

# The Message of the Book of Job

Fill in the blanks:

Throughout the Book of Job, the major question that God is answering is “On what basis does God consistently deal with us?” Every major character in the book — J\_\_\_\_, E\_\_\_\_\_, B\_\_\_\_\_, Z\_\_\_\_\_, and E\_\_\_\_\_ — assumed that God governed humankind on the basis of r\_\_\_\_\_. They believed there were no exceptions to the rule that God b\_\_\_\_\_ good people and p\_\_\_\_\_ bad people in this life.

Job concluded that God was u\_\_\_\_\_, since, even though he had been good, God was allowing him to s\_\_\_\_\_ anyway. Job's wife a\_\_\_\_\_ with him. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar believed that Job had to be a b\_\_ man, rather than a good man, since he was s\_\_\_\_\_. Elihu suspected Job was a b\_\_ man, but he was not as sure about that as Job's other three friends were, thinking that maybe he was i\_\_\_\_\_.

The Book of Job reveals that while God *usually* b\_\_\_\_\_ the godly and p\_\_\_\_\_ the ungodly, He does not *always* do so in this life. There is a more fundamental basis from which God operates. Evidence in the Book of Job points to God's g\_\_\_\_\_ as the basis of His dealings with people.

Did Jesus' disciples naturally think that God governed on the basis of retribution?

John 9:2-3

Luke 13:2-4

Even today people make some of the same conclusions:

- How can a loving God allow good people to suffer?
- I must earn God's favor or work to be able to go to heaven.
- If God loves me why does He allow \_\_\_\_\_?
- If I do right God will bless me with wealth (Prosperity Gospel)

Discussion Questions:

1. Job went through some pretty intense trials. Have you ever experienced this kind of trial in your life? Have you ever blamed God of doing wrong, or wanted to? What were the circumstances? Did you pass or fail the test?
2. Based on Job 2, why is Job subjected to the torment that comes on him? Is this a result of his sin?

3. Why has God singled him out to Satan? In light of this, is his torment a punishment or an honor?
4. When we go through bad times, we have a tendency to think, "This is all about me..." Should we fight against this tendency? How might we go about that?
5. Did Job ever know in his lifetime what caused all this to come upon him? Will we always understand why we suffer?

6. In 1st Peter 1:6-7, Peter writes:

*In this, you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

Do you believe that trials prove your faith to be real? How do they do that? Can faith be proved genuine without trials?

7. How did Paul prove his own faith was genuine? (hint: see 2 Corinthians 11:23-27)
8. If you have failed the test at some point in your life, is it an unforgivable sin?
9. What do you need to do about this? What can you be confident will happen?

### ***Prayer***

How can the group partner with you, and help share your burdens? Write down others requests so you can keep up with them, and be reminded to pray for them throughout the week.