



COMING UP ... DEC 9 Job pt 3 DEC 16 Exodus pt 1 DEC 23, 30 & JAN 6 NO CLASS JAN 13 Exodus pt 2

MEDALS OF HONOR

Sometimes God steps aside and calls on an ordinary saint to become His extraordinary spiritual champion on the battlefield

Prologue (1:1-2:13)

The Satan has made two accusations ...

Job only worships You because of what he gets

Job only worships because You protect his health

God calls righteous Job onto the battlefield

Will Job seek to maintain his righteousness and trust God or will he "confess" for relief?

Job's friends have heard about the tragedy, and have come to "comfort" him ...

His Friends' Counsel

Grounded in the "retribution principle"

The righteous are blessed in this life while the wicked are punished

Better watch out; don't know what'll set God off

Its corollaries

If you're blessed, you must be righteous

If you're suffering, you must have sinned

Your *circumstances* reveal your *heart*

DEBATE: Round 1 (3-14)

➤ Job: "I don't understand."

He's grief-stricken

The hints of Eliphaz (4-5) [you need to confess]

The hints of Bildad (8) [you need to repent]

The hints of Zophar (11) [you need to come clean]

➤ Friends: Job, you're not righteous; you're a sinner in need of repentance.

➤ The Accuser ...

And Yet ...

Though he doesn't understand ...

Job doesn't curse God as The Satan predicted and his wife recommended

He maintains his innocence and integrity

Though he receives no comfort from his friends and doesn't understand, he continues to cling to God in faith

DEBATE: Round 2 (15-21)

➤ Job: "I'm innocent and God is unfair!"

"I don't deserve this!"

The insinuations of Eliphaz (15)

The insinuations of Bildad (18)

The insinuations of Zophar (20)

➤ Friends: Job, you're not innocent; you're guilty and should remember the terrible fate of the wicked.

Now ...

Job begins to show signs of pride and self-righteousness by insisting on arguing his case in court against God
He's flirting with becoming God's *new* accuser
And yet ...
Though he receives no comfort from his friends and doesn't understand, he continues to cling to God in faith

DEBATE: Round 3 (22-31)

- Job: "I deserve to be acquitted!"
 - The accusations of Eliphaz (22)
 - The accusations of Bildad (25)
 - Zophar seems to have given up
- Job denies his friends' premise, their assertion that the wicked always suffer and that he was a deliberate sinner.

And Now ...

Job, showing even more pride and self-righteousness, insists that God is unjust for targeting and bullying him this way
And yet, though he receives no comfort from his friends and doesn't understand, he continues to cling to God in faith ...
... nor does he curse God as The Satan predicted and his wife recommended

Young Elihu Speaks (32-37)

- *Job, you say God is silent.*
 - No, God speaks. (33)
- *Job, you say God is unjust.*
 - No, God is just. (34)
- *Job, you say God is unconcerned.*
 - No, God is sovereign. (35)
- *God is just and He is sovereign. (36-37)*

The Truth Is: They Don't Know Why

Unknown to Job and his friends, The Satan has made two accusations against God ...
Job only worships You because he gets stuff
Job only worships because You protect his health
So God has called on Job to enter the battlefield as His spiritual champion
Job is demanding his day in court with God ...
And the audience is awaiting the outcome ...

OBSERVATION 1

Offering compassion and comfort are better than offering counsel to those who're suffering.

OBSERVATION 2

Trying to discover *why* the righteous suffer is futile.

Safe But Insufficient

The retribution principle is *descriptive*

- God delights in prospering the righteous
- God guarantees the wicked will be punished

The retribution principle is not *causative*

- Cannot be used to demand blessing from God
- Cannot be used to deduce a person's heart

The retribution principle is insufficient to explain what we can, let alone can't, see
The righteous experience unmerited suffering

OBSERVATION 3

There is pain involved in unmerited suffering.

The Pain Of Unmerited Suffering

- Unmerited suffering
 - Persecuted for righteousness sake
 - Victim of sinful attitudes and actions of others
 - Circumstances beyond your control
- Stress and pain of suffering
 - James 1 (trials/hardships) and 5 (persecution)
 - Sickness and stress of heart and soul
 - Weary, discouraged and doubting

OBSERVATION 4

Those who trust God most don't avoid suffering ... but embrace it.

Application

A Believer's Response

- Peter (1 Peter 4:12-19)
 - Unmerited suffering shouldn't catch us by surprise
 - Keep on doing what's right in faith; endure it
- James (James 1:2-4; 5:10-19)
 - Count it all joy; patiently endure it
 - Prayer; we need help bearing the burden
 - Endure with prayer resulting in worship ...
 - ... knowing it glorifies God and grows His saint

Jesus' Response To Suffering

- Matt 26:36-46; Jesus is in Gethsemane
- He draws near to—doesn't withdraw from—His Father in prayer
- He surrenders again to His Father's will, trusting that He is good and knows best
- He rises up and goes forth toward the future in faith and courage as a weapon against The Satan and a witness to men and angels alike

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

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