

MONDAY “There Are Many Things We Do Not Know”

- Age-long question, why do righteous suffer?
- Patriarch Job = book presented /genre of **wisdom literature** in Bible = not in chronological order
- Job lived around / time of Abraham / Job = NOT Hebrew
- Lived before establishment / formal priesthood
 - which occurred after the Exodus.
- Functioned as priest for his family – practice common during patriarchal period of Genesis 12–50.
- Regularly officiated burnt offerings to sanctify his children, in case they had sinned (Job 1:5).
- Job understood God’s grace = substitutionary sacrificial system instituted in Garden of Eden = represented coming Messiah
- God declared Job: “a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil” (Job 1:8). Not perfect/sinless human being = Made RBF in coming Messiah
- Book/Job opens w/ Satan accusing Job = of serving God w/ unpure motives = out only for what he could get from God
- God trusted Job = permitted Satan to test him
- Satan tried to shatter Job’s faith= afflicted him w/intense emotional/ physical suffering. = lost wealth/ children / health
- Initially = Job’s attitude was= he had accepted God’s many blessings = should likewise willingly accept adversity
- But = Mistakenly believed / God was afflicting him
- Still Job confirmed his ongoing faith “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him” (Job 13:15).
- Job was counting on redemption/ resurrection. “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God” (Job 19:25–26).

Now lesson opens **ABSG QUOTE** The end of history will come with the triumph of love over evil. But, in the meantime, many troubling questions remain. How can we think and talk about the problem of evil in a way that might be helpful? **UNQUOTE**

- Job's friends = sit sympathetically in silent support / for 7 days
- Finally = 3 friends became his accusers = argued = according to custom of day = Job guilty / God punishing him
- Job's responses/ further confused matters = voiced many questions about why so much evil/ suffering had befallen him.
- Job repeatedly called for audience w/ God
 - in order to verify his innocence.
- **How little ANY** of four men understood = what was happening behind scenes in heavenly court
- **God show up to answer Job = 4 chapters 38/39/40/41**
- First 2 chapters /God identified= **YAHWEH** = His covenant name
- Chapters 3-37 God identified only as **El Shaddai**= the Almighty
 - Indicating Job /his friends saw God as distant
- Before God vindicated Job = had to bring Him to better understanding of Himself as covenant-making, covenant-keeping YAHWEH
- Questions Job = challenge his misunderstanding

Job 38:1–12 ¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: ²“Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge?

- Contemporary English Version translates: **“Why do you talk so much when you know so little?”**

³Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. ⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? **Tell Me, if you have understanding.** ⁵Who determined its measurements? **Surely you know!** Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,
⁷When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God
shouted for joy? ⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst
forth and issued from the womb; ⁹When I made the clouds its garment,
And thick darkness its swaddling band; ¹⁰When I fixed My limit for it,
And set bars and doors; ¹¹When I said, ‘This far you may come, but no
farther, And here your proud waves must stop!’ ¹²“Have you
commanded the morning since your days began, And caused the dawn
to know its place,

- Yahweh asked Job if he thought he was as eternal / great / powerful / wise / perfect as God = stirred Job’s understanding
- God didn’t offer explanation for his suffering = didn’t tell Job about conflict between Satan and Himself
- Simply revealed Himself as loving = powerful Creator

Job 42:3 ³You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

- Job recognized = many things He did not know
- Realized / how presumptuous he had been
 - put his hand over his mouth
 - knowing he was better off to be quiet = and trust God

ABSG QUOTE: Like Job, we, too, should humbly recognize that there are many things going on in the world, and behind the scenes, that we know nothing about. The fact that we may not know what the answers are to our questions does not mean there are no good answers or that one day everything will not be resolved. Until then, we need to trust in the goodness of God, which has been revealed to us in so many ways.