

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

Book of Job

Review of Questions Raised During Our Study...

1. Why did God permit Satan to afflict Job?
 - *Why does God permit bad things to happen to good people?*
2. Did Job know the cause of his suffering?
 - *Do we know the reason(s) behind our troubles?*
3. Is suffering and loss punishment for sin?
4. How does the New Testament help us understand these questions?
5. a) What key New Testament characters suffered?

b) What role did Satan play in their difficulties?

c) Was there any positive outcome to their suffering?

Some Possible Answers...

1. Job suffered the loss of all that he had in the world so that he would become a godlier, Christ-like man. Job became God's instrument of victory over Satan.
God's purpose is that we would be conformed to the likeness of His Son (Rom 8:29), and He will stop at nothing to get us to that goal. This will result in trial and affliction to spur on our spiritual growth (James 1:2-4). To become like Christ is an end in itself that is worth losing all other things for (Php 3:8).
2. Job did not understand the cause of his troubles *and we frequently don't either. Ours is not first to understand God's ways, but to trust in them (Rom 8:28; 11:33-35).*
3. Not always. To jump to this conclusion is to make the same error as Job's three friends.
4. The New Testament, in particular the church epistles, are key to us gaining a proper perspective on the story of Job and the issue of Christian suffering.
5. a) Jesus Christ, Paul, Peter.
b) Satan was involved in some form of attack upon each of them.
c) Absolutely! Paul and Peter were humbled by their sufferings – these were an essential part of their spiritual growth. Jesus Christ was made the author of our salvation through His sufferings (Heb 2:10).

*“For it was fitting for Him...to make the author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”
(Hebrews 2:10)*