by today's standards...

We also learn that Job was a PIOUS man... Verse 5 says Job rose ***“...early in the morning [to] offer burnt offerings according to the number of [his children]... For,”*** he said, ***“It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.’ Thus Job did REGULARLY...”***

Now, Job called God by the name “*Shaddai*” – or, the Almighty. It appears 30 times in the book of Job. – And, Verse 6 says: “*...there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before God, and Satan... came among them.*”

And Satan proceeds to challenge the piety of Job. – Now, God TESTIFIES on behalf of Job, and says—in Chapters 1, verse 8, and 2, verse 3—that “*...there is NONE like [Job] in all the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil...*”

But, Satan counters by asking: “*Does Job fear God for nothing?*” – “*Have you not made a hedge around him... and ALL [that] he has on every side? You have BLESSED the work of his hands... But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!*”

And God gives SATAN permission to **TEST** Job’s faith by stripping him of his WEALTH, his FAMILY, and ULTIMATELY his health. – In ONE DAY, Job learns that ALL of his possessions have been destroyed, and ALL of his children are DEAD...

And yet, look at Job’s reaction, in Chapter 1, Verse 20: “*Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and WORSHIPPED!... 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.*” – **THAT IS THE CONTEXT** of those famous words which we sing... Job makes this declaration after he has LOST EVERYTHING!

In fact, Verse 22 says, “*In ALL THIS, Job did not sin, nor charge God with wrong.*” – God SAYS to Satan—in Chapter 2, verse 3—“*Still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause.*”

Then, in Verse 7 of Chapter 2, Satan is allowed to strike Job with painful boils “*...from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head...*”

Now, the exact NATURE of this ailment has been debated. But, WHATEVER the EXACT diagnosis... taken together Job’s medical problems include: Intense pain... Peeling and darkened skin... Pus-filled, erupting sores... Anorexia, emaciation... Fever, Depression, Weeping, Sleeplessness, Nightmares, Bad breath, Difficulty breathing, Failing vision, Rotting teeth... Painful sores all over his body... Intense itching... And this condition lasts for MONTHS!

And, on top of it all, Job’s WIFE says to him in Verse 9 of Chapter 2: “*Do you STILL hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!*” – Obviously NOT blessed with the gift of exhortation!

Now—bear in mind—she, **TOO**, had lost everything... One commentator writes: “*Her heart, already crushed by the loss of her... children, is now without hope. She is saying [to Job], ‘You can escape this pain. Death would be better than this.’*”

Now, Job’s response in Verse 10 is a very **WISELY WORDED REBUKE**... He says: “*You speak as one of the foolish women speaks.*” – So, he doesn’t ACCUSE her of being a foolish woman... but of speaking LIKE a foolish woman.

He doesn't say she's WICKED... only lacking in discernment. Look at what Job says, in Chapter 2, Verse 10: ***"Shall we... accept good from God, and... not accept adversity?"*** – One of the GREAT LESSONS we learn from the Book of Job is how to deal with adversity...

Job recognises that God does not OWE us good; He GIVES it to us as a GIFT... But, if **adversity** comes to us, then we should even SEE THAT as a "gift," as well...

Paul says it THIS way—in Philippians 1:29— ***"to you it has been granted"***—or GIFTED—***"on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to SUFFER for His sake..."***

We always ask: *"Why does God let BAD things happen to GOOD people?"* – When—in reality—our question OUGHT to be: *"Why does God let GOOD things happen to ANY of us!"*

Matthew Poole said: *"Shall WE... give laws to our supreme Lord and Governor, and oblige Him to always bless? Shall not the great, and manifold, and long-continued mercies, which from time to time God freely and graciously gives... compensate for the short afflictions?"*

Verse 10, again, says: ***"In all this, Job did not sin with his lips."*** – Which is amazing!

And, in the WAKE of all of this, Job is visited by three friends... They're introduced in Chapter 2... We have Eliphaz the Temanite... Bildad the Shuhite... and Zophar the Naamathite...

And there follows **35 CHAPTERS** of discussion between Job and these friends, and finally the challenge of a young man named Elihu... So, the BULK of the book is taken up by his dialogues with his friends... Jon Courson makes an interesting observation...

He says: *"The first Chapters of Job [are] intriguing... The last Chapters [are] glorious... If I were writing the Book of Job, it would be about six chapters long. But... it's a full 42 chapters because its very length is a reflection of real life. When a trial begins, there are things to learn. When it ends, we're glad it's over. It's the middle part that seems to go on and on and on. Thus, the length of the debate that follows mirrors that reality."* – And, basically, they're trying to answer the question, ***"Why does Job suffer?"***

Eliphaz... says Job is suffering because **he has sinned**... He argues that those who have sinned are punished... And, since Job is suffering, he OBVIOUSLY HAS SINNED...

Bildad... says **Job is a hypocrite**... He says: ***"If you were pure and upright, surely... [God] would awake for you."***

Zophar... condemns **Job for presumption**... He says Job is getting LESS than he deserves... In Chapter 11, Verse 6, he says: ***"God exacts from you LESS than your iniquity deserves."***

And, they come to the same basic conclusion: Suffering is the direct outcome of sin, and wickedness is ALWAYS punished. They argue that you can determine God's favour or disfavour... by looking at a person's physical or material PROSPERITY or ADVERSITY.

For all intents and purposes, these guys are the **ORIGINAL PROSPERITY DOCTRINE PREACHERS**. – It's been said Job suffered MORE from the attacks of these friends than the hands of the enemy!...

Job basically ends up calling them a “bag of wind.” – In Chapter 16, verse 2, he says: ***“MISERABLE COMFORTERS are you all! Shall [such] words of wind have an end?”***

Job maintains his innocence throughout... He says that both the godly and ungodly suffer and enjoy prosperity... He vents his anger at them for accusing him, instead of bringing him comfort...

In Chapter 16, he says: ***“I... could speak as you do, if your soul were in MY soul's place, I could heap up words AGAINST you... But I would STRENGTHEN YOU... and the comfort of my lips would RELIEVE your grief.”***

THEN—in Chapter 32—This other—YOUNGER—man CONFRONTS Job... Verse 2 says: ***“The wrath of Elihu... was aroused against Job.”*** – **4 TIMES** we're told that Elihu was angry.

And, the CORE of his message is that Job's **ATTITUDE** toward God is the same as the UNGODLY, and that THIS is why judgement has befallen him...

Elihu's appeal to Job is twofold: One) That Job should have FAITH in God, rather than demand an ANSWER... and Two) that Job should change his attitude to one of humility...

But, what Elihu—and all of Job's friends—don't understand is that they had forced themselves into a **FALSE DILEMMA**... THEY THINK that either Job is right... or God is right. What they CAN'T UNDERSTAND is how **BOTH** could be right.

It's been said of the Book of Job: *“The mistake of Satan was in thinking that Job served God for what he could GET... The mistake of Job's wife was in thinking that—with the loss of the VISIBLE—ALL was lost... The mistake of Job's friends was in thinking that Job's suffering was the outcome of his sin... The mistake of Elihu was in thinking that HE was right, and that all the others were wrong... And the mistake of Job was in thinking that God was unkind...”*

The only one who does NOT make a mistake in the Book of Job is God... And, when the four men have finished speaking, God finally addresses Job out of a whirlwind...

And, in the closing chapters, God proceeds – **NOT** to explain Job's suffering – but to **HUMBLE JOB** by a series of interrogations... Dr. Graham Scroggie writes:

“The eternal does not answer [Job's] insistent questions... He does not explain, but He does give... such a sense of divine greatness that questioning will cease in the peace of submission.”

Let me say that again: ***“God does not explain, but He does give... such a sense of divine greatness that questioning will cease in the peace of submission.”***

He begins—in Chapter 38—by saying to Job: ***“Prepare yourself like a man... I will question YOU, and you shall answer ME.”*** – And by the END of **GOD'S** QUESTIONING...

Job PUTS HIS HAND OVER HIS MOUTH... And, he says—in Chapter 42: *“You can do everything, and... no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. 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... I have HEARD of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”* – Job is BASICALLY saying: *“I did NOT KNOW what I was TALKING ABOUT.”*

And, the book CONCLUDES God RESTORING Job... We read that: *“...the Lord gave Job TWICE as much as he had before.”* – And, *“the Lord blessed the latter days of Job MORE than his beginning...”* The last verse of the book says: *“Job died, old and full of days.”* – That phrase means Job died when he was *“satisfied with this life.”*

Now... There is obviously so MUCH that we could draw out of the book of Job... I mean, to study the Book of Job—or ANY Book of the Bible—in ONE SITTING is to NOT to do it justice...

But, I’m going to LIMIT my observations to **FOUR THINGS**... Four “key ideas” that I believe we can “draw out” from the Book of Job...

FIRST OF ALL... There are certain SCIENTIFIC FACTS that we see REVEALED in the Book of Job... When we read Job 26... Verse 7... It says: *“[God] stretches out the north over empty space... He hangs the earth on NOTHING.”*

And—in Verse 10—it says: *“He drew a CIRCULAR HORIZON on the face of the waters...”*

Now, remember... This s considered the OLDEST BOOK of the Bible... And, HERE... Hundreds... THOUSANDS of years BEFORE the discovery is made that the earth was ROUND... It’s revealed in God’s word... You can’t have a “circular horizon” on a FLAT EARTH!

AND—in contrast to MANY ANCIENT MYTHOLOGIES where the earth was held up on the backs of giant turtles, or elephants—the Book of Job declares that God hung the earth on NOTHING!

These are DRAMATIC... and SCIENTIFICALLY ACCURATE ASSERTIONS being made in the OLDEST book of the Bible...

Job ALSO provides TREMENDOUS TESTIMONY for the existence of dinosaurs... Chapters 40 and 42 describe two LARGE, unknown creatures – called ‘**behemoth**’ and ‘**leviathan**’ – whose descriptions sound REMARKABLY LIKE what we might think of as dinosaurs...

Now, we don’t have time to go into it all, this morning... It’s a study in and of itself... But, we HAVE made a resource available for you... It’s called *“What Really Happened to the Dinosaurs”* by by Answers in Genesis... And I encourage you to pick up a copy of that...

But, IF the book of Job is the OLDEST BOOK of the Bible, perhaps falling into the period of GENESIS CHAPTER 10—which was SHORTLY AFTER THE FLOOD—then it would MAKE SENSE for us to see... dinosaurs living alongside MAN

Remember... Noah was instructed to take TWO of every kind of animal on the ark... And that would have INCLUDED dinosaurs... which would have resulted in only a very FEW of them being alive AFTER the flood... (the flood, by the way, explains the **FOSSIL RECORD**)...

Also, after the flood, the CLIMATE of the entire planet is RADICALLY DIFFERENT... which would have made it difficult for dinosaurs to survive... **NOT TO MENTION**...

It's not until AFTER THE FLOOD that MEAT gets introduced into the diet... PRIOR TO THAT TIME—everything was a VEGETARIAN... INCLUDING the DINOSAURS...

That would mean that probably WASN'T MUCH MEAT available to them AFTER THE FLOOD to SUSTAIN THEIR DIET...

But, certainly SOME would have survived... And there have been accounts down through the ages of people claiming to see dinosaur-like creatures... And there is archeological evidence to suggest that man and dinosaur DID walk the earth together at the same time...

Again, we don't have time to go into it all this morning... But, it's important – as Christians – that we view “**scientific claims**” through the lens of the Bible... And NOT the other way around

Now, we also learn a lot about **SPIRITUAL WARFARE** from the book of Job... The word “Satan” first SPECIFICALLY appears in 1st Chronicles 21... **HOWEVER**... If the book of Job IS the **OLDEST** book of the Bible, then we **already** see it appearing here...

Remember “Satan” is not a NAME... it is a TITLE... It means: “*opponent—or THE Opponent—the hater; accuser; adversary, enemy, one who resists, obstructs, & hinders what is good.*”

And, from the opening Chapters of Job, we see that Satan has access to the presence of God... He “**presents himself**” with the “**sons of God.**” – On a SIDE NOTE...

ALL the other instances that the phrase “**sons of God**” appears in scripture specifically refers to angelic beings...

And, this is important for us to see... Because there seems to be a FALSE BELIEF amongst Christians that God can't allow Satan into His presence... And that just ISN'T true...

The Bible describes FOUR FALLS of Satan:

- It describes his fall from GLORIFIED TO PROFANE... (Ezekiel 28:14-16)...
- It describes his fall from having ACCESS TO HEAVEN (Job 1:12, 1 Kings 22:21, Zechariah 3:1) to RESTRICTION ON EARTH (Revelation 12:9)...
- From EARTH TO the BOTTOMLESS PIT, or the “abyss”... (Revelation 20:1-3)...
- And then—finally—his fall from EARTH to the LAKE OF FIRE... (Revelation 20:10)...

Now, Satan's FALL from HEAVEN TO EARTH... **HAS NOT HAPPENED YET**... it is **STILL FUTURE**... It **EVENTUALLY HAPPENS** at what appears to be the Mid-point of the Great Tribulation... in Revelation Chapter 12, where we read:

“...the accuser of the brethren who accused them BEFORE GOD day and night has been cast down.” – And “a place [was not] found for them in heaven any longer.”

How can Satan be accusing us—the “brethren”—**BEFORE GOD** day and night if he doesn’t have access to the presence of God? – This is **YET** to happen...

See, some people look at Jesus’ statement in Luke 10:18, when He says: **“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”** – And they take that to mean a DEFINITIVE, FINAL ACT...

Now, I would say that Jesus is EITHER referring to the **FIRST FALL OF SATAN** (from glorified to profane)... **OR** Jesus speaking OUT-OF-TIME in a PROPHETIC LOOK FORWARD to the mid-point of the Great Tribulation...

If THAT is the case, it’s no different than Jesus saying: **“Before Abraham WAS, I AM.”** – See, Jesus—like GOD, THE FATHER—can SPEAK about things that HAVEN’T HAPPENED YET as though they DID... (Romans 4:17)...

We also see from the opening Chapters of Job, that Satan has the power to attack mankind in ways we might not OTHERWISE think:

- Satan has the ability to **INSPIRE OTHERS** to attack Job...
- We see what happens to Job’s **FAMILY and POSSESSIONS** is an attack of the enemy...
- Satan has the ability to direct what we might call **“natural calamities”**...
- We even see **DISEASE and PHYSICAL SUFFERING** can be an attack of the enemy...

HOWEVER... Satan is ONLY ALLOWED to do what God PERMITS... Satan is NOT an independent operator. He’s a LIMITED BEING, and He is ONLY allowed to do what God allows.

We even see God setting LIMITS on what Satan can do... In Chapter 1, Verse 12, God says: **“all that he has is in your power; only DO NOT LAY A HAND on his person.”** – In Chapter 2:6, God says: **“Behold, he is in your hand, but SPARE HIS LIFE.”**

I know this can be difficult to get our heads around... But—once we do—it COMPLETELY FREES US UP! – God only ALLOWS SATAN to do things in order to bring about God’s ULTIMATE PURPOSES...

And, what’s amazing is... Satan’s schemes ALWAYS BACKFIRE! I mean, we see it here in the book of Job... And – perhaps MOST notably – we see it in the cross of Christ...

Now, somebody might say, “Kevin, what do you mean?” “Satan was trying to KEEP Jesus from the cross!” “He was trying to talk Him out of it!” “I’ve seen ‘The Passion of the Christ?’” – Well, that MIGHT be how Mel Gibson depicted it, but it’s NOT what the Bible teaches...

Why would scripture TELL us that it was SATAN who had put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot to BETRAY Jesus, if Satan was trying to KEEP Jesus from the cross?

In 1st Corinthians Chapter 2, Paul says, “...*we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for HAD THEY KNOWN, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*”

That reference to the “**rulers of this age**” is NOT a reference to Pontius Pilate, or Herod, or governmental leaders... This is a reference to SATAN and his DEMONS...

And if they had KNOWN what God’s PLAN was, they would not have delivered Jesus to the cross... But, because they are FINITE and LIMITED, they DID **NOT** KNOW God’s plans, and they actually thought they were KILLING the Messiah... When—in reality—they end-up accomplishing God’s GREATEST PURPOSE! – **So IMPORTANT to see!**

And—again—this is something we **LEARN from the Book of Job**, which **HELPS US UNDERSTAND ALL OF SCRIPTURE...**

We see **Christ Revealed** in the Book of Job... Now, there is no DIRECT reference to Christ in the book of Job... But Job **HIMSELF** CAN actually be seen as a “type” of Christ...

Job suffers greatly, he is stripped of EVERYTHING... In the end—he is restored and becomes the intercessor for his friends... That’s a **POWERFUL PICTURE OF JESUS!**

In Chapter 9, Job cries out for a Mediator—one to stand between himself and God and plead his case... He says: “*[God] is not a man, as I am, that I may answer Him, and that we should go to court together. Nor is there ANY MEDIATOR between us, who may lay his hand on us both.*”

So, here... Job is **ANTICIPATING** the role of Jesus in our lives... 1st Timothy 2:5 says: “...*there **IS** ... one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.*”

In Chapter 19:25, Job declares: “*I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God.*”

This is considered... one of the GREATEST OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETIC AFFIRMATIONS of a coming Redeemer who brings the hope of a literal, **physical** resurrection to redeemed mankind.

The word “**Redeemer**” is the word “goel.” Listen to this description of the “goel.” – “*The “goel” stood for another to defend his cause, or avenge wrongs done to him... to acquit him of all charges... He was a defender of the oppressed, a champion of the suffering, an advocate of the accused. If you were ever wronged, the “goel” stood beside you... The word is important in Old Testament jurisprudence, having both a criminal and civil aspect. As ‘blood avenger,’ a goel had a responsibility to avenge the blood of a slain kinsman. He sought not revenge but justice. On the civil side he was a redeemer or vindicator. He had the responsibility to ‘buy back’—or redeem—the lost inheritance of a deceased relative...*”

Spurgeon said: “*It was considered... the duty of the goel, not merely to redeem by price, but... to redeem by power... and both of these Christ hath wrought for us...*”

So, when Job declared that he had a ‘Goel’ living and active, he utters a **PROFOUND SPIRITUAL TRUTH**... IN GOD, man has a “Redeemer” in the fullest senses of that word...

This was something Job KNEW... it was MORE than a HOPE and a GUESS... He knew that his Redeemer was ALIVE... it was MORE than a SPIRITUAL CONCEPT... **Job’s Redeemer was a LIVING BEING Who would stand at last on the earth...**

And then—finally—there is the **Sovereignty of God**... I’ve always said that—for those who think the OPENING CHAPTERS of Job are SCARY—they’ve never read the CLOSING CHAPTERS!

The concluding Chapters of Job are absolutely mind-boggling... they reveal to us the truth that it is—INDEED—a **“FEARFUL THING to fall into the hands of the living God.”**

After all the speculation of the previous chapters... all the arguing & postulating, God says to Job—in Chapter 38—**“Prepare yourself like a man... I will question you, and you shall answer Me.”**

And God SETTLES THE DISPUTE... but He does it **HIS** way. – You see, Job wants God to settle the dispute by proving that JOB was right, and explaining the reason for his afflictions.

Job’s FRIENDS want God to prove THEM right, and for Job to recognise his error. But, God doesn’t satisfy EITHER of these! – In fact, God doesn’t answer **ANYBODY’S** questions!

Sir Robert Andersen said: *“[God’s words] do not seem to have anything to do with the central issue of why Job has suffered... The Lord apparently says nothing about this.”*

And—as we look at this **“whirlwind address”**—we make these conclusions:

First of all) Job simply **WASN’T MEANT TO KNOW WHY** he suffered... There are things ABOUT human suffering that—if God were to REVEAL them to us—it would completely destroy the PURPOSE for which it was intended...

Second) We see that **God is very intimately involved in human affairs**... The grief that Job experiences is ENOUGH to move God to speak into his life...

Third) **God’s purpose was to bring Job to an absolute END** of his self-righteousness, his self-vindication, and self-wisdom, so that Job could find his ALL in God.

So... contrary to what we MIGHT think upon first reading – the Book of Job is **NOT** primarily about man’s suffering and pain...

Job’s problem is NOT so much financial or social or medical; Job’s central dilemma is **THEOLOGICAL**. – **Job has to DEAL with the fact that – in this life – God does not always ACT the way that we THINK He will... or that He SHOULD...**

Let me say that again: **God does not always act the way that we THINK He will... or that we think He SHOULD... And God OWES US no explanation!**

For all intents-and-purposes, God shows-up at the END of the Book of Job and says: “**I don’t owe you an explanation, Job... I’m GOD... And I can DO WHATEVER I WANT!”**

The problem of PAIN is not solved in the book of Job... BUT... We DO LEARN WHO GOD IS... And, we’re reminded: Job’s ANSWER was NOT a WHY... it’s a WHO...

I’ll read this comment again, as we close: “*The eternal does not answer our insistent questions; God does not explain, but He does give to the anguished spirit such a sense of Divine greatness that all questioning [will] cease in the peace of submission.*”

G. Campbell Morgan said: “*In this Book there is no solution of problems. There is—instead—a great revelation... That God may call men into fellowship with Himself through suffering; and that the TRUE strength of the human soul is ALWAYS a proper knowledge of God.*”

The answer is not WHY... but WHO... And THAT applies to you and I, today... So, there we have the Book of Job...

Next week: The Book of Exodus, where God BRINGS HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE—Isreal—BACK to the land which He PROMISED TO GIVE ABRAHAM in the Book of Genesis...

That’s the next stop on ‘**Route 66: Journey Through the Entire Bible.**’ – Come back & join us for that...