

The God who is Enough Job Part 1

The Message of Job: Why Do the Godly Suffer

As long as mankind has existed there has been suffering. Because of sin in the world some suffering is understandable. But what about the innocent, the saints. Why do they likewise suffer?

This is a constant question and it deserves an answer. Let us look at Job's saga of suffering and from it discern a portrait of patience. This portrait is only discernable when we see the secret of suffering through God's great sovereignty.

God is revealed through four of His Divine names in this book. One of these names provides the key to our understanding of suffering. That name is His Name EL-SHADDAI: "The God who is ENOUGH". He is the Almighty, the All Sufficient One. Of the 84x this word is in the Scriptures 43x are here in Job!

Every year 17,000,000 people starve to death on planet earth. That comes to 60,000 people each day. The vast majority are children.

From an overview of Job we can see suffering from five perspectives:

- I. To Make us Aware of the Battle [COSMOLOGICAL VIEW] in the Prologue chapters 1-2
 - A. Satan's Challenge strikes deeply, rapidly and unexpectedly. The possibility of recovery seemed hopeless.
 1. He has power over the NATIONS 1.13-15 [Sabeans were wandering Bedouins from

- around Uz],17 [Chaldeans were nomadic marauders].
 2. He has power over NATURE 1.16,18-19 as his ten sons and daughters were killed by a tornado.
 3. He has power over NATURAL MAN 2.7
 - B. God's confidence
 1. As to Job's Testimony 1:8
 - a) UPWARD = blameless and upright
 - b) INWARD = a man who fear God
 - c) OUTWARD = and shuns evil
 2. As to Job's trials 1:20-22
 - a) He Worships God in woe v. 20. Before any response he arose prepared himself and WORSHIPED!
 - b) He Praises God in Pain v. 21
- II. To Make us Aware of Sin [RATIONAL VIEW] recorded in the words of Job's three friends in chapters 3-31
 - A. Suffering is the result of sin in ones life [4.7-9; 8.20]
 - B. Submission and Confession produces Restoration [22.21-30]
 - C. These men were wrong in their application but right in their theology.
- III. To Make us AWARE of the Brevity of LIFE [EXISTENTIAL VIEW] recorded in the words of Job in chapters 3-31
 - A. Demonstrated [13.1-26] as he questions why he ever was born
 - B. Discounted [19.23-27] as he affirms his relationship to God
- IV. To Make us AWARE of the need to be Purged of our Sins [PRACTICAL VIEW] recorded in the words of Elihu in chapters 32-37
 - A. Suffering Purifies Life [33.26; Rom 5.3; Js 1.2-5]
 - B. Suffering Produces Humility [35.10-12; 37.24; Heb 12.6-11]

- V. To produce Confident Trust and Dependence upon El-Shaddai who is in Control [THEOLOGICAL VIEW] recorded in chapters 38-42. God is Creator and Controller
- A. What God doesn't say: blame Satan, apologize for Job's pain, praise his friends for their help Psalm 119.75
 - B. What God does say is:
 - 1. His purposes are beyond Man as seen in Creation and Creatures [38-39]
 - 2. God is the judge of what is right [40-41]
 - 3. God honors loyalty in one's relationship to Him [42]