

## Job 4—7 Outline

**The Main Thing:** *God is sovereign, even when we—or loved ones—go through horrible things; rest in the hope of His redemption.*

### Introduction:

- *Doctors say it's bad. Its cancer and he's going to die. We took more of his brain than we intended to. He'll never be the same. The question "why do bad things happen to good people?" is popular because the suffering that is present in the world can be so in-your-face that it's hard to just ignore its existence. Where do we fit in in the big scheme of things? Does God care if we experience a little pain? Sometimes it seems like God is a cosmic bully! But what you see isn't always all there is.*
- *God is sovereign, even when we—or loved ones—go through horrible things; rest in the hope of His redemption.*

### Passage Exposition:

*(Divide up the passage into bite-size chunks, which you will then take your listeners through step by step.)*

- I. Job 4:1—21
  - a. (Explain) Let's start with some words from Matthew Henry, a commentary writer—who is long dead—, but pretty good. He says, "Eliphaz, having undertaken to convince Job of the sin and folly of his discontent and impatience, here vouches a vision he had been favoured with, . . . and it would have been well if he had kept to the purport of this vision, which would serve for a ground on which to reprove Job for his murmuring, but not to condemn him as a hypocrite (Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible)." So basically Eliphaz comes to Job with ill proportioned advice. If he would have said Job stop murmuring, he would have been on the right track. But instead he says 'you're a hypocrite, Job!' As for the vision that he says he had, we don't really know when he had it—if it was another time before, or while he was there with Job—but it wouldn't be far out for us to believe that God gave it to him. We see it in Job 33 when Elihu speaks and we see it in Job 38 when God talks to Job in the whirlwind. It was common for God to speak audibly at those times.
  - b. (Highlight 4:7+8) Eliphaz boxes God in when He says "as I've seen God works like this. . . ." He didn't understand why this was happening and instead of just saying that, he drew a conclusion about God that came from his "experience." "Job has to be a hypocrite because God only lets bad things happen to bad people."
  - c. (Connect to Isaiah 55:8—9) "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:89). The compassion of the LORD is in Jesus! Now there are many things we do not understand, and will not understand until we are with Him. But we can understand that Jesus is the answer for all the pain, and all the suffering and everything that we see that leaves a

nasty taste in our mouths.

- d. (Chuck Smith) “There’s not really good logic to what Eliphaz is saying at all. In fact the most innocent of all men was crucified....What Eliphaz is saying, is just the argumentations of men which often lack real wisdom (Chuck Smith).”

## II. Job 5:1—27

- a. (Explain) Eliphaz drives it home by saying, “Look Job! This is for your own good buddy. 3 outa four Christians can’t be wrong!”
- b. (Highlight) 5:4+5. Dude references his kids! He was so bold as to say that’s why yo kids died! And yo stuff was stolen by robbers! He done drove home the point that he believes Job is guiltier than OJ. Then he says in v. 8 that “As for me, I would seek God, and to God would I commit my cause.” Ever get advice from a friend that don’t know what the mess he talkin bout? He’s got it completely wrong and he thinks he’s so right. He’s—in this chapter—all about what Job should do instead of comforting him. He kind of says “Job if I were you I would of asked God differently. Don’t quarrel with God, ask forgiveness. You’re welcome. (*“Blessed is the one that God reproves, Job.” Job’s like ok. So what you goin do to help me though?*)
- c. (Connect to Matthew 8:23-27) Jesus goes into this boat with His disciples and while they were on the boat there came a storm. Jesus is passed out in the sleeping quarters of the ship. Sleepin like a baby! Matthew 8:25 says, “And they went and woke him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.” And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?” The answer to getting through the hard times in life is exactly what Jesus was doing on that boat. Rest in His hands. You may not be able to feel Him at that moment but He is right there and He wants you to rest in Him.
- d. (J Hampton Keathley III, a recently deceased Bible teacher who graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary)

“Without knowledge and trust, we simply won’t wait—at least not without a great deal of anxiety—and usually not without taking matters into our own hands. Based on its past performance, we wait for the news to come on at six o’clock because we believe the T V station will be operating.... At least 28 of the passages that deal with waiting have the Lord as the object waited for and as the confidence of the one waiting.” **When you are struggling as Job is—or even when you’re not—your confidence must be in God! It’s not like He’s not worthy of it.**

## III. Job 6:1—30

- a. (Explain) Job in his misery is expressing himself. He is also responding to the accusations Eliphaz just threw at him. To defend his claims he expresses to his fair-weather friends that he is not living a sinful double life. During this time Job also expresses how he wishes he were dead. He’s in that much agony!
- b. (Highlight) 6:14-21. If a friend needs your encouraging words during a hard time it’s

common sense that you don't wail on 'him some more! It says it right here in the book of Job that "He who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty." These guys weren't just blunt; they were down-right unkind to a beaten down man who is seeking comfort in them! They were lovin bein his friends and saying nice things about him when life was good for Job but when things started to get hot and he really needed those words of encouragement they turn and attack him. Job's like, "did I even ask you for anything?" "If you're gonna be here at least make yourself useful and encourage me!"

**If a friend is suffering and you go to encourage him/her, don't do what these guys did! Silence is a legitimate response! Crying, or hugging him/her would be good too. But don't feel like you have to say something to make it better!**

**Example:** Tell about Brother Howe's story, and what I did to comfort.

- c. (Connect to Psalm 13:1) Realize that Job is in a place that I'm sure we've all been. His words are definitely reflexive of that fact. It was the same with David in Psalm 13:1—3 "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death."
- d. (Chuck Smith) "Let me point out first of all that you should not take the statements of Job in his misery and seek to develop from them biblical doctrine (i.e. Seventh day Adventist, Jehovah's Witness, and others developed the doctrine of soul sleep)(Chuck Smith)." Always have to keep in mind the context. Isn't it great that God truly knows our frame? He can tell if a man is cursing Him, or just in pain and is trying his best to reach out to Him for help and understanding. As we see sometimes they can look the same.

#### IV. Job 7:1—21

- a. (Explain) Job is not only responding to Eliphaz's claims but he's also directing comments to God. He still is cursing the day he was born. He's also asking God if He thinks that a mere man can take all of this punishment. In one of the verses he was like, "do you think I'm a sea monster God?!" That's a funny way to say it but we get what he's saying. Am I as big as the biggest creature I can think of? Because that's how much pressure I feel like you are putting on me.
- b. (Highlight) Chapter 7:16 "I loathe my life; I would not live forever. Leave me alone, for my days are a breath." A Quote from the ESV Study Bible says, "Job will declare his rejection of his life again with the same verb in 9:21. When Job is fully confronted with the mystery of God, he will reject his words using the same verb ("I despise myself," 42:6). The verb is repeated across these verses to contrast Job's changed attitude as he comes to recognize that he had given up on understanding what his own life and circumstances meant in a manner that assumed more than he could possibly see or know."

Ain't that the truth? I mean dang... I do that. Do you forget that God is an all-powerful God that has bigger plans than just how you are feeling at the moment? Can God be trusted with our redemption? Our lives? The answer is yes He can. But we don't want to thin

k about that when we are hurting though do we? But we have to! We have to remember that God can still be trusted (I mean come on He built the Universe). Every solar system, every black hole, and every star He made! And how many stars are there? I'dk like trillions?! **When I connect what's happening to me in my life right now to that fact, I go "oh yeah!" "It's plausible that you know what you're doing God."** Duh!

- c. (Connect to Hebrews 1:3) "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."
- d. (J Hampton Keathley III) "The ability to wait on the Lord stems from being confident and focused on who God is and in what God is doing."

- *God is sovereign, even when we—or loved ones—go through horrible things; rest in the hope of His redemption.*

#### **Conclusions or Application Points:**

- This passage functions like this in our life today. (This is something for you to Know, Understand, Consider, Be, Do)
  - ❖ Know that there is an answer for today's suffering!
    - Jesus is truly the answer (that's not a cop-out). He is the reason why our toil is not in vain!
  - ❖ Consider that any pain/difficulty that you are going through now is not in vain!
    - If you are a born again believer the gospel is at work in your life right now. So when you don't see immediate change in your life, know that it will come! Just keep doing what you are doing! Don't be discouraged to quit!
  - ❖ Remember Jesus has a plan! You might not know what in the world is going on but guys Jesus always does!
    - Rom. 8:28 expresses that if you are His, things will always work out for your good! God guarantees it! (Rom. 8:28)
- It also functions like this.
  - ❖ When you go to comfort a friend with similar difficulties as Job, be wise!
    - Remember that you are not God. You don't have to understand their circumstance.
    - A praise full heart to the Lord and His sovereignty, and a trust in His ways will do
    - Don't draw conclusions that are not there
- And finally maybe even like this.
  - ❖ God is not a vending machine
    - There is a reason why the Bible says, His ways are higher than ours!" You are not going to understand them!
    - The formula for life is not 'I do something bad, God has something bad happen to me; I do something good, God owes me something good.' So when we think that way we are setting ourselves up to be discouraged to quit!

- *God is sovereign, even when we—or loved ones— go through horrible things; rest in the hope of His redemption.*
- Final verse or two: Ephesians 1:13+14 says **“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:13+14 ESV)”**

Guys, it's a sure thing! We've won! Let's choose to acknowledge that fact, even in the depths of our despair; cry to Jesus, and He will understand!! And He will comfort you!!