

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ASKED IN THE BOOK OF JOB

- Introduction:
1. One of the most puzzling books in the Bible is the book of Job.
 2. It is puzzling because:
 - a. It leaves us asking the question, "**why?**"
 - b. And it really does not give us the kind of answer we want, but just says, "**trust me.**"
 3. There are at least five questions asked in the book of Job that we ought to spend time in answering for ourselves.
 4. If we do, I believe we will be better prepared to wade through the troubles and trials of this life.

I. QUESTION ONE: "Does Any Man Serve God For Nothing?"

- A. This question was asked by Satan (1:9-10).
- B. Satan was arguing that the only reason Job was so righteous was because of the way God had blessed him.
- C. Thus, God allowed Satan to take everything away from Job.
- D. But Job answered Satan's question: "Yes, a man will serve God for nothing." (Job 1:20-22; 2:9-10).
- E. We ought to take a look at our own life and ask ourselves the same question (II Corinthians 13:5).
- F. Some are more in love with prosperity and good health than with God, for when their prosperity and health wanes, their love for God wanes also.
- G. (Philippians 3:7-8).

II. QUESTION TWO: "Why Am I, A Righteous Man, Suffering?"

- A. This question was asked by Job (Job 3:1-26).
- B. Six times in chapter 3, Job asked the question "**Why!**"
- C. Job's despair is summarized by the following questions:
 1. "Why was I ever born?" (3:3-10).
 2. "Being born, why was I not allowed to immediately die after birth?" (3:11-19).
 3. "If I must die, why can I not die immediately?" (3:20-26).
- D. The fact that you are righteous may be the very reason why you are suffering.
 1. Who knows what good God can accomplish through your experience of suffering? (Romans 8:28).
 2. Your suffering may be the profession of faith that will make a difference in the lives of others.

III. QUESTION THREE: "Is It Not True That God Will Not Allow The

Righteous To Suffer?"

- A. This question was asked by Job's friends (Job 4:1 - 31:40).
- B. After a week of silence, Job's friends finally speak, and this is the line of reasoning they used.
- C. They were convinced that Job had sinned, and that he needed to repent.
- D. This question was answered in the above point, but keep in mind that our suffering on earth may be part of the mysterious workings of God's providence.

IV. QUESTION FOUR: "Is It Not True That Suffering Has Value In Spiritual Discipline?"

- A. This question was asked by Elihu, a younger friend of Job's, who waited until the older men had given their advice (32:1 - 37:24).
- B. While Elihu does not reject the reasoning used by his three friends, he does insert this additional point.
- C. Suffering does have spiritual benefits.
 - 1. It helps one to set priorities and attain proper values.
 - 2. It enables one to better know himself.
 - 3. It helps one to be thankful and more conscious of God's blessings.

V. QUESTION FIVE: "Can A Mere Man Be A True Judge Of God's Activity?"

- A. This question was asked by God, Himself (Job 38:1 - 42:6).
- B. No man has a platform upon which to stand in order to question or accuse God in His dealings and activities.
- C. There are some limits to man's legitimate questioning of God activity, and God demonstrated that very convincingly.
- D. As God's finite creation, we have no platform to question many things that God does or does not do.

Conclusion: 1. Just as Job's patience enabled him to be blessed with a double portion of prosperity, our patience and trust in God will give us "a hundredfold not in this time..., and in the world to come, eternal life." (Mark 10:30).