

Agree / Disagree:

1. “Justice is better than fairness.”
2. “Human suffering is unjust.”
3. “Human suffering is unfair.”
4. “All human suffering comes from Satan.”
5. “God is unpredictable and cannot be trusted.”

Loving God No Matter What

*A Brief Look at
the Story of Job*



A Few Things to Keep in Mind

- How do you describe the *Indescribable*?
 - *Literary & Poetic license*
 - *Anthropomorphism*
- This will be a very brief survey

The Book of Job

- Who wrote it? We don't know
- When it was written? We don't know
- Why was it written?
 - *Justice vs. Sovereignty* – Is God subject to justice, or is He free to violate it?
 - *Love* – What does it mean to love God? Is God worth loving?

The Structure of *Job*



Where was Uz?

- Gen. 22:20-24
 - Uz & Buz (Elihu)
- Gen. 25:1-6
 - Shuah (Bildad)
 - Sheba -> Sabeans
 - “to the east”



Who was Job?

- His character:
 - Blameless -> integrity, sincerity; no hidden sin
 - Upright -> conduct: fair, honest; living rightly in the sight of God and man
 - Devout -> fearing God/turning away from evil
 - Unique – *there is no one like him on the earth*

Who was Job?

- His family:
 - Seven sons & three daughters
 - One wife (2:9)
- His practice:
 - Intercessor / priest for his family (1:5)
 - ... and later for his friends (42:8)

Who was Job?

- His possessions:
 - Large flocks/herds
 - Extremely large land-holdings
 - Very many servants
 - *The greatest of all the men of the east*
 - Blessed by God
 - “filthy, stinking rich”

Who was Job?

- Was Job a real person?
 - Ezek. 14:12-20
 - James 5:11-12
- When did Job live?
 - Perhaps after Abraham but before Moses?
(during Israel's slavery – Gen. 15:13)

Of vital importance to the story:

1. Job had to be totally innocent
2. Job had to be genuinely righteous
3. Job had to be completely *in the dark*
4. The suffering had to come from God

Job 1:6-12

- *The Satan = The Adversary (accuser, opposer)*
 - Satan is God's agent, working God's plan on God's behalf
 - Satan needs God's permission
- What was Satan's accusation?
 1. “Job serves You because You bless him”
 2. “You bless him so that he will serve You”

Job 1:13-22

- Test #1: emotional pain and suffering
 - In mere moments, everything was gone
 - By means of human actors and ‘acts of God’
- Can God be charged with *injustice*?
 - Did anyone *deserve* this?
- Job’s response: grief and worship
 - All Job had left was God, and he loved Him

Job 2:1-10

- Test #2: bodily pain and suffering
 - Leprosy? Elephantiasis?
- Can we have a little grace for Job's wife?
 - She passed judgment on God: "Any God who would do this is not worth following."
- Job's response: acceptance
 - Both good and adversity come from God, whatever the means or agent

Job 2:11-13

- “they made an appointment together” – perhaps weeks later
 - They sympathized
 - They sat speechless
 - They jumped to wrong conclusions based on bad theology

So What?

- We should pursue righteousness (1 Tim. 6:11)
 - This is pleasing to God (cf. 1 Thess. 4:1-8)
- We must recognize God's sovereignty in all things: both good and adversity
 - How do we respond?
 - Accept testing (perhaps with joy – James 1:2)
 - Love God no matter what