



Job – Part #1

In Proverbs we learn that good things happen to good people and bad things happen to bad people. Most of us like the theology of Proverbs because it presents a neatly packaged world that makes sense. In Ecclesiastes we learn that life does not always match the ordered and logical world of Proverbs. In Job, we grapple with the issue of when great tragedy strikes, events that seem not fair or right, and can rattle one's faith. This book provides insight on how to cope with the difficult question of suffering.

The book of Job is not a list of theological statements that can be taken individually as doctrinal axioms. Rather, it is a story where the point does not really emerge until the end of the book. There are four interrelated theological conclusions which emerge:

- God is Sovereign and we are not
- God knows all about the world while we actually know very little
- God is always just but He does not always explain His justice to us
- God expects us to trust in His Sovereignty when the unexplained tragedy strikes

Aside from tackling the problem of suffering, the book of Job is also unique in that:

- It is one of the few Old Testament books in which Satan actually appears
- God Himself also appears in this book
- It deals with the troubling question: why do bad things happen to good people?
- Job challenges the way God runs the world
- God never actually tells Job what caused his time of affliction

It is worth noting that in the book of Ezekiel (14:14), Job is given place of honor beside Noah and Daniel. And in James (5:11), readers are reminded of Job's steadfastness, that a better example of tenacious faith would be hard to find. *More to come...*