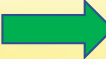




Job:

Choose Joy

Part 2

- A. God is in control of everything
- B. God is just
- C. God loves us
- D. Salvation is only found through placing our faith in Jesus
-  E. God wants us to have a great life for eternity, in Heaven
- F. God wants us to have a great life, here and now
- G. Christians are called upon to suffer in this world
 - A. All humans suffer in this world
 - B. Christians can benefit from suffering

Why Do God's Faithful Suffer?

God has a bigger plan for our suffering

- As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. Gen. 50:20a

Encourages us to follow God's path which keeps us safe for eternity and provides a witness to others

- God does all these things to a person— twice, even three times—to turn them back from the pit, that the light of life may shine on them. Job 33:29,30
- ...this happened that the works of God would be displayed in him. John 9:3b (*blind man*)

Increases our reliance on God

- in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Cor. 12:7b-9a
- Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead 2 Cor 1:9

Reminds us that we're foreigners on earth and citizens of Heaven

- My Father's house has many rooms...I am going there to prepare a place for you John 14:2

Provides us with lasting treasure – which starts here and now

- The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psa. 34:18
- Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ. Philippians 4:6-7
- Now Godliness with contentment is great gain. 1 Tim 6:6

"Trials are tragic only if they do not accomplish anything in your life" -CBS James study

Why is this Message so Confusing in the Book of Job?

- A. We take Satan's words at face value
- B. We're somewhat dismissive of Elihu
- C. We fail to link the Old and New Testaments
 - A. Eternity
 - B. Human values regarding what is good

Then the LORD said to Satan, "**Have you** considered **my servant** Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." Job 1:8

Satan's statement: ...“Does Job fear God for nothing? Have you not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” Job 1:9-11

What do we know about Satan?

When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44

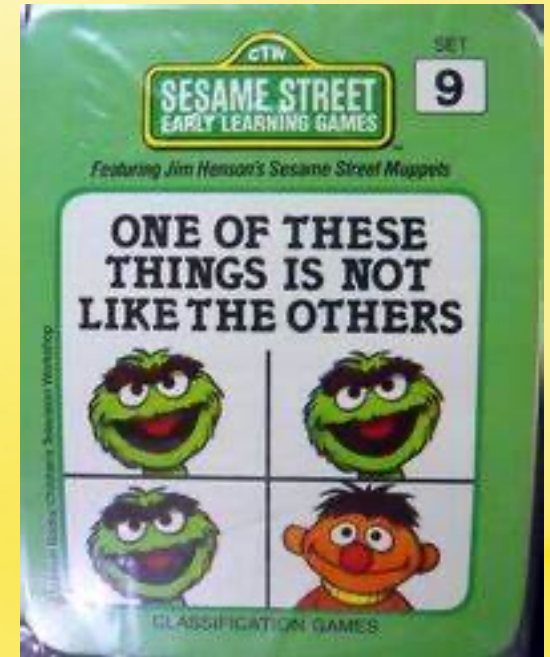
“...it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” Matt. 19:24

“Prosperity knits a man to the World. He feels that he is ‘finding his place in it’, while really it is finding its place in him. -C. S. Lewis

*“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.”
-Abraham Lincoln*

Who is Elihu?

- a. Appears late in the book
- b. Younger generation challenging the established view
- c. Hebrew name (his father also has a Hebrew name)
- d. Rejects the conventional wisdom that wisdom comes from age – instead states that wisdom comes from God
- e. Disagrees with the other 3
- f. Does accuse Job of limited perspective – not understanding God
- g. Does not accuse Job of causing his own suffering



- h. States that he has perfect knowledge
- i. Explicitly states that God's favor is not indicated by suffering nor prosperity (34:19)
- j. He alone points out the benefit of suffering in protecting and growing us and as a witness to others. (33:29,30)
- k. Job does not answer Elihu
- l. God's appearance immediately follows Elihu speech
- m. God reprimands the 3 friends but not Elihu
- n. Meaning of the name Elihu

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Isa. 40:3

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the LORD.'" John 1:23

See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction. Mal. 4:5-6

He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Luke 1:16-17

Revelation 11: John sees God's two witnesses who prophecy and perform miracles for 1,260 days then are martyred and resurrected and taken to Heaven. Their ministry precedes Jesus' 2nd coming.

- But it is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty, that gives them understanding. It is not only the old who are wise, not only the aged who understand what is right. 32:8-9
- to turn them from wrongdoing and keep them from pride, to preserve them from the pit, their lives from perishing by the sword... God does all these things to a person—twice, even three times—to turn them back from the pit, that the light of life may shine on them. 33:17-18, 29-30 (*two reasons for suffering*)
- “If there is a messenger for him, A mediator, one among a thousand, To show man His uprightness, Then He is gracious to him, and says, ‘Deliver him from going down to the Pit; I have found a ransom’ 33:23-24
- He repays everyone for what they have done; he brings on them what their conduct deserves. It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice. 34:11-12 (*no time frame given*)
- who shows no partiality to princes and does not favor the rich over the poor, for they are all the work of his hands 34:19

- I get my knowledge from afar; I will ascribe justice to my Maker. Be assured that my words are not false; one who has perfect knowledge is with you. 36:3-4
- He does not keep the wicked alive but gives the afflicted their rights. He does not take his eyes off the righteous; he enthrones them with kings and exalts them **forever**. (*timeframe*) 36:6-7
- If they obey and serve him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment (*no timeframe*). But if they do not listen, they will perish by the sword and die without knowledge. 36:11-12
- God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. 37:5




Restoration?

And the Lord restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Job 42:10

	Destroyed	Restored
Sons	7	7
Daughters	3	3
Sheep	7,000	14,000
Camels	3,000	6,000
Oxen	500	1,000
Female donkeys	500	1,000

A Glimpse of Heaven?



For I, the Lord your
God, will hold your
right hand, saying to
you, "Fear not, I will
help you."

Isaiah 41:13