

## “Life Lessons from Job”

### Job Chapters 1 & 2

Satan issues a defiant challenge to God. Here is job’s case it proves that suffering often arises out of Satan’ rebellion against the government of God.

The first Council of Nicea, convened by Emperor Constantine in AD 325, was the first worldwide conference of the Christian church. Many of the great doctrinal matters of the Christian faith were settled for all time, such as the deity of Christ.

Of the 318 delegates to the First Nicene Council, only 12 were whole in body. All the rest had been maimed or crippled as a result of being tortured for their faith.

**In the early days of the Christian church, no one thought it was strange or unfair to suffer for Christ. Suffering was considered a normal part of the Christian life. It was expected.**

**Most of us, American Christians, have grown up feeling that we are entitled to a life of EASE, COMFORT, AND PROSPERITY. When suffering comes into our lives, we cry out in protest against the unfairness of it all.**

But when we read the writings of some of the great Christian saints of the past, we often find a more mature and accepting view of suffering.

**Oswald Chambers, the great 19<sup>th</sup> Century Christian writer from Scotland, observed “Suffering is the heritage of the bad, of the penitent and the Son of God is crucified. By these signs we know the widespread heritage of suffering”**

In Job 1, we see that this same heritage is shared by a man of the ancient Middle East, a righteous and godly man named Job.

**First, we see what kind of man Job was in Job 1:1**

Then the scene changes in verse 6 and we get a glimpse into the invisible world of God. Job gives us understanding about why innocent people suffer but it also gives us insight to the battle between God and Satan. We do not see two gods at battle we see God in battle with a fallen created angel named Satan.

So, we learn that the Christian Life is not free from suffering.

**Had the Lord Jesus been a popular politician He would have used His indisputable power to create favorable circumstances and promise prosperity and health to those who would follow Him.**

### John 16:1-33

Instead, as he was ready to depart from this earth by way of suffering and death. He said to His followers: John 16:33; here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows.

#### 1. **Suffering is inescapable in the life of the believer.**

a. This suffering was not to be conditional:

1. **Suffering may come as a result of personal sin and failure.** For example; you may suffer financially because of not budgeting your money or in a loss of a friendship due to your gossip or hurtful words.

2. **Suffering may also arise due to other people’s sin and failure.** Example: a drunk driver who causes an accident.

3. **Suffering can arise from forces outside of our control.** Example: standing for Jesus in some parts of the world is an invitation to persecution.

b. The Greek meaning of the word tribulation is in the future indicative which refers to an action that will surely occur. A Christian will experience tribulation. Your whole life will not be full of tribulation, but there will be occasions of tribulation.

c. You will not be able to be in control of all the circumstances of your life, although you will be able to some.

d. There is tribulation that is the direct result of disobedience of both physical and spiritual laws.

More causes of suffering:

**Deserved suffering occurs when we sin or act foolishly: 1 Peter 4:15**

**Undeserved suffering is part of following in Jesus footsteps: 1 Peter 2:21**

**Suffering encourages growth: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

**Suffering may be for testing and to demonstrate God's glory: John 9:1-3**

**We may suffer to help others: 2 Corinthians 1:3-5**

Suffering is common to all people and is not removed by the presence of the Holy Spirit. **Being a Christian is not a "get out of suffering free" card.** Christians experience suffering like everyone else.

Back to John 16:1; KJV is offended NASV is stumbling. The Lord by implication says to us:

It should not take you by surprise. (Suffering)

It may not make sense to you, but that's part of My wisdom.

There are certain things in life such as suffering; sickness, persecution, and death which you are incapable of understanding and because of that, Jesus cannot explain it to you.

The easiest thing to do is to be offended or to stumble when suffering and tribulation overtake you. But Christ knows what He is doing, and He told you it is going to be so.

Only Christ gives inner peace which no favorable circumstances can yield. With His peace within one can face suffering, sickness, death, or any circumstance.

**Philippians 4:7; And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

#### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM SUFFERING?**

##### **1. Trust God**

- **Sometimes God allows suffering to come into believers' lives to strengthen their faith.**
- **Rejoice because of what God will do in your life and what He promises for your future.**
- **Cast your cares on Christ because His faithfulness never changes.**
- **Hebrews 13:8; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes, and forever.**
- **Allow God to help you endure. Romans 8:16-18**

##### **2. Seek His Lessons**

- **What is God teaching you?**
- **What would you like to learn? How would you want to be changed due to your suffering?**

##### **3. Seek His actions**

- **What could God possibly be doing in your situation? Where do you see His hand at work?**
- **Remember Isaiah 55:8; My thoughts are not your thoughts and your ways are not My ways.**

##### **4. Take Small Steps forward**

- **What small step can you take today to begin the process of rebuilding your life?**

##### **5. Get support. One sees great things from the valley; only small things from the peak.**

**Tim Keller: "You don't really know Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have."**

