



The Beginning

Lesson 8: Job Searches For Answers

(Job 3:1-42:17)

Job was being put to the test to see whether he only served God because of all the things God had given to Job or whether he would still serve God if all the things were taken away from him. What the story of Job describes is a man who was committed to following God whether he had been blessed with a lot or with little. Yet, Job still had questions about why he was suffering so much.

When Job was sitting with his friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar), they sat quietly for seven days and nights. Then, Job began to speak. When he spoke, he said that he wished he had never been born. He said that it would have been better for him to have died at birth rather than live and have to suffer in this way. Now, because he has lived, he could find no rest because of all the trouble that happened to him.

After this, Job's three friends break their silence and begin talking with Job. Each friend takes a turn speaking with Job. Eliphaz and Bildad both speak three different times. Zophar speaks twice. Then, after each of these friends speak, Job responds to them.

While Job was searching for answers about why he was suffering in this way, his friends said that it was because Job had sinned against God. They said that if Job and his family would have listened to God then this would have never happened. But, Job told them that they were wrong. Although Job did not know Satan was the one who caused his suffering, he knew it was not because he had sinned. Still he questioned why God would let him be in so much pain. The three friends then stopped trying to answer Job because they could not convince him.

Finally, there is another man who speaks. This one is named Elihu. He had been listening to the things Job and the three friends had been saying. But, he had been quiet because they were all older than he was and he wanted to listen to their wisdom. Yet, he saw that they were all wrong. The friends were wrong for saying that Job's sin had caused

Job to suffer – even though they had no evidence of any sin. Then, he said that Job was wrong because he was blaming God for his suffering – and had no right to do so.

After Elihu speaks, God answered Job out of a whirlwind. But, even though God spoke to Job and the friends, He did not tell them the reason why Job was suffering. Instead, He just tells them about how many things He has done and shows them that they have no right to question or argue with Him.

He asked Job where he was whenever God made the world. Or, where was Job whenever God made the seas, the clouds, or the darkness? Was Job the one who caused the morning to come every day and the sun to rise? Has Job even seen everything there is to see on this earth? Could he go where darkness and light have come from? Has he been to the place where all the snow and hail is kept? Does he make the path for the lightning bolt? Does he cause the grass to grow, make the dew, create the ice, or cause the frost? Does he rule over the stars? Can he provide food for the animals? Does he make the horse strong? Could he make the hawk fly? Could he make the large and strong animals?

God's answer could only make Job put his hand over his mouth. Job knew that he was not right to question God because God was the one who was truly great! Only God was so powerful that He could do everything that He has done in creating the world and all of the things in it! Instead, Job knew that he had already said too many things without really understanding how great God is! So, he was sorry for questioning and accusing God of being unfair.

After this, God said that He was angry with Job's three friends because they had said things about God that were not true (but there was nothing said about Elihu). These three were told to take seven bulls and seven rams to Job so that he could offer them as a sacrifice to God. And, they did what God had said. Then, God blessed Job with twice as much as he had before all of his sufferings and gave him ten children. He lived 140 years after this and lived to see his great-great-grandchildren.

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Written by Eric Krieg

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Study Questions:

- 1) What did Job want to know about his sufferings? What did he say about his birth?

- 2) How many times did Job's friends speak?

- 3) Why did Job's friends think Job was suffering?

- 4) What did Job say about his sufferings?

- 5) Why did Elihu wait to speak? What did he say about Job and the three friends when he spoke?

- 6) How was God greater than Job?

- 7) What did Job do after he heard God?

- 8) What did God tell the three friends to do? What did God do for Job?

Memory Verse:

“Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him?
He who rebukes God, let him answer it.” (Job 40:2).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: