

# The Problem with Pain

## Job 1-2



### Introduction

What are some examples of how you have suffered? What kind of suffering have we observed in the lives of others? When you experience pain and suffering, or see it in others, what kinds of questions come to mind?

### Read Job 1:1-12

1. What is your impression of Job? What does it mean when the Bible calls Job “blameless”?
2. Job 1 gives us a fascinating look into a conversation that the Lord has with Satan. Can you name at least one thing in that exchange that really captured your attention?
3. There are any number of Bible passages which tell us that God loves us and is always watching over us and protecting us. Why in the world would the Lord then turn around and give Satan complete freedom to wreak havoc in Job’s life?

## Read Job 1:13-22

4. Discuss the following questions with the people around you.
  - a. COVID-19, and its destruction aftermath, has made Job's experience here a lot more real for all of us. Let's put ourselves in his sandals for a moment. You've lost your job; your life savings went out the window; your house is now in foreclosure; you're chronically sick; and, even worse, your children all perished. Can even a Christian recover from something like that? How would you respond to such devastating events?
  
  - b. Jesus once said, "By their fruit will you know them." What amazing fruits of faith does Job display in verses 20-22? Can we learn anything here about enduring suffering as Christians?

## Read Job 2:1-10

Martin Luther, in a Lenten sermon on Matthew 26:36-46, said: *"The Lord in Psalm 91 tells us, "Call upon me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you and you will honor me." But this is very difficult for us because we think that when God allows anxiety and distress to come upon us that He is angry with us and is our enemy; and, therefore, even if we do pray, we think that our prayers are vain and useless."*

5. At the end of chapter one, Job gives that beautiful confession of faith in the Lord. But then, God allowed the devil to make Job's suffering even worse. And very quickly it seems as though God is against Job, as Luther says above.

Can you think of a time in your life where God seemed to do the same thing to you? What are some possible reasons God allows our suffering to continue, or even intensify when he could easily make it go away?

## Conclusion

6. In Job 1-2 we see that Job's faith-life held up pretty well in the face of extreme pain and suffering. What are some ways we can prepare ourselves for the sufferings which we will undoubtedly face in this sinful world?