

JOB: When I Face Suffering and deep trouble

To hide in your heart! Job 42.5-6/DAV Version

“I have heard of You by human story and experience; But now my eye sees You more clearly; Therefore I change my previous view of You, And I humbly bow and console myself in You.”

Remarkable things about the ancient book of Job:

- No developed Hebrew references.
- Insight into the relationship between man, angels, and God.
- The scope of his suffering and loss - and restoration.
- The unhelpful and inaccurate views of his friends.
- Insight into the way suffering impacts our lives - for ultimate good!

The way of suffering is in many ways alien to the 21st century believer. We have achieved high levels of *personal comfort* and developed *buffers* to isolate us from pain. The concept of suffering (or choosing to suffer) is unthinkable and in some ways, repulsive to our advanced thinking.

What are the boundaries of suffering for the believer? 1 Corinthians 10:13

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

Who should receive blame for sufferings? John 9:1-3

“As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

What can suffering do for us and should we expect it? Hebrews 12:4-13

“For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin”

What can be one of the chief outcomes of suffering? James 1:12

“Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

What should be our response to suffering? James 1:2-4 (See Acts 16:22-30)

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

What would you consider the big picture on suffering? 1 Peter 5:6-11

“After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.”

What about me?

How would you personally define what suffering involves?

What are some specific ways you have seen others suffer? Ways you have suffered?

What does affliction take from us and what can it replenish? 2 Corinthians 4:8-18

To what extent can we as Christ's followers expect to suffer? 2 Corinthians 11:23-30