

Wisdom Literature – Lesson 7

The Wisdom of God in Job

August 10, 2025

This morning we are still speaking about the issue of suffering hoping that this will better help us understand **Job**>>

Last week we learned that suffering often raises two questions>>

The 1st question is>>

<<is my suffering God's punishment for some sin>>

We learned that the Gospel is God's news that on the cross Jesus experienced the punishment we deserved>>

Rom. 4:25a *[Jesus] was delivered over to death for our sins...>>*

<<*so that God has declared us ...not guilty of any sin...>>*

Rom. 4:25b *...and was raised to life for our justification...>>*

This means that suffering is **never** God's punishment for a believer>>

This brings us to the 2nd and more important question about suffering>>

<<the question about God Himself>>

<<about God's integrity>>

<<about the character and purpose of God in our suffering>>

We cry out, ...*WHY*>>

<< *WHY Father. What is Your purpose in this suffering*>>

This is a reasonable and common question>>

Listen to some of the ...*WHY*'s... in the Bible>>

In **Ex.3:11** Moses asks God *WHY* chose him to deliver Israel>>

In **Ps.10:1** David asks ...*Why oh Lord do You stand far away...>>*

Habakkuk asks *Why* is there so much injustice>>

They asked *WHY* because suffering seemed to be antithetical to God's goodness and compassion>>

These *WHY*'s could be interpreted as a **lack of faith**>>

Yet even the Lord Jesus asked ...*WHY*... in **Matt.27:46**>>

My God My God WHY have You forsaken Me...>>**Matt.27:46**

These ...*WHY*'s... were **expressions of faith** in a good and loving God>>

The question of *WHY* is the question of the Book of **Job**>>

Why does this ...blameless and upright man [1:8]..., have to suffer>>

In other words>>

<< *What is the relationship between our suffering and God's good purpose for us*>>

God is at work in our suffering, using it to accomplish His eternal Good purpose for saving us>>

Rom. 8:28 *God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...*>>

Listen to how Paul explains God's purpose in his imprisonment>>

I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions...>>**Col 1:24**

Paul tells us that his sufferings are a continuation of the suffering of Christ>>

In other words, the Holy Spirit is continuing the Gospel Ministry of Jesus in us through our sufferings>>

<<as He uses our faith filled trust response to God in our suffering as a testimony [**John 15:26**] of the superiority of God's grace in Christ over the physical and moral effects of sin>>

Here is what Jesus said about the ubiquitous presence of suffering>>

*...in this world you will have tribulation **but** take courage, I have overcome the world...>>***John 16:33**

When we encounter suffering we are faced with a choice between>>

<<our circumstances or on God's purpose>>

<<*Will I ...fight the good fight [1 Tim.1:18]... of faith to trust and embrace God's purposes in my sufferings>>*

<<*Will I chose to see my sufferings in the light of God's eternal purpose to be glorified in them even when I don't understand>>*

<<*Will I fight to believe **Rom. 8:28**>>*

<<*Will I trust God to use this suffering to manifest the Resurrection power of Jesus to the world and to the church>>*

Next week I hope to conclude this background information by looking at how Paul was enabled to rejoice in his sufferings>>