

Look In, Look Up, and Look Around

Chapter 3

Audio Lesson: Old Testament # 48



Objective: To learn the right perspective on our suffering from the example of Job.



I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

—Job 19:25-27

After Job's friends finished telling him how sinful he must have been to deserve such suffering, a young man named Elihu told them that they had all been asking the wrong question. Job needed to look up and see God's perspective on his suffering because he had been thinking of his faith only in terms of what he would receive from God, not what God would receive from him. When Job encountered God, he repented and then prayed for his friends. After he had prayed for them, God restored his blessings and gave him double of what he had before God had allowed Satan to test him.

Like Job, we can learn from our suffering. Our mourning can lead us to ask the right questions about life and eternity. It can also lead us to listen to God for the answers to our questions. Job waited a long time for his answers, but God did not remain silent forever. And finally we can let our mourning bring us to a place of believing God's answers to our questions. When we do, we will experience the blessing and comfort of salvation.



1. True or false? All four men who spoke to Job agreed on every issue.
2. True or false? Whenever we suffer, it is always because we have sin in our life.
3. True or false? After Job encountered God, he no longer claimed that he was completely righteous.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. What is the subject of the long middle section in the book of Job?
 - a. It is a discussion about why Job is suffering.
 - b. It is Job's arguing with God.
 - c. It is a good text for us to learn why we suffer.
 - d. It shows us what we should do when a friend is suffering.
5. In the discussions between Job and his friends, who gets blamed for Job's suffering? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. God
 - b. The weather
 - c. Satan
 - d. Job
 - e. Job's children
 - f. Random chance and bad luck
6. What did Job claim to his friends?
 - a. That he understood why he was suffering
 - b. That he was righteous
 - c. That God allowed Satan to afflict him as a test
 - d. That God did not really exist
7. Which of the following commendable attitudes did Job have?
 - a. He was asking the right questions.
 - b. He was listening for God's answers.
 - c. He was believing God's answers.
 - d. All of the above
8. In what way does the book of Job prophesy about Jesus?
 - a. Job believed that his Redeemer would come one day.
 - b. Job's friends told him he needed a Savior.
 - c. God told Job that Jesus would die on a cross to pay for his sins.
 - d. There is no hint of Jesus in the book of Job.
9. Why did Elihu think it was appropriate for him to speak?
 - a. He was older than the others.
 - b. He was more educated than the others.
 - c. He knew that wisdom comes from God's Spirit.

- d. He wanted to encourage Job's friends about how right they were.
10. Who or what should be the focus of your life?
- a. Yourself
 - b. Your family
 - c. Your work
 - d. God
11. What did Job repent of?
- a. All of his past immorality
 - b. Worshiping false idols
 - c. His old perspective of God
 - d. Having such foolish friends
12. Which direction does God want us to look?
- a. In
 - b. Up
 - c. Around
 - d. All of the above
13. Which of the following describes a mature Christian?
- a. Someone who expects only to receive things from God
 - b. Someone who expects to receive from God and to give to Him
 - c. Someone who never expects to receive anything from God.
 - d. None of the above
14. When we suffer as followers of Christ, we should; (*choose all that apply*)
- a. Allow the suffering to help us ask the right questions.
 - b. Allow the suffering to bring us to a place that we listen to God.
 - c. Allow the suffering to bring us to a place where we believe God's answers to the right questions.
 - d. Allow others to see us suffer and complain



What is your motivation for being a Christian: what you expect God to do for you, what you expect to do for God, or some of both? What does the book of Job teach us about those who only expect to receive from God and not give?



Thank God for all you have received from Him. Ask Him what He wants you to give Him and what how He wants you to serve Him.



Going Deeper

1. During the longest section of the book, the dialogue between Job and his friends, what was a common premise they all held together, and what was the focal point of their sharp disagreement? _____

2. How did Job view himself throughout this dialogue before God intervened and spoke with him in a whirlwind? _____

3. How can we explain the complete reversal of Job's view of himself after he saw God and spoke with God? _____

4. After he saw God, why did Job despise himself, and of precisely what did he repent? _____

5. At the worst part of his suffering (Job 19: 25-27) Job receives perhaps one of the oldest and most quoted Messianic prophecies in the Bible. When he claims he will see his Redeemer, does he mean in his flesh or without his flesh? _____

6. In the last chapter of the book (chapter 42: 5, 6), when Job claims that he has heard of God but now he sees Him, does he mean in the way he has just literally seen Him, or does he mean that he now understands God, or both? What do you think? _____

7. How can you apply this marvelous and magnificent "Saga of Suffering" to your own suffering? _____
