

# **WHY, GOD?**

## **Job 3:16**

**Asking is not the problem ....  
but there can be iniquity amid the inquiry**

### **I. JOB'S QUESTION** (3:11-12, 16, 20, 23)

#### **A. WHY?**

1. Five times Job asks God why He let Job live
2. The mystery of unmerited misery drives Job (and us) to despair.

#### **B. REALITY**

1. Asking why is not wrong
2. To demand an answer is wrong (13:22-28, 19:7-12)
3. What is our attitude amid affliction?

### **II. JOB'S CONCLUSION** (3:20-22)

#### **A. REST IN DEATH IS BETTER THAN RESTLESSNESS IN LIFE**

#### **B. DEATH CAN SOMETIMES BE APPEALING**

#### **C. HE NEVER SUCCUMBED TO CAUSING HIS DEATH** (2:9-10)

1. Though difficult we must be disciplined in our times of despair
2. The One who gives good, also allows grief

### **III. JOB'S COUNSELORS**

#### **A. THEIR REASSURANCE** (2:11-13)

#### **B. THEIR REASONING** (4:7-8)

1. The righteous are rewarded and the unrighteous are punished
2. Sin causes suffering
3. The association by way of what is called syllogism goes like this:
  - Suffering is punishment for sin, Job is suffering, therefore, Job must be sinning
4. Note that our assumptions will affect our advice

### C. THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Chapters 4-31 give us their bad advice and Job's bitter responses
- 1. Put away the sin (11:13-17)
- 2. Acknowledge your impurity (15:11-16)
- 3. Admit your wickedness (22:5-9)

## IV. JOB'S CONDITION

### A. CONFUSION (7:20, 13:24)

- Job does not know why God is afflicting him

### B. INNOCENCE (9:21-22)

- 1. Indications - See 16:16-17 & 27:6
- 2. Oaths - Chap. 31

### C. ANGER (13:1-3, 23-24)

- 1. Job's goal was to get God to talk (see also 10:1-2 & 31:35)
- 2. He is mad because God remained silent amid his questions

### D. AFFLICTION (16:12-14)

- A conclusion that God has afflicted him

### E. DEFENSIVENESS (16:21, 23:1-7)

- Job desired to prove that God was wrong in this

## V. JOB'S CONFRONTATION (32-37)

- The ministry of Elihu

### A. HIS APPROACH

- 1. The others said that Job was suffering because he was sinning
- 2. Elihu said that Job was sinning because he was suffering
- 3. Job said that he was suffering unjustly

### B. HIS ASSESSMENT

- 1. A bad attitude is present
  - a. Job needed to be reminded that God is not accountable to him (33:8-13)
  - b. Job needed to remember that God is just (34:10-17)
- 2. Impatience prevailed (35:13-16)
- 3. Foolishness abounded (37:19-24)

## VI. JOB'S CONTEST (38-42)

- God finally broke His silence

### A. QUESTIONS (38:1-3)

- Now it is God's turn to ask Job questions

### B. CONFRONTATION 1 (38:4 - 40:5)

1. Questions (38:4 - 40:2)

2. Response (40:3-5) > I've been out of line

### C. CONFRONTATION 2 (40:6 - 42:6)

1. More Questions (40:6 - 41:34)

2. Response (42:1-6) > I've been foolish

## VII. SOME CONCLUSIONS

### A. BE CONTENT WITH THE PERSON OF GOD

1. God showed Job His person, but did not reveal all the truths about Job's problems

2. We should worship out of an appreciation of God and not a comprehension of all His ways

### B. TRUST THE GOD THAT CANNOT BE COMPREHENDED

### C. REFOCUS YOUR ATTENTION

1. The question focused on the problem > Why, God?

2. Whereas God wants us to focus on His person > Wow, God!

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