

# Hurting Hearts

## Chapter 2

### Audio Lesson: Old Testament #47



Objective: To introduce the book of Job as the Bible's foremost book on the problem of suffering.



*“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.”*

—Job 1:21

God’s people have always suffered. Life is difficult and perplexing, and becoming a Christian does not take us out of our troubles. But God has a message for us when our hearts are hurting: Pain and suffering are inevitable, but misery is optional. That is the message of the book of Job.

The book of Job is one of the greatest poems ever written. It can also be read as a three-act play that begins with a conversation between God and Satan, continues with conversations between Job and his friends about his problems, and ends with God restoring all that Job had lost and more. In the first act, God allows Satan to remove all of Job’s blessings, including his wealth, his children, and his own health. Job passed these tests by not turning away from God, but he did not understand his problems. Most of the book tells how he and his friends wrestled with the question of why we suffer. In the end, God tells all of Job’s friends that they were wrong, and then he restored Job’s blessings.



1. True or false? Many people feel that the book of Job is the oldest book in the Bible.
2. True or false? The best way to come to scripture is to say, “When I know it and understand it, then I will obey and do it.”

3. True or false? The book of Job is a poem.
4. True or false? When we suffer, God wants us to submit without asking any questions.

*Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.*

5. Who is the book of Job written to?
  - a. People who have no problems
  - b. People who are hurting
  - c. Pastors and priests
  - d. Non-Christians
6. How can we learn whether scripture is true?
  - a. Study for years to understand it.
  - b. Try to prove that it is false.
  - c. Come to it with a heart willing to obey it.
  - d. Ask religious leaders to explain it.
7. Read Matthew 5:4. How does this verse relate to the book of Job?
  - a. Job is an illustration of this verse.
  - b. Job contradicts this verse.
  - c. Jesus taught that Job did not have enough faith.
  - d. Jesus explained that Job's suffering was not relevant to the Christian life.
8. How do we receive God's blessings in suffering? (choose all that apply)
  - a. By learning to ask the right questions
  - b. By accepting all suffering as what we deserve
  - c. By listening for God's answers to our questions
  - d. By believing God's answers to our questions
9. When do we grow most spiritually?
  - a. When all is well
  - b. When we become very influential
  - c. Only after being a Christian for ten years
  - d. When we go through trials and testing
10. According to the conversation between God and Satan in the beginning of the book of Job, why did Job suffer?
  - a. Because he was unrighteous
  - b. Because he was righteous and God allowed Satan to test him
  - c. Because he asked God too many questions
  - d. Because he did not know enough about God

<p><i>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.</i> —Matthew 5:4</p>
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11. How did Job respond to his suffering?

- a. He cursed God.
- b. He abandoned his faith.
- c. He remained faithful.
- d. He celebrated.

12. When Satan attacked Job's health, what limit did God place on Satan?

- a. Satan could only attack Job for one month.
- b. Satan could only cause minor pain.
- c. Satan could do anything he wanted, even kill Job.
- d. Satan could do anything except take Job's life.

13. What is the most important thing we can do when a friend suffers?

- a. To be near and available
- b. To say all the right words
- c. To fix every problem
- d. To stay far away



Do you ask God questions when you suffer? What do you ask Him? Have you ever heard Him answer?

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Thank God that He is always with you, even when you suffer, and thank Him that Jesus has overcome the world. Ask God to use you to comfort other people in their pain and suffering.



## Going Deeper

1. If the book of Job is the oldest book in the Bible, what does that tell us about how God prioritizes the ministry of giving comfort to hurting hearts? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Ultimately, who was responsible for the suffering of Job? (Consider Isaiah 45:7) How does this book answer the question, “Why do the righteous suffer?” \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Explain how the dialogue between Satan and God teaches us that the evil one attacks God’s people within the limits of the permissive will of God. What is the difference between the permissive and the directive will of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Since God tells Job’s friends at the end of the book that they were wrong in everything they said about God and about Job, how should that influence the way we read their discourses? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Explain how the book of Job is like a commentary on the second beatitude of Jesus, which says, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4) (Consider Job 14:10, 14 as examples of the right questions that God desires we ask when we want to experience the comfort and blessing Jesus promised to give us when we are mourning.) \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Demonstrate how Job looked in, looked up and then looked around to discover the solution to the paradoxical why of his suffering. \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Precisely, when and why did God double all his blessings and why did He not double his children? \_\_\_\_\_

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