

## **“Restoration & Revelation” Job 42**

**August 25, 2024**

Hartford Bible Church

Dan Hummel Summer Series “My Summer Job,” Part 8

1. Job’s second reply included \_\_\_\_\_ (42:6). Ps. 131
2. Job was a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord (1:8, 2:3, 42:7-8).
3. Job was a \_\_\_\_\_ between people and God (1:5, 42:10).
4. Job was restored when he \_\_\_\_\_ (42:10).
5. Job was restored by \_\_\_\_\_ (42:10).
6. Job has \_\_\_\_\_ children as well (42:13).
7. Job died after a \_\_\_\_\_ (42:17).

### **Two Commentators’ Conclusions to the Book of Job**

From *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* by Walvoord & Zuck

This book, probably the oldest in the Bible, deals with mankind’s most pressing problems: the question of suffering and man’s relationship with God. Job’s experience billboards the truth that man’s worship of God does not stem from a businesslike contract, whereby he earns material rewards from God. Man’s relationship to God is not a juridical arrangement in which He is obligated to reward man for every good act. Instead, man is to trust God, worship Him regardless of his circumstances, and rely on the perfections of His character even when God’s ways are not fully understood.

Misfortune does not mean God has forsaken His own. It does mean He has plans that the sufferer may know nothing of. A believer’s unmerited tragedy may never be fully understood. Yet he can realize that God is in charge, that God still loves him and cares for him. This is what Job learned.

His three denouncers said suffering’s purpose is always discipline (punishment for wrongdoing); Job felt it was for destruction (thinking God was determined to destroy him); Elihu stressed that the aim is direction (to keep him from death). But God had two purposes: demonstration (that Satan’s allegations were false) and development (of Job’s spiritual insight). Therefore to attack God, to malign Him, challenge Him, accuse Him, bait Him, or try to corner Him — all of which Job did — are out of the question for a believer. To criticize God’s wisdom only shows one’s own ignorance. The chasm between God and man leaves no place for pride and self-sufficiency.

Job did not receive explanations regarding his problems; but he did come to a much deeper sense of the majesty and loving care of God. Thus he came to trust Him more fully, knowing that His ways should not be challenged. Though often inexplicable and mysterious, God’s plans are benevolent and beneficial.

From *The Believer’s Bible Commentary* by William MacDonald

Actually, the mystery of human suffering is not fully explained. As Wesley Baker puts it:

When the end of the Book of Job comes, there is no answer written out. There is nothing there that would satisfy the logical mind!

(William MacDonald continued)

However, we can be sure of these two facts:

First of all, Job's suffering was not a direct result of his personal sin. God testified that he was a perfect and an upright man (1:8). Also, God said that the reasoning of Job's three friends—that God was punishing him because of his sins—was not right (42:8).

Secondly, although Job was not suffering because he had sinned, yet his trials did reveal pride, self-justification, and animosity in his heart. He was not delivered until he had a vision of his own nothingness and of God's greatness (42:1-6), and until he prayed for his friends (42:10).

Some of the lessons we learn about suffering from the Book of Job are:

1. The righteous are not exempt from suffering.
2. Suffering is not necessarily a result of sin.
3. God has set a protective hedge around the righteous.
4. God does not send sickness or suffering. It comes from Satan (Luk. 13:16; 2 Cor. 12:7).
5. Satan has some control in the realm of wicked men (the Sabaeans and Chaldeans), supernatural disasters (fire from heaven), weather (a great wind), sickness (the boils on Job), and death.
6. Satan can bring these things on a believer only by God's permission.
7. What God permits, He often is said to do. "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?"
8. We should view things as coming from the Lord, by His permission, and not from Satan. "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away."
9. God does not always explain the reason for our suffering.
10. Suffering develops endurance.
11. In visiting suffering saints, we should not be judgmental.
12. We should make our visits brief.
13. Human reasonings aren't helpful. Only God can comfort perfectly.
14. At the end of the Book of Job we see that "the Lord is very compassionate and merciful" (Jam. 5:11). We also learn that sometimes, at least, wrongs are made right in this life.
15. Job's patience in suffering vindicated God.
16. Job's patience proved Satan to be a false accuser and liar.
17. "A man is greater than the things that surround him and, whatever may befall his possessions or his family, God is just as truly to be praised and trusted as before."
18. We should be careful about making blanket statements that do not allow for exceptions.
19. Satan is neither omnipresent, omnipotent, nor omniscient.
20. In spite of God's allowing unmerited suffering, He is still just and good.

From other parts of the Bible, we get further light on some of the reasons why God allows His saints to suffer:

1. Sometimes it is a result of unjudged sin in the life (1 Co, 11:32).
2. It is a means by which God develops spiritual graces, such as patience, longsuffering, humility (Rom, 5:3-4; Joh, 15:2).
3. It purges dross or impurities from the believer's life so that the Lord can see His image reflected more perfectly (Isa, 1:25).
4. It enables the child of God to comfort others with the same type of comfort with which God comforted him or her (2 Cor. 1:4).
5. It enables the saint to share in the non-atoning sufferings of the Savior and thus to be more grateful to Him (Phil. 3:10).
6. It is an object lesson to beings in heaven and on earth (2 Thes. 1:4-6). It shows them that God can be loved for Himself alone, and not just because of the favors He bestows.
7. It is an assurance of sonship since God only chastens those whom He loves (Heb. 12:7-11).
8. It causes saints to trust in God alone and not in their own strength (2 Cor. 1:9).
9. It keeps God's people close to Himself (Psa. 119:67).
10. It is a pledge of future glory (Rom. 8:17-18).
11. God never allows us to be tempted above what we are able to bear (1Cor. 10:13).

"You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful" (James 5:11 b).