

# Job

God, Satan, and Suffering



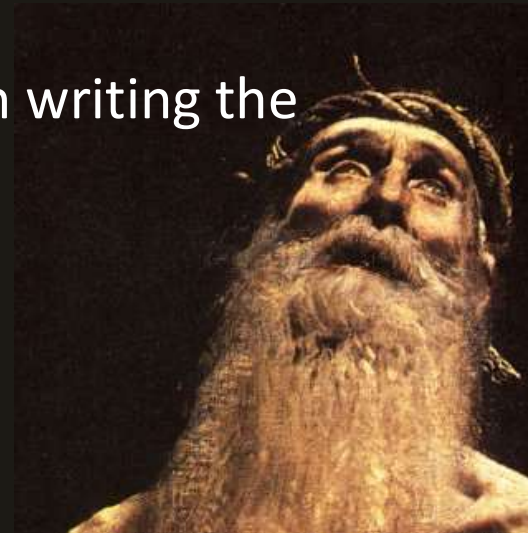
# Background

“Uz” is a land associated with Edom (Lamentations 4:21)  
In the east in the Arabian Desert. (Jeremiah 25:20)

Scripture refers to Job as a historical figure (Ezekiel 14:14, 20)

Moses may have wrote it in it’s ancient form, before even writing the oral history of creation passed down from Adam.

Answers the earliest questions God’s people had of God.



# Understanding

There are no “pat” answers. God is not constrained by simplistic explanations.

“Job makes a good case poorly and his friends make a poor case very well.” – John Calvin.

A major part of this book is not only about how we think about suffering, but how we act in and towards suffering.



# Building Blocks

We do not want to spend time speculating on questions we do not have answers to.

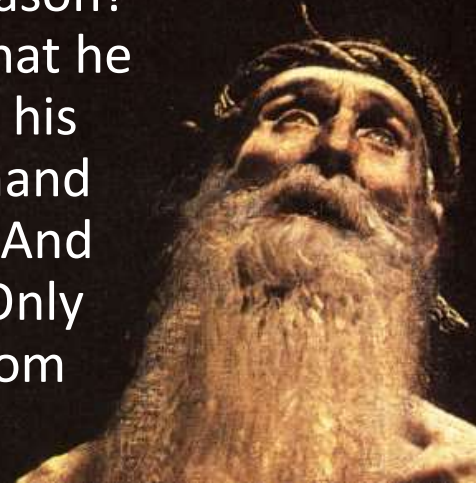
We do want to establish building blocks in order to construct a Christian theology of suffering that is true to what scripture teaches.

We will examine the three central figures in the opening 2 chapters: God, Satan, and Job.



# God

<sup>6</sup> Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. <sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." <sup>8</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" <sup>9</sup> Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? <sup>10</sup> Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. <sup>11</sup> But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." <sup>12</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.



# God

“The sons of God came”

“to present themselves before the Lord”

“Satan also came among them.”

Building Block 1: God is in control



# God

**“Have you considered my servant Job...”**

Building block 2: God initiates suffering

Ephesians 1:11 - God works “all things” to the counsel of His will.

- falling sparrows (Matthew 10:29)
- the death of His people (Psalm 44:11)
- the outcome of sickness (Exodus 4:11)
- disasters (Amos )



# Satan

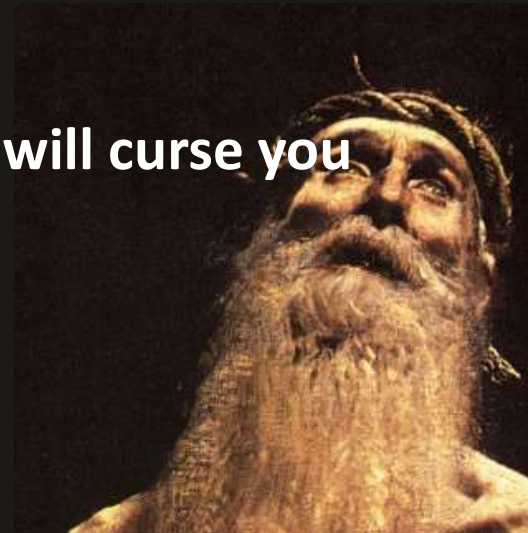
**“From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”**

1 Peter 5:8 “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

**“Does Job fear God for no reason?”**

**“stretch out your hand and touch all that he has and he will curse you to your face.”**

Building Block 3: Satan is the agent of suffering





# Job

**“There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright...”**

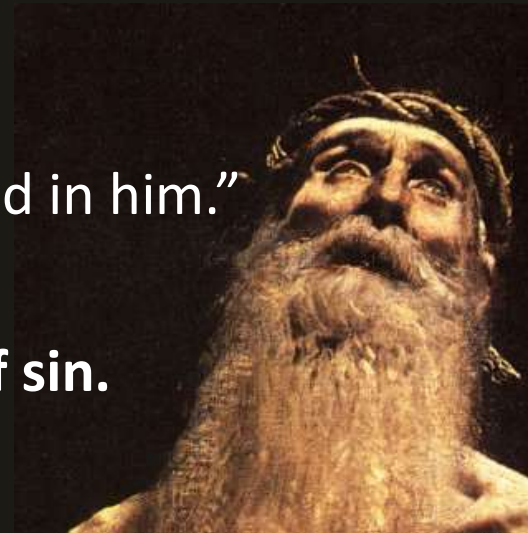
Building block 4: The righteous suffer.

John 9

“Who sinned, this man or his parents?”

“Neither” ... “but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

**Job knows he is righteous, he is not suffering because of sin.**



# Job

Building Block 5: Our comfort and refuge is God

Job has suffered every kind of loss. 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen. 7 sons, 3 daughters.

**“Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshipped.”**

**“Naked I came from my mother’s womb and naked shall I return. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.”**



# Hope in the building blocks of Christian suffering

Job is the earliest book ever written of the bible. And it is the earliest description of the gospel.

The righteous must suffer or we have no Saviour.

God is in control – He put Jesus on the cross, not Satan.

Satan is only an agent of suffering, not in control of it. God initiates suffering to accomplish His purposes.

Our comfort and refuge is in God. - If we lose grasp of God's sovereignty in suffering then we lose all hope that suffering can be for our good.

