

## Job - Introduction

**Job 1:1-22**—One of the toughest chapters in the entire Bible.

We are going to be taking a couple of months to venture into Job; a book that I consider to be one of the most fascinating, albeit, disturbing books in the entire Bible

--Job is one of the most difficult books in the Bible not because its convoluted or hard to follow, but because we live in world where we love to think that things work out differently or are far more predictable.

The world we live in has many questions for people that believe the way we do.

--Some of the biggest and most difficult of these questions are ones that are answered by Job's book.

"If God is good, then why do bad things happen?"

"If God is good and in control, then why does He let evil continue?"

"If God is good and in control, then why do bad things happen to good people?"

--There are good answers for the questions in the Bible and in Job in particular.

--Good answers; not necessarily popular answers; not necessarily things you wanted to hear, but correct and good.

Nevertheless, in the short run there is a general answer that will go a long way to quieting our anxieties over these difficult things.

"Why do bad things happen?" A good and solid answer, and one that we still need to hold on to even though we are going learn a lot more from Job—(it's not the answer we may want or like and it may be the one among them all that is the hardest to swallow, but here goes) **It's too early to tell!**

--There are definitely some things about which we can say: "Those or these things are the causes for good or evil, blessings or curses."

--Nevertheless, the full picture of all the reasons why things work out the way they do in our lives—that picture is **at best a fuzzy one.**

--Its too early to tell; we do not have all the information; therefore, hard and fast conclusions will be flawed.

--"Why is this person going through this?" "Why did God pour out these blessings on one and allow these seeming curses on another?" Be careful! The part of you that thinks you know the real, full answer is also the arrogant part of you!

--There will come a day in which it's all going to be said and done; it's all going to make sense and be totally clear, but today is not that day!

### **1. An early word of warning from the book of Job:**

Be careful when drawing hard and fast conclusions about yourself and your circumstances.

--Job will spend the vast majority of his rather large book trying to figure out why these awful things happened to him and he never does.

--Job knows now, now that he's in Heaven; it makes sense now, but it never did as long he was on earth!

--"I know why this happened to me; its was because of thus and such" do you really know for sure?

Be especially careful when asking someone else to draw conclusions about your situation and circumstances. Since you probably don't know the full answer yourself, what's the chances of someone else knowing those answers? Almost nil.

Be extra special, double asterisk, underscored, bold faced **careful** when drawing conclusions about others.

--**I Corinthians 4:5**

--Just because someone's life doesn't look all that great to us does not mean that we will ever have the capacity to understand why.

There are three men "friends of Job" in this book who thought they knew exactly why Job went through what he went through. They get their backsides handed to them by God!

--Do not make the same mistake that these men did—someone's life may look bad or good but whether it truly is remains to be seen.

--**IT's too early to tell!**

Jesus said it as succinctly as it can be said: **Matthew 7:1**

--We know better, but our natural tendency is to reason concerning someone else's circumstances, "I wonder what they did?"

--"They must have done something wrong to be put through all that they are." You really think that you know?

--This isn't biblical thinking; it's carnal thinking—you're thinking like a Hindu.

Thinking like that is summed in a false doctrine called Karma—it's a worldly and base way of thinking.

--Karma says, "What ever happens to person is always directly related to what they did. Good or bad."

--The book of Job and the Bible in general stand against notions like that.

--The book of Job labels this kind of reasoning a huge mistake that carries dire consequences for the person who reasons that way.

--**Avoid this like it's a plague!**

--There may be no relationship between what you've done and anything you're experiencing.

--Don't believe me? ask Job! --God Himself says he is a great guy. He's God's favorite! --the best of all the men of the east. What did he do to deserve what he was going through? Nothing!

There may be no direct relationship between what you've done what you've experienced or are currently experiencing.

--This goes both ways: we may have all kinds blessings, and our cup may be "runnething over"; our tendency is to think we've done something to bring that on. "I always suspected that I was amazing"

and...

--Nope! These blessings may not be related to anything you've done or haven't done.

--On the other hand, you may be really going through some bad stuff and... Nope! the way you've acted or lived may not have anything to do with it.

We have Job to thank for all this understanding—our thinking is going to be altered, hard conclusions are going to be challenged, humility is approaching like a train on schedule and it will run you flat if you are not humbling yourself already.

--Questions come when life doesn't make sense, but it isn't just on those occasions that we don't have it figured out.

--"I had life all figured out until this happened"—no you didn't!

--"If I do thus and such, this will always be the result" —no, not necessarily.

--You're thinking like a Hindu—like a televangelist: "If I act good, good will always come to me/always happen in my life" No, not necessarily.

--“When people act bad, that is the cause of the bad things in their lives.” No. I’ve known plenty who were pretty far down on the bad scale and their lives were coming up roses—there was no direct relationship between what they were experiencing and how they lived.

The Book of Job is a book of bad things happening for unseen reasons: neither Job nor especially his friends had any clue as to what was the real cause of his suffering.

--You could be completely wrong about why things are the way they are in your life—maybe you aren’t completely wrong but on some level I can assure you that you don’t have all the information—**its too early to tell!**

--Job has the potential to change much of our thinking about why things are the way they are.

How do we come at this book and its teachings? As low as possible!

Humility is a train on schedule and you can opt to get on early and enjoy the ride or you can wait until its too late and get ran over—either way the train is coming.

Know that God has all the real answers and also know that He doesn’t always give them to us.

A little boy was listening to his Mom describe how in the beginning of creation, God made mankind from the dust of the earth and how after death our bodies go back to being dust. The little boy had just cleaned under his bed and had a dustpan full of dust and held out to his mom and said, “Is this guy coming of going?”