

## JOB HANDOUT

### Job's Trials Are Progressive:

1. External – possessions, servants, & death of sons
2. Physical health – horrible open sores
3. Mental conflict – friends' accusations of sin, insincerity, believing that suffering was due to personal sin

### Job's Chief Error: undue self-justification before God

- When God didn't intervene in Job's situation, he determined God does not care or heed humankind.
- NOTE: Even though Job erred, he never lost faith in the Lord and continued to seek the Lord for answers.
- Repentance of his chief error (self-justification) was met with forgiveness & blessing!

### Things Job Teaches Us:

- **God's Sovereignty**
  - God's ways are not understood by human reasoning alone; divine revelation is necessary from personally seeking Him
  - Faith must rest in God's love, our identity in Him, and knowledge of God based on His Word.
  - God's sovereignty is not fatalism! It means He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and His decisions are not up for debate; they are final.
- **God's Character & Workings**
  - God's will toward us is good (Deut. 28:13; Jer. 29:11; John 10:10) & He desires to communicate His goodness to His children.
  - Faith is secured when we trust in His truths, character, sovereignty, and works.
- **Handling Suffering**
  - Suffering brings the temptation to turn God into our adversary rather than our advocate.
  - While our sin, or the sin of others, may result in consequences we must bear, there is not an automatic link to personal suffering and personal sin. It is a good place to start before the Lord – asking if there is sin in our lives in need of repentance, but Job teaches us that at times external forces are at play which lead to our suffering.
  - We can focus on declaring our innocence & question the fairness and justice of God, or we can humble ourselves in worship and wait for God to reveal Himself, resulting in deliverance and both personal and spiritual growth.

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- Each person must enter a time of testing. It is during these times that we learn whether our faith will stand against uncontrollable forces and lead to individual victory. There may be times when family, friends, and all human support systems are removed, and you must stand alone.

## THE BIG LESSON

**We must not suppose that God ordains suffering, or that we are beyond its reach!**

### COMPARISON OF SATAN’S THEOLOGY WITH JOB’S FRIENDS

Satan	Friends
OR	OR
<b>IF</b> Job is blessed by God, <b>THEN</b> Job will be faithful.  <b>IF</b> Job is not blessed by God, <b>THEN</b> he will be unfaithful. (Satan accused God of <u>bribing His followers.</u> )	<b>IF</b> Job is faithful, <b>THEN</b> Job will be blessed.  <b>IF</b> Job is unfaithful, <b>THEN</b> Job will be punished.

Chart by Dean Niforatos

## GOD’S CHALLENGE TO JOB

**In the face of God’s fearful challenge, Job could only humble himself:**

God’s Challenge	Job’s Response
Job’s ignorance (38:1-40:2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was absent at creation</li> <li>He cannot explain the forces of nature</li> </ul>	Job <b>admits his ignorance</b> and becomes <b>silent</b> (40:3–5)
Job’s frailty (40:6-41:34) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He cannot overrule God’s ways</li> <li>He cannot control the forces of nature</li> </ul>	Job confesses his <b>presumption</b> and <b>repents</b> (42:2–6)

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