

# WISDOM LITERATURE



- JOB – Wisdom for Suffering (2009/2010)
- PSALMS – Wisdom for Worship (2010)
- PROVERBS – Wisdom for Day-to-day Living (2009)
- ECCLESIASTES – Wisdom for Developing a Philosophy for Life (2009)
- SONG OF SOLOMON – Wisdom for Marriage (2010)

# TITLE: HOW TO SUFFER!



**JOB 1-2**

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# I. WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF SUFFERING?



- 1. **PERSECUTION** – Undeserved suffering inflicted by people and permitted by God. How to respond to persecution (I Peter 2:18-23; 3:13-17; 4:14, 19).
- 2. **PUNISHMENT** – Deserved suffering inflicted by people for a just cause (I Peter 2:18; 3:17; 4:15).
- 3. **CHASTISEMENT** – Deserved suffering inflicted by God usually through circumstances or people. It is disciplinary, remedial, restorative, and not penal. It is not hatred or rejection, but the mark of love and relationship (Lamentations, Hebrew 12:5, 7, 11).
- 4. **AFFLICTION** – Undeserved suffering that is not understood. There is no connection between behavior and circumstances (Job).

# RETRIBUTION THEOLOGY OF SUFFERING



- 1. God blesses with good those who are good and do good.
- 2. God curses with bad those who are bad and do bad.

If blessed – then you are righteous or good.

If cursed – then you are sinful and bad.

Retribution theology teaches that only the righteous are blessed and that the wicked cannot prosper in this life. The converse is that only bad things can happen to the wicked and that the righteous can only prosper.

## II. WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE SUFFER?



- **Job 1:1**, There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.
- **Job 1:8**, And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?
- **Job 2:3**, And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

# A. JOB'S PIETY (Job 1:1)



## JOB'S CHARACTER (Nouns):

- “Perfect” – internal character
- “Upright” – external character

## JOB'S DEMEANOR (Verbs):

- “Feared God” – vertical relationship
- “Eschewed Evil” – horizontal relationship

## B. JOB'S POSTERITY (1:2, 4-5)



- **Job 1:2**, And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.
- **Job 1:5**, And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

## C. JOB'S PROPERTY/PROSPERITY (Job 1:3)



- **Job 1:3**, His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.
- **Job 1:10**, Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

# III. WHAT IS SATAN'S ROLE IN SUFFERING?



- **Job 1:7**, And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.
- **1 Peter 5:8**, Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, *seeking whom he may devour*:
- **Revelation 9:11**, And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

# SATAN'S TWO-FOLD ATTACK



- **Job 1:9**, Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?
  - **Job 1:11**, But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.
- 1) SATAN ATTACKS THE CREDIBILITY OF JOB'S FAITH
  - 2) SATAN ATTACKS THE CHARACTER OF GOD

# SATAN'S ATTACK ON FAITH: "Hath God said?"



- **Luke 22:31-32**, And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: (22:32) But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.
- **Revelation 12:10**, And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

# “THE TRYING OF YOUR FAITH” (James 1:3)



- Is your faith real, genuine, sincere?
- Is your faith for sale? Can it be bought?
- Is your faith good only in “fair weather?”
- Is your faith in God? Is He the sole object of your faith?
- Is your faith pure? Is it motivated by the glory of God?
- Is your faith steadfast and not wavering?
- Is your faith deep?

# SATAN'S ATTACK ON GOD'S CHARACTER



- Satan says God is not good! He is unfair!
- Satan says God is not all-powerful! He is weak!
- Satan says God is not love! He is absent!
- Satan says God is a manipulator and buys our love!
  
- The priority subject in the book of Job is God. Suffering is the secondary subject.
- The centrality of God is seen in the 180 occurrences of the names or titles for God in Job (4 titles per chapter).
- God is seen as unquestionably sovereign, all-powerful, always righteous, compassionate and good in all that He does or allows.

# IV. WHAT IS GOD'S ROLE IN SUFFERING?



## ROUND #1

- **Job 1:8**, And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?
- **Job 1:12**, And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

## ROUND #2

- **Job 2:3**, And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.
- **Job 2:6**, And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

# SUMMARY OF GOD'S ROLE



- 1. God is sovereign – all powerful.
- 2. God is always good in His designs.
- 3. God first calls attention to Job - initiated the question to consider Job.
- 4. God alone grants/permits the trying of Job's faith.
- 5. God places limits/gives parameters for the trial.
- 6. God is just. All of life's blessings are undeserved loans. He is not unjust to remove any or all of the blessings of life.
- 7. God's grace is always enough for any trial.

# V. HOW DID SATAN CAUSE JOB TO SUFFER?



## **ROUND #1**

- 1. Attack on his oxen, donkeys and servants (Job 1:14-15)
- 2. Attack on his sheep and servants (Job 1:16)
- 3. Attack on his camels and servants (Job 1:17)
- 4. Attack on his children's house and children (Job 1:18-19)

## **ROUND #2**

- 5. Attack on his health (2:7-8)
- 6. Attacked by his wife (2:9) ???

## VI. BY WHAT MEANS DID SATAN USE?



- 1. “The Sabeans” (1:15) – used people/enemies
- 2. “Fire of God” (1:16) – lightning, “natural” catastrophe
- 3. “The Chaldeans” (1:17) – used people/enemies
- 4. “A great wind” (1:19) – used a “natural” catastrophe
- 5. “Satan . . . smote Job with sore boils” (2:7), a direct attack by Satan on Job’s health
- 6. “Then said his wife” (2:9) – a spouse

Satan stirred up people (1), used nature (2) and directly attacked Job’s body with sickness (3).

# VII. HOW DID JOB RESPOND TO SUFFERING?



## ROUND #1

- **Job 1:20**, Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, (1:21) And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. (1:22) In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

## ROUND #2

- **Job 2:10**, But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

# CONCLUSION: HOW ARE WE TO RESPOND?



- 1. **By Worshipping God**, with or without reward, because He is worthy.
- 2. **By Trusting God**, with or without evidence, because He has spoken.
- 3. **By Submitting to God**, with or without understanding, because He is all-powerful and good. He knows our breaking point.

**1 Corinthians 10:13**, There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.