

Out of the Storm

A Study of Job

Part 6 – “A True Believer”

Job 4-27

Main Idea: Though Job cried out in anguished complaint, his pain reveals a heart that both rightly understood God and ultimately trusted that He would redeem.

The cycles of speeches in Job:

1st cycle:

Eliphaz (4-5)	Job (6-7)
Bildad (8)	Job (9-10)
Zophar (11)	Job (12-14)

2nd cycle:

Eliphaz (15)	Job (16-17)
Bildad (18)	Job (19)
Zophar (20)	Job (21)

3rd cycle

Eliphaz (22)	Job (23-24)
Bildad (25)	Job (26-27)

Because the counsel of Job’s friends was based on a truncated theology, it served only to increase his suffering. Theirs was a kind of prosperity theology that understood that earthly blessings always accompanied faithfulness while calamity would only befall the wicked. Ultimately God will rebuke Job’s friends and Job himself will offer sacrifices on their behalf.



The problem with the counsel of Job’s friends:

While they got certain things right such as the fact that God is sovereign and just, the counsel of Job’s friends fails because their theology is severely deficient in at least three ways:

1. They had no place for Satan.

Chapter one of the book of Job vividly describes the spiritual dynamic underlying the calamitous events of Job’s life. Job’s friends seem to have no theological category for spiritual conflict and the work of Satan.

2. They had no place for waiting.

Job’s friends embraced a theology of “now”. Blessings for the just and calamity for the wicked would be experienced immediately rather than ultimately.

3. They had no place for the cross.

Job’s friends could not conceive of the righteous sufferer. This is ultimately a denial of God’s redemptive purposes which will find their fulfillment in the dying and rising of Jesus.

Marks of a True Believer**1. True believers wrestle with God.**

Job wrestles with God precisely because he believes what is true. This is not to say that Job always gets it right. There are times when he openly questions the goodness and justice of God. This is the point of Job's wrestling: "How can it be that a good and just God is treating me so unjustly?" However, though he wrestles mightily, Job is dogged in his faith. His theology will not allow him to observe his suffering and conclude that somehow God is not just or not sovereign or not good. He is all those things. All true believers, like Job, wrestle when they see or experience great suffering or injustice.

What Job Believed:**a) God is sovereign.**

Job never doubts that what has happened to him has come through God's hand.

b) Man is a sinner.

Even before his calamity, Job knows that there is something wrong in the heart of man. This is why he offers sacrifices on behalf of his children.

c) God's ways are confounding.

Job confesses his utter dismay over why God is treating him like an enemy. He cannot understand what God is doing. Though Job knows God is good, His actions seem to contradict that. The point is that there will be many times when we simply cannot understand what God is doing or why he is acting in particular way.

d) God is just.

- Job 27:7-23

God will never do what is wrong. Ultimately the wicked are punished and God's people are blessed.

e) God justifies.

It is clear that Job was familiar with the truth recorded in Genesis 1-11. He understood that men were sinners. He understood the necessity of sacrifice for the guilt of sinners. And Job also understood ultimately that his righteousness was due to something God had done.

Job never suggests that his righteousness is due to his own good works. Rather he speaks of his righteousness as something that is his that he will not give up. It is a gift that he clings to. Job has elsewhere acknowledged his sin. He already understands the necessity of sacrifice. So Job's faith is grounded, not in his goodness, but in the "words of the Holy One" (6:10).

- Romans 3:21-26

2. True believers long for ultimate redemption.

- Job 19:25-27

We know that there is something about our redemption that still waits to be accomplished. The whole created order and we ourselves still "groan" under the weight of our falleness. So even though God has saved us we still suffer the pains of living in a sinful fallen world. So our hope is not that God will make everything better now. Our hope is grounded in what God has yet to do.

- 1 Corinthians 15:50-58
- Romans 8:18-25