



Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Job*

BIBLE TEXT | JOB 5:1-27

1 "Call now; is there anyone who will answer you? To which of the holy ones will you turn?

2 Surely vexation kills the fool, and jealousy slays the simple.

3 I have seen the fool taking root, but suddenly I cursed his dwelling.

4 His children are far from safety; they are crushed in the gate, and there is no one to deliver them.

5 The hungry eat his harvest, and he takes it even out of thorns, and the thirsty pant after his wealth.

6 For affliction does not come from the dust, nor does trouble sprout from the ground,

7 but man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward.

8 "As for me, I would seek God, and to God would I commit my cause,

9 who does great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number

10 he gives rain on the earth and sends waters on the fields;

11 he sets on high those who are lowly, and those who mourn are lifted to safety.

12 He frustrates the devices of the crafty, so that their hands achieve no success.

13 He catches the wise in their own craftiness, and the schemes of the wily are brought to a quick end.

14 They meet with darkness in the daytime and grope at noonday as in the night

15 But he saves the needy from the sword of their mouth and from the hand of the mighty.

16 So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts her mouth.

17 "Behold, blessed is the one whom God reproves; therefore despise not the discipline of the Almighty.

18 For he wounds, but he binds up; he shatters, but his hands heal.

19 He will deliver you from six troubles; in seven no evil shall touch you.

20 In famine he will redeem you from death, and in war from the power of the sword.

21 You shall be hidden from the lash of the tongue, and shall not fear destruction when it comes.

22 At destruction and famine you shall laugh, and shall not fear the beasts of the earth.

23 For you shall be in league with the stones of the field, and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with you.

24 You shall know that your tent is at peace, and you shall inspect your fold and miss nothing.

25 You shall know also that your offspring shall be many, and your descendants as the grass of the earth.

26 You shall come to your grave in ripe old age, like a sheaf gathered up in its season.

27 Behold, this we have searched out; it is true. Hear, and know it for your good.



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DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 5:1-27

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Over the course of my walk with the Lord, I've read the book of Job a few times and I have to admit, it's never an easy read for me. In fact, I often end up confused. The book can offer great comfort as we face suffering in this world. But in order to appreciate its depth, you will have to do the hard work of looking beyond the quick answers we often desire to get. At surface level, both Job and his friends seem to bring up pretty good and compelling arguments.

In chapter 3, Job begins to question his existence altogether. Why was he allowed to be born? Was it only to be in bitter misery? (Job 3:20). Then in chapters 4 and 5, Eliphaz, who is one of his closest friends, offers advice to Job. The advice Eliphaz so confidently presents to Job is one we hear very often in our day and age: Do _____, so that God will bless you. The foundation of a moralistic approach to suffering like this is wrong in at least two ways.

First, it places the entire burden of life solely on our shoulders, on our decisions, our actions, and our behavior. Read Job 5:1-7. Eliphaz is basically saying, you are suffering because you are in sin. Do you want your riches, health, and blessings back? If so, just repent and God will give them back. Second, it reduces the greatness of God to a genie in a bottle, yet He is a divine being whose sole existence is to bless us. Read Job 5:17-27 and pay attention to all the times the word "you" is used.

If you go back to chapter 3, you'll recall that Job is asking a big question, why does God allow suffering? Sadly, all his friend Eliphaz is able to offer just doesn't cut it. As you continue your journey through this book, I invite you to pay close attention to Job's demands for answers and to his friends' failed attempts to provide them. Our goal should be to mature in our faith so as to be confident in the absolute truth about God's greatness, power, and ability, while at the same time submitting to his absolute wisdom (2 Timothy 2:15).

Questions:

1. What advice would you have given Job if you were Eliphaz?
2. Where do you turn when things don't go your way?
3. Why does God allow suffering?