

JOB: WHERE IS GOD WHEN IT HURTS?
Modern Struggles/Ancient Lessons
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1. Setting the Scene (Job 1:1-5)

Job's story is our story

There is an upper "stage"—that which takes place in heaven

There is a lower "stage"—that which takes place here on earth.

The key question on the upper stage—"Does Job fear God for nothing?" Job 1:9

2. The Drama Unfolds (Job 1:6-22)

How do you respond to deep loss?

Why is Job devoted to God?

Who is on Trial?

NUD= to "sympathize". This word means to rock back and forth.

How do we support each other in times of grief?

See also 1 Corinthians 12:26; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

3. The Characters Speak (Job 2:11-13; 3)

Eliphaz: The innocent don't suffer. (Job 4:7)

Bildad: Suffering is a result of personal sin and rebellion. (Job 8:4)

Zophar: Suffering is a result of personal sin. (Job 11:13-15)

The Doctrine of Retribution: The idea that goodness results in prosperity and blessing, and wickedness results in suffering.

Some Things Never Change/ Sincere, But Sincerely Wrong

"The Creator loves pizzazz. He revels in the beauty and delight and joy of the least strategic creature that will never do him any good. He just loves to give." Annie Dillard

4. The Epilogue (Job 42:12-17)

Job never got to look on the upper stage. He never realized that his faithfulness had meaning beyond his own life. Job's faithfulness was used by God to vindicate God's whole wild adventure in covenant love.

Does your response to suffering matter?

Does what you do and how you live make any difference at all?

Job's honesty, courage, tenacity, and perseverance have inspired billions of people who have lived in the land of Uz. Job still speaks out and says, "Hang on. Keep going. Don't let go. Don't give up. Don't quit now."

OUR RESPONSE: COMMUNION WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER