

November Teaching Theme: Wisdom

讲员 Speaker: Ted Moon

题目 Topic: A Biblical Theology of Wisdom: Job

经文 Scripture: Job

Monthly Theme: This month we will be looking at the idea of “Wisdom” through the lens of the three major wisdom literature books in the Bible: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job. These books are all seeking to address the same type of questions from a different vantage point. “What kind of world are we living in and what does it mean to live life well in this world?” For us to understand the full picture of Biblical Wisdom we have to examine all three books side by side. We have already taken a look at Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, so this week we will take a look at the book of Job.

Resources:

[Bible Project: Job \(Wisdom Series\)](#) [English - 7 mins]

[Bible Project: Job \(Wisdom Series\)](#) [Chinese - 6 mins]

****Make Sure You Watch the Video Before The Discussion Questions****

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the story of Job tell us about suffering?
2. What does Job’s story tell us about God?
3. What does Job’s story tell us about us?
4. What does Job’s story tell us about “justice” and about the world we are living in?
5. In the complexities and suffering of our world, we are called to humbly trust in God’s Wisdom. Jesus exemplified this level of peace and trust in God’s wisdom in his life and ministry. Read Luke 12:22-34 together. How do you see this life of trust in God’s wisdom and peace in Jesus in this passage?
6. Pray together concerning these things.

Important Notes (Pastor Will):

It is important that we allow the story of Job to answer the questions it sets out to answer, and not build an entire theology of suffering based on the book alone. The story of Job within the Wisdom Literature set, seeks to answer the question of retribution - is it true that if you do good you will get good in return, if you do bad you will get bad in return? According to Proverbs, this is generally true, but according to Ecclesiastes and Job, this is not always the case. **Suffering is not always (or even often) connected to “what you do.”** The story of Job calls us to humility both in relation to God and others in our limited perspective. It also calls us to serve the Lord and live ethically despite if material “blessings” or “successful outcomes” are there or not. The story of Job will leave a lot of questions about suffering unanswered and we have to be okay with that, not forcing the text to answer questions it isn’t seeking to address.

Reflections on Q1:

- Suffering isn't always (or even often) connected to "what you do." But often good people suffering. There is no answer to why bad things happen to good people.
- The assumption and idea that "If you are wise & good you will get success & rewards" and "if you are evil & stupid you will get disaster & punishment," is shown to be a false assumption according to Job.

Reflections on Q2:

- God's ways are higher than our ways (Is 55:8-9) and God's governing the universe is unfathomable and beyond our comprehension. As we saw in Proverbs & Ecclesiastes, Wisdom begins and ends with "The Fear of the Lord," but what Job tells us is that "God is the only true Wise One." God cannot be simplified like Job's friends do nor can he be accused of being wrong or unjust based on our limited perspective.
- It's important to note that God himself doesn't inflict suffering in the story, but he *allows* suffering, and often in the Scriptures he works in the midst of it.

Reflections on Q3:

- The story reveals to us that we have a limited perspective as compared to God's universal perspective, thus we can't make any claim to know how God runs the world or claims that we are absolutely right in any of our perspectives. This is incredibly important for how we relate to each other. If we recognize our limited perspective, we must value other people's experiences and vantage points, knowing it's quite possible we are wrong. The Christian posture with others is first authentic listening, empathy, and self-criticism. This does not mean we can not know the truth, but we must start with humility in order to seek out the truth well.
- Job with his limited vantage point is not in a position to make any accusation against God that he isn't wise or just. A **helpful analogy** is to think of a parent who teaches their child not to lie. Thinking about stories like those who hid runaway slaves on the underground railroad or those who hid German Jews during the Holocaust, a young child might see a parent lie and not understand why they broke the rules they taught them. The young child has a limited perspective as compared to the parent who understands they lied to save 5 lives. Our relationship with God is similar, in that we have a limited perspective compared to God's universal perspective.
- God honors our honesty and wrestling with him with our questions. In all of Job's emotional rollercoaster, God says Job has "**spoken rightly about him,**" that his emotions and wrestlings were good and fair (even if some of his conclusions were wrong). Job did all of his wrestling through the "struggle of prayer." We can bring our pain and grief to God, knowing he cares and knows what he is doing.

Reflections on Q4:

- Our world and "justice" in our world is often not black and white but extremely complex. As we see across the whole Biblical narrative, we are called to seek "justice" particularly for those on the bottom of society. But as Christian, again, we do this with the audacity of the Gospel, that calls us to seek justice out of love for the oppressed and not hate for the oppressor (Love your Enemy). This posture also recognizes that the world isn't made up

of good and bad people, but a whole bunch of people with different mixes of bad and good. We often try to simplify our world and people into categories to help us understand, but these simplifications are dangerous. We have to be willing to live in the tensions of complexity in our world and seeks God's wisdom for discernment in it.

Sermon Summary (Elder Yin):

为什么坏事会发生在好人身上

Dr. Moon 7/15/20

“又有一天，神的众子来侍立在耶和华面前，撒但也来在其中。耶和华问撒但说：「你从哪里来？」撒但回答说：「我从地上走来走去，往返而来。」耶和华问撒但说：「你曾用心察看我的仆人约伯没有？地上再没有人像他完全正直，敬畏神，远离恶事。你虽激动我攻击他，无故地毁灭他，他仍然持守他的纯正。」撒但回答耶和华说：「人以皮代皮，情愿舍去一切所有的，保全性命。你且伸手伤他的骨头和他的肉，他必当面弃掉你。」耶和华对撒但说：「他在你手中，只要存留他的性命。」于是撒但从耶和华面前退去，击打约伯，使他从脚掌到头顶长毒疮。约伯就坐在炉灰中，拿瓦片刮身体。他的妻子对他说：「你仍然持守你的纯正吗？你弃掉神，死了吧！」约伯却对她说：「你说话像愚顽的妇人一样。噯！难道我们从神手里得福，不也受祸吗？」在这一切的事上约伯并不以口犯罪。”

约伯记 2:1-10 CUNPSS-神

<https://bible.com/48/job.2.1-10.cunpss-神>

美国人习惯于很多挑战。习惯于克服很多困难。但是现今人所想要的好生活是没有苦难的人生。没有苦难的人生是否一定是最佳的人生吗？

约伯

A, 约伯记概论

1, 一章-二章：「耶和华问撒但说：「你曾用心察看我的仆人约伯没有？地上再没有人像他完全正直，敬畏神，远离恶事。」”

约伯记 1:8

约伯为何爱神，撒旦觉得是因神爱约伯，他才爱神。

“撒但回答耶和华说：「约伯敬畏神，岂是无故呢？

你且伸手毁他一切所有的；他必当面弃掉你。」”

约伯记 1:9, 11

撒旦抵毁约伯，更加抵毁神。神允许撒旦拿走约伯的好处和健康。约伯没抱怨神，而说“说：「我赤身出于母胎，也必赤身归回；赏赐的是耶和华，收取的也是耶和华。耶和华的名是应当称颂的。」在这一切的事上约伯并不犯罪，也不以神为愚妄。”

约伯记 1:21-22

二章后没听撒旦名，也许苦难难不倒约伯而让撒旦闭口。

2, 三-三十七，朋友错怪他

3, 三十八-四十一：神的话。约伯和神争论，但他的痛苦使他和神更接近。上帝最后临到约伯。“我从前风闻有你，现在亲眼看见你。”

约伯记 42:5

我们已经听到神，是否我们见到神？是否需苦难才能让我们见神。

4, 四十二：悔改与纠正。42:3, 6。约伯更新得更多的祝福。

B, 苦难

-苦难的原因，四个有关苦难的解释

- 1, 苦难从撒旦而来。
- 2, 苦难可能来于罪, 如犯神的律法可能受苦难
- 3, 苦难可以来自上帝。希12:5-6
- 4, 苦难往往让我们无法理解。

-耶稣能帮助

- 1, 耶稣知道情绪上受苦, 你有吗, 学耶稣
- 2, 耶稣知道何为不公义, 彼得不认主, 耶稣不被接受, 犹大出卖耶稣, 你有吗? 归回耶稣
- 3, 耶稣受过身体受痛苦, 你是否正在受苦? 身体受苦。
- 4, 耶稣受过试探, 你也? 靠耶稣

-苦难中学习

- 1, 我们受苦时上帝没抛弃我们, “神借着困苦救拔困苦人, 趁他们受欺压开通他们的耳朵。”约伯记 36:15
- 2, 苦难时不等于神不同在, 希13:5b: “.....因为主曾说: 「我总不撇下你, 也不丢弃你。」”希伯来书 13:5
- 3, 神并没要我们不受苦但保证祂和我们同在, 赛43:2 “你从水中经过, 我必与你同在; 你趟过江河, 水必不漫过你; 你从火中行过, 必不被烧, 火焰也不着在你身上。”
以赛亚书 43:2

诗歌: 稳当根基

见证: 父亲得肝癌, 四月后死去, 母带四子。为什么神带父亲去印度, 而让他早年去世。是否神抛弃了他? 但神照顾四子上大学, 母亲也找到工作。Dr Moon见证。

坏事在神手中变成好事。
神和受苦的人更近。

Why do bad things happen to good people?

Dr moon

Job 2:1-10

Reading through US history, we find Americans pride themselves as over comers of many problems. Today the highest praise is the ability for sb to eliminate problems. Is that desirable?

Book of Job

1. Outline
2. Sufferings
3. Apply the book to our life

Four divisions in the book

A. C1-2 God gave Job's characters

Job1:8 blameless, upright, fear god and shun evil, none likes him

Satan counterattack God in Job 1:9,11 fear God for nothing? Just b/c of His blessings, if withdrawing the blessings job would curse God

Fame, family, wealth, Satan slanders Job as well as God-if no rewards, God has no followers. Satan questioned Job and God

So God allowed Satan to take away all from Job and to inflict him w terrible diseases

Job 1:21-22 God gives, He takes away, blessed is His name!

No more satan after c2, Job's action shut up satan!

B. C3-37 conversations b/w Job and his 4 friends

His friends tell him that suffering is the result of sin, since Job suffered, he therefore must have sinned!

13:15 "though He slays me yet I will have hope in Him"

C. C38-41 the Lord speaks
He asked Job a series of questions
No direct answer to job for why job suffers
Job question God, his pain and sufferings lead him come to God
God is slow in answer, but never late!
Job realizes the purpose of suffering, is to reveal God himself
42:5 my ears heard of you, now my eyes have seen you!
The result of his suffering led his closer relationship w God
D. C42 job's repentance and restoration
42:3,6 spoke of things I don't understand, despise myself and repent
Job's suffering prepared him for more blessings
A recommended book "21 Reasons bad things happen to good people" by Dave Earley-Dr.Moon donated a copy to our church

Courses of sufferings

A. From Satan
B. From people's wrong sinful choices-God gave ten commandments, we suffer if we violate his laws
Deut32:23 sin will catch up
C. From God, to correct, discipline, restore us
Heb12:5-6 god discipline those He loves. Don't lose heart
D. Mysterious
In this life we may never fully understand many things, trust God despite the suffering, when we can see or when not see
We live by God's promise
Jesus knows about pain
Many those Jesus fed and healed, wanted him crucified
Judah, Peter, many disciples left Him
He knows about injustice
People lied about him, misjudged, found no faults yet crucified
He knows about physical pain
His own father turned head, b/c of all our sins were on him
He knows about spiritual torment
A loud yes, that Jesus knows our sufferings!
Heb4:15 He faced all sufferings yet didn't sin

How to face sufferings

1. God doesn't abandon us when we suffer
Even though we may feel that way
36:15 he delivers in their sufferings
2. The presence of suffering doesn't mean he is not there
Psalms 119:50
Deuteronomy 31:6,8
3. He promises to be with us through all sufferings
Isaiah 43:2
"How firm a foundation" 稳当根基

Dr moon's personal testimony about his father had liver cancer, died in India as a missionary, left his mom to raise 4 children.

A villager walked whole night to ask her "who will love us now?"
God abandoned us?!

His mom had a job as librarian, so children stayed in India to finish high school.
A donation from US covered all expenses for all four children to attend Asbury College

A larger, clearer prospect of God – gaining a greater understanding of God through our sufferings, much more important than receiving an explanation for our sufferings

P279 responding hymn