



The Old Testament and Suffering especially from the Book of Job



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A. INTRODUCTION – EVIL AND GOD’S JUDGEMENT

- 1. God created the World and Humanity Good – Genesis 1 and 2**
He is a good God and made a very good creation
However, He created the Potential of Evil and Death to allow free creatures
- 2. Evil came into God’s good creation through Deception, Disobedience, Pride**
Genesis 3 – Satan’s Lie led to humanity’s Fall and creation’s Curse
- 3. Evil multiplied as sinful humanity multiplied – Genesis 4 through 10**
Cain, Lamech, Noah, Babel –
Without repentance, only judgement and increased severity of curse
Natural evils force me to admit “God is God and they aren’t”
- 4. God’s Redemption Plan begins with His call of Abraham –**
God chose Abraham because he would command his children
to keep God’s ways and do righteousness and justice
- 5. Abraham’s children, God’s chosen people, learn of God’s Justice**
Law of Moses – blessed if keep God’s Law, cursed in ignore Law
Illustrated in History of Judges and Kings
- 6. Doctrine of God’s Justice formalized in Wisdom Doctrine of Psalms Proverbs**
The Righteous and Wise are always blessed in this world – learn it by observing!
The Wicked Fools are always cursed – may be delayed - *IS IT TRUE?*
- 7. Proper Old Testament Interpretation – Understood through New Testament**
Old Testament is valuable, but many teachings must be understood spiritually
- 8. Progressive Revelation - God revealed His ways slowly. But fully revealed Himself in Jesus.**
Understanding of God’s Justice limited by:
God delaying revelation of *Judgement in the Afterlife*
and *existence and power of Satan*
God’s purpose was to firmly establish faith in His Justice and Power
Trust God for who He is, not for what He can do for us

B. BOOK OF JOB – Greatest Hebrew Poem, Unknown author, Historic Play,
Addresses Problem of God's Justice and Questions Wisdom Doctrine

1. **Introduction** – Job is Blameless, Great wealth, family, health, spiritual intuition
God and Satan – God brings Job up, Satan claims Job is mercenary, takes down hedge
Satan destroys Job's wealth and children – Naked came, Naked leave
God and Satan – God says that He was "incited" by Satan and Job suffers "for no reason"
Satan strikes unclean skin disease; Wife "curse God and die" – *Poor Woman*
Three friends come – Lament, mourn, fast, and wait for Job to speak
2. **Job and Eliphaz** – Job laments and wishes he was never born
Eliphaz encourages, then gives arguments for possible reason for suffering
 - a. *From Wisdom Doctrine* – suffering is temporary, Job will be restored
 - b. *Original Sin* – from Eliphaz's Dream it was revealed to him that none are pure
 - c. *Human Condition* – Humanities lot is to suffer. It just happens!
 - d. *Unsearchable God* – His ways and reasons are beyond our understanding
 - e. *Godly Discipline* – like a father correcting his son to improve his character
3. **Great Debate** – Job responds and each friend takes turn answering him
Job wishes to die. Friends believe that this would prove he was guilty of sin
Job questions God and demands to see Him
Wishes for a Mediator, Advocate, and Redeemer – *Fulfilled in Jesus*
Friends conclude he is a prideful secret sinner. Demand that he repent.
Job despairs and makes a vow of Clearance
4. **God's Response** – *Overwhelming Whirlwind*
Who is he that obscures *my Plans with words without Knowledge*
Do you discredit my justice to justify yourself?
Asks unanswerable questions to show Job his ignorance and humble him.
God's plan to defeat evil will work itself out through cross and resurrection
5. **Job's Repentance and Restoration**
Job had heard of God with ears, now sees Him with eyes and repents of his presumption
Must sacrifice to spare friends from God's anger
Job's angry questioning of God's justice, better than friends' religious cruelty
Fortune and Family restored and lives long full life
6. **Lessons from Job** – How to triumph over tragedy and minister to other who are suffering
Not intellectual answer. Weep with them. Hearts are comforted in the arms of Jesus.
7. **Habakkuk- the little Job** – prophesied during sacking of Jerusalem
Cried to God about the injustice of an evil nation savaging the innocent and guilty
GOD'S GREAT REVELATION – "*the Just will Live by Faith*"
Paul revealed Faith as the source of salvation
Martin Luthor restored the fallen church by justification by faith
Habakkuk experienced God and found victory in God in all trials
8. **Faith to overcome tragedy** – Faith in the reality of the presence of Christ
Faith in the knowledge of Christ's victory of death and hope in eternal glory