



Job:

Wisdom & Life

Jan to Feb 2017

Round 2

- a. Last time, we ended on the question of whether the satan was right about Job, “Skin for skin” (2:4).
- b. The LORD is not “timid” in challenging Satan with the goodness and worship of God’s children.
- c. When given permission, the nature of Satan is reviewed through the suffering he inflicts.
- d. The suffering of Job involves physical pain, loneliness, abandonment, and later accusation. Read Job 2:12-13

The Lament of Job

- a. From a phenomenological perspective, what do we know about Job's suffering. (3:1-16)
- b. Why is "life [given] to the bitter of soul"? (3:20-24)
- c. Job does not deny that God is "permitting" all that has happened to him – "hedged in" (3:23, cf 1:10)
- d. How does Satan attack? (3:25)

Eliphaz: Assumption of Guilt

- a. Suffering is a result of _____ (4:1-7, 17, 5:17-18) and Job should know.
- b. So a call for repentance (5:27)
- c. If you were Job, how would you answer Eliphaz?
- d. Job's answer to Eliphaz (6:24-30)
- e. What is Job's image of God's judgment in 7:17-21? (ref. Ps 103:8-10)

Bildad: Cause & Effect

- a. Bildad applies a “cause and effect” theory (8:1-4)
- b. Solution: _____ with God and he will _____ you (8:5-6)
- c. Job understands he is not perfect but ... (9:1-4)
- d. Job reasons with God, maintains his innocence (10:1-7)
- e. Is it better to have never been born than to be born and suffer? (10:18-20)
- f. UK Scholar: “You cannot make God do anything, not even to punish you.”

Job trying to understand

“In the midst of his suffering, for which he can see no reason, Job comes to understand the ambiguous and hidden nature of God

~ Susan Schreiner

Zophar: Righteous Defence of God

- a. Indignant of Job's claim of innocence, that would make God unjust (11:1-6)
 - What's wrong with Zophar's defence of God?
- b. Repeats the cause and effect (13-20). This may seemed stupid to us, but in real life you will get many people guessing your guilt if you are suffering
- c. Job was their equal, but now has begun to gain "practical" wisdom over "theoretical" wisdom. (12:1-3).
 - Job is not unfamiliar with tradition of wisdom/proverbs.
- d. Job appealing his case before God (13:23-24)

Elihu: The Angry Young Man

- a. Angry at Job because he was justifying himself rather than God (32:1-2)
- b. Angry at the 3 wise men who cannot refute Job but condemned him (3-5)
- c. Practical Wisdom: Job has no right to complain that God is unjustly afflicting him – coming close to “accusing God of injustice.” (33:8-14)
 - because God is greater than human beings (33:12)
- d. Job thinks God doesn’t answer. Elihu says God does speak, but men do not perceive. (33:14)

The LORD speaks: Wisdom above Humanity

- a. The LORD's turn to question Job for speaking without knowledge. E.g. "Are you sure?"
- b. God is the Mighty Creator (38:4-11, 31-41)
- c. The LORD challenges Job: will you correct me? (40:2)
- d. The LORD says Job discredit God's justice (40:8)
 - **Behold the POWER and MAJESTY of God**, from the beauty of creation to the images "monstrous animals altogether beyond man's power to tame"
 - The strength of the behemoth (hippo) (40:15-19)
 - The strength of the leviathan (41:1-11), an animal that "if you lay a hand on him, you will remember the struggle and never do it again." ... but it is God's pet.

God wisdom in nature and history

Calvin “sees the book of Job as a debate about providence.” He differentiate between God’s providence in nature and in history. “Nature reveals God’s restraints and governance of the cosmos, but history unveils a more disturbing picture ... nature, however, still mirror God’s care and providence ...”

~ John Calvin’s Sermon

“Through a Mirror Dimly”

Job: Final Response (42:1-6)

- a. When Job was standing in awe of God's presence, all his troubles seemed too small
- b. He experiences God in a personal way
 - "My ears heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes" 42:5-6
- c. What did Job had to repent from?
- d. God was angry with Job's 3 friends for not representing God in the right way.
 - Job had to pray for them.
- e. Job was blessed with double everything (42:12-15)

Reflection

- a. If you were suffering physically, emotionally or financially, what does God's answer to Job say to you?