

REDEMPTION

— ONE AUTHOR. ONE STORY. ONE SAVIOR. —

SIDE A —

01 JOSEPH

02 JOB

03 DAVID & GOLIATH

SIDE B —

04 DANIEL

05 JONAH

06 NOAH



"He who has ears, let him hear."

MATTHEW 13:9

Job – Redeeming Suffering

June 29, 2026

The Album - "Redemption"

...Tells the story of How God's Redemption Story worked out in the stories of Real People in Scripture.

...Studying "Narratives".

Last Week - "Ambiguity"

This Week - Job's story will introduce us to the word "**MYSTERY**"!

"...Christian worship, as well as Christian theology, begins with mystery. ...we begin by acknowledging the mystery of God and His ways. We begin with the happy recognition that God and His activities are ultimately incomprehensible to us. When we begin with that recognition, we can begin to understand God properly and so worship Him in light of who He is and what He has done." **Scott Oliphint**, "The Majesty of Mystery - Celebrating the Glory of an Incomprehensible God", p. 9

...How Much Do I Really Understand the "Chemical Equation/Reaction" called "REDEMPTION"??

Creation — FALL + REDEMPTION = Restoration!!

How much do I understand about the ORIGINAL CREATION (its design, its purpose, its potential)?? ...then there's a powerful/mysterious condition known as "THE FALL" —How much do I understand this condition and its forces at play? ...then we learn of a concept called "REDEMPTION" (the story of the reclaiming of God's fallen, corrupted creation). God is going to do one perfect and glorious thing after another in this current setting of fallen, corrupted earth!

Deut 29:29 "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."

...Clearly, relating to an Infinite/Transcendent God means "getting comfortable with mystery"!

?? – What Brings us to Read Job ...is a "Hard to understand moment/season of suffering"!!
...Moments in Life that FEATURE the question—WHY?

At some point our lives generate "Questions" that we can't easily answer! ...and when that gets painful enough, we run to Job to find some kind of answers.

...BUT... what we discover is that while Job gets a revelation—He Doesn't Get an Answer!

Job's Narrative of "Things Hidden--&--Things Revealed"

The MYSTERY of EARTHLY EXISTENCE

... "the things revealed" (Deut. 29:29) ...Don't Overlook "YOUR HUMANITY"!! It is From God and It Weighs Something Significant! ...and it very much informs our suffering!

Job 1:1-5 ...Job's Story Provides Insights on Our World of Earthly Existence

...v. 1 ...Job (we) live in a world of moral meaning!

- There is a "moral" structure to life--there is "right & wrong"/"good & evil" ... "Job... was blameless, upright, feared God and turned away from evil"
 ...Part of the "Drama of Job" is the Real Difficulty Humanity has in Explaining the sense of "NOT GOOD" that we're experiencing!! —You & I will have that strange problem too!
 ? - How many of us struggle with trying to figure out what we did "wrong", that has created the setbacks and difficult days of our lives?
 - Do we believe in some doctrine of "karma"?
 - Do we believe that life's good/bad lies completely in our responsibility? ...Was that Abel's story? (WHY was Abel killed by Cane?? ...well, there's Cane's contributing portion; then there's the content of Gen 3 about sin & Satan)
- Job is one of the Rare People that God "BRAGS ABOUT"!! ...**Job 1:1, 8**

"Job's suffering, then, was not a chastisement or a lesson aimed at changing a particular flaw in Job's life." **Tim Keller**, "Walking with God Through Pain and Suffering", p. 212

...v. 2 ...Job (we) live in a world of meaningful relationships and fellow human connections ...*"there were born to him, seven sons and three daughters."*

- Job's suffering is understood differently if we read: "Job had 7 potted ferns and 3 Rose bushes"
- You're SUPPOSED to be Deeply Attached to Some People! ...Job's story doesn't make any sense if Job is some "Righteous Robot" who is 'so godly' that he's unaffected by the loss of these relationships!

“Those of us who sense the ‘wrongness’ of death—in any form—are correct. ...we are not meant for mortality, for the loss of love, or for the triumph of darkness. In order to help people face death and grief we often tell people that death is a perfectly natural part of life. But that asks them to repress a very right and profound human intuition—that we were not meant to simply go to dust, and that love was meant to last. ...Genesis 3 confirms this intuition in great detail... When we turned from God and lost that relationship, all other relationships fell apart. Because we rejected his authority everything about the world—our hearts, emotions, bodies, our relationships to other people, and our relationship to nature itself—stopped working as it should. The Fall of humankind means that the original design of the world is broken.” **Tim Keller**, “Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering”, p. 114

...the “weirdness” and “wonkiness” of suffering (with all its strangeness and confusion) is a “neurological signal” that Something is Wrong—thus, REDEMPTION is Needed!

...v. 3 ...Job (we) live in a world of possessions, achievement, work, accomplishment

- The reason why Job's story feels so TRAGIC is because Tragedy Struck Things that are MEANINGFUL!

...v. 4 ...Job (we) live in a world of pleasures, enjoyments, celebrations

- This Depiction is NOT trying to imply that Job or His Family somehow "deserved what they got" because of their worldly pleasures.

...v. 5 ...Job (we) live in a world that ultimately reports back to GOD!

- "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3) ...

Job 1:6-12 ...Job's Story Tells us Our World is Touched by More Than Earthly Powers ...Job (we) live in a world that is interacted with by heavenly courts, conversations, and decisions!

...v. 6 ...There is a Unique Place where God interacts with Creation ...the Throne of the Creator; a place of meeting/conversation; a place for the unique manifestation of the presence of God (v. 12)

[Cross-Referencing Our Conclusions from Narratives]—ie, doing Systematic Theology]

1 Kings 22:18-22 ¹⁸ And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?" ¹⁹ And Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left; ²⁰ and the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said one thing, and another said another. ²¹ Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, 'I will entice him.' ²² And the LORD said to him, 'By what means?' And he said, 'I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And he said, 'You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.'

...v. 6 ...Everyday in heaven is not the same! ...there is planning, discussion, decisions.

- Job provides some unique commentary on other things in Scripture. (Matt. 6 "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven")
- Job reveals a particular way that God could/does bring forth His Will on Earth--through Angelic Beings (Job 1:13-19)

- Heaven & Earth Realities (in Job's Story):

- [HEAVEN] Job 1:6 "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.
- [EARTH] Job 1:13 "Now there was a day...

...THEN...

The MYSTERY of SUFFERING

Job 1:13-20

Job 2:1 ...6-9

"...the Bible gives greater focused attention to the suffering of Job... Job's sufferings were extraordinary. All of his children were killed at once. All of his wealth was wiped out in an instant. These are not the more universally experienced sorrows of human life, nor were they caused by Job's moral lapses or by persecution and betrayal. When people experience horrendous, unusually severe suffering, it leaves the sufferer not so much filled with guilt, or resentment toward others, or pure grief—but with anger toward life and God himself." **Tim Keller**, "Walking with God Through Pain and Suffering", p. 212

**...A DECONSTRUCTION ZONE ...Troubling Observation of the Past Decade—
“Deconstruction” linked to an Inadequate Ability to Understand Human Suffering!**

BEWARE: The Elevation of a “Man-Centered Life Philosophy” has elevated humanity’s “anger toward life and God himself” BEWARE: ...Because Things Should NOT be This Way!!

?? – What is "Suffering"?

My Own Def. **...It is the “neurological, feel” of a significant portion of life’s experiences on earth—while we await God’s full purpose of REDEMPTION”**

Consider our “Post-Redemption” Experience:

Rev 21:1-5 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

Clearly, things on earth are NOT AS THEY OUGHT TO BE!!—thus, the Creator says:
“Behold, I am making all things new.”

...BUT... How God “REDEEMS” (“Fixes”) such a Fallen World as Ours is truly a MYSTERY to Me!!

>> It is Possible that Much of That Mystery will Remain Unknown to me until
Rev 21!! (Remember, there are “HIDDEN THINGS”)

>> But Job’s Story (and Rev. 21... and Ps 73) Reveal Something I Need to Know in
My Journey in This Life!

Rev 21:3-4 ...the remedy of human suffering is about experiencing the Nearness of God!!

Psalms 73:21-26 When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, ²² I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you. ²³ Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Like these other settings of suffering—What is the Redemptive Answer that Job Needs?

Job 23:1-9

Job 38:1-12...

Job 42:1-6

...v. 2 ...Job acknowledges the mysterious workings of Redemption (things he knows are true about God—even if he can't explain his pain!)

...v. 5 ...I had 'heard' of YOU ...but now I 'see' YOU!!

THIS is Mysteriously Powerful!! ...Powerful because it reaches into the most desperate and disoriented human life we can find—and Satisfies/Sustains Him!! ...Mysterious because God Never Answers the Question "WHY?"!!!

Suffering - Question & Answer

- What are some hard questions or situations you've faced during these "pivot years" of life?
- What's something you've struggled to understand that has made you ask, "Why, God?"
- Why do you think suffering exists? What purpose, if any, does it serve?



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