



Sunday, September 9, 2018
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Job 1:1-21

Job has been widely recognized as one of the great pieces of literature in the Western world. In exploring the themes of divine sovereignty, human suffering, and the meaning of life, the book resonates deeply with our experience as human beings. When we read about Job and his suffering, we are reminded of what it means to persevere in walking with God—that Christianity is about a total devotion to God and His purposes regardless of what circumstances may bring.

So, as we go through this study in the book of Job together, it would be worthwhile for us to think not only of how to handle times of suffering in our lives, but to meditate on the majesty of God and what it means to worship Him in every area of our lives. God is not only a great God, but He has entered into our sufferings as well. Jesus is the greater Job, whose righteousness exceeded that of Job as He suffered in obedience to God to the point of death.

Context

The beginning and end of the first chapter of Job highlight Job's character. In the beginning, Job is someone who is blameless and righteous and fears the Lord. This is stated up front so that we know who we're dealing with. Then, at the end of the chapter, we're reminded again (despite having encountered incredible suffering thus far) that Job did not sin against the LORD throughout all His suffering. So, the context and structure of even the first chapter of Job teaches us that, while we can't exhaustively understand the reason for suffering, we do know that it has a great deal to do with revealing and even refining our character.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Job 1:1-21

“The Drama Begins”

Prosperity

- Family
- Livestock
- Servants

Spirituality

- Committed feared God
- Concerned for children
- Consistent way of life

He was the greatest among all the people of the east

In all our trials...

- God has not forgotten us
- Satan does not control us
- Things are not as they appear
- We will not be crushed

Our trials are designed to leave us worshipping

Discuss

- 1) What is the worst suffering you've endured in your life?

- 2) How does knowing that God is sovereign over all the circumstances of our lives comfort us when we suffer?

- 3) Satan was trying to prove to God that Job was only devoted to Him because of the benefits he received. How can you know whether you are devoted to God only for the benefits He gives or devoted to Him simply because of who He is?

- 4) Pastor Don said when we suffer, we tend to either blame God or bless God. Which do you tend toward?

- 5) If our trials are (at least in part) supposed to leave us worshiping, what does it look like to worship God in the mist of trials?