

THE ANSWERS OF JESUS TO JOB

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INTRODUCTION:

- A. ILLUSTRATION: Imagine waking up in prison and you don't know why you are there. You call out to the jailer, "Why am I here?" and he wont answer you. The prisoners around you say that you must have done something bad or you would not be there!**
1. Job is the story about a man who is in prison... but his is a prison of suffering
 - a. He cries out to God for answers but God remains silent for quite a long time
 - b. His friends come to him and tell him he must have done something wrong
 - c. All the while Job is at a loss because he doesn't know what he's done to deserve it!
 2. Job is a man who seems to have lost everything! In fact, by the world's standards he did; however, Job did not lose everything because he maintained his faith in God!
 3. Job's faithfulness is a great portrait of righteousness & endurance (**Ezek 14:14; Js 5:11**)
- B. During these severe trials Job endured he comes face to face with several questions and difficult conclusions concerning his life – Most of which go unanswered!**
1. Some people look to the book of Job as an explanation for the question: "Why do the righteous suffer?" → Yet this is not what the book of Job is really about!
 - a. The book of Job does not address this issue! Job's questions to God about His suffering are never answered... The "why" isn't what he needed to understand
 - b. The book of Job teaches us that man does not serve God and do right just for the physical blessings which God may choose to shower upon his people
 - c. I believe the main theme of Job is the fact that God is in control and God is right!
 2. Job's life becomes a real battleground – He is left alone to sift out and contemplate what is happening and why – He faces several uncertainties which are not truly found until Jesus provides the answer! → I want us to spend this evening looking at those...
 - a. Illustration: Bumper Sticker – "Jesus Is The Answer!" – But what's the question?
 - b. Job provides the questions... our faith strengthens in seeing the answers in Christ!

I. WHERE CAN I FIND GOD?

- A. As Job faces his suffering he struggles to with an inability to locate the Lord**
1. Eliphaz judges Job guilty of sin due to the sufferings he was subjected to (**Job 22:1-9**)
 - a. Eliphaz has no more understanding of what has taking place than anyone else, he's basing his judgments of Job on what he can see and his own logic
 - b. There's only one way Job would be going through all of this – He had to have done something bad! Eliphaz therefore accuses him of being unjust with finances
 - c. Eliphaz's solution? Job needed to get acquainted with God! (**Job 22:21**)
 2. Job had only one problem – He could not find God much less reach Him! (**Job 23:3, 8-9**)
 - a. Job's struggle is a struggle many of us feel at times due to our circumstances – If God would only appear, if he could only see God, then things would get better!
 - b. Eliphaz says, "Get acquainted with God!" & Job says, "How can I, I can't find Him!"
 - c. Job can see the works of God all around him, but is never able to see or even understand God... You can almost hear the frustration & despair in his voice!
 3. Job feels if he could only appear before God's seat God would hear him and take his side
 - a. Job believed he was innocent and if he could present his case before the Lord, God would exonerate him and deliver him from his suffering (**Job 23:6, 7, 10**)

- b. Job is seeking to appear before God's seat – He wants to stand before God's throne, Mercy Seat, the throne of Grace... There Job knows he'll get justice!
 - c. Job's cry was for a special revelation of God to answer the spiritual needs of man!
- B. The complete answer to Job's cry is found when we look to Jesus Christ!
- 1. It is only in Jesus Christ that man is able to approach and know God! (John 14:1-9, 14)
 - 2. In the New Testament Jesus came and revealing God to us (John 1:1, 14; Col 1:15)
 - 3. Jesus Christ shows us what God would be like if He became a man! (Phil 2:5-8)
 - a. Every wonder how God would handle the death of a loved one? How he'd handle being mistreated? How he'd handle being rejected or disappointed?
 - b. Not only this, but Jesus shows us what God expects from man in serving Him and serving our fellow man... Jesus left an unmistakable example to be followed!
 - 4. It is through Jesus that we are able to approach God's seat with boldness to find the grace and mercy we need... The very thing Job sought! (Hebrews 4:16)

II. WHAT IS MAN WORTH?

A. When God finally breaks the silence He speaks humbling words in a whirlwind:

- 1. Job had been boldly asking to appear before God to question God's judgments and justice... In essence, putting God on trial! (Job 10:2-3; Job 23:1-7)
 - a. Job indicates several times he knows God knows all things and he knows that God is a God of justice, but there are things that simply don't make sense to him!
 - b. He says very boldly that if God gave him a chance he would be full of arguments... He knows exactly what he would say and God would surely listen to him!
- 2. For a long time Job and his friends had been debating back and forth about why all of this is happening when finally God breaks the silence humbling Job! (Job 38:1-3)
 - a. Job was yearning to speak with God... now God gives him the chance he wanted!
 - b. Instead of God being put on stand and questioned it is Job who will be questioned by God – God says, "Get ready like a man... I have questions for you!"
 - c. Before Job can speak boldly to God he must answer questions about this world
- 3. Job is asked two sets of questions (77) by God concerning this world (Job 38:4ff; 40:6ff)
 - a. God say, "Job let Me tell you what really happened!" - When He breaks the silence he does so with questions Job can't answer! This is a reproof from the Lord
 - b. The first set deals with whether or not Job can explain or control God's creation, the second set deals with whether or not he can subdue or change creation
 - c. God's questions leave Job with absolutely nothing to say! The one who wanted to speak now cannot say a word! He get's God's point! (Job 38:3-5)
- 4. What message is God trying to convey to Job? He shows Job that God is in control of everything and that God is right! These are facts Job was questioning
- 5. When all is said and done Job comes face to face with his own worth (Job 40:4; 42:1-6)

B. Jesus gives man worth and a balanced view of himself!

- 1. Consider for example the problem of drugs, alcohol, and suicide in our world:
 - a. There are many reasons why people take such measures in their life – The main being a lack of true meaning in life! Jesus Christ provides us with purpose!
 - b. Some turn to these because they feel unwanted, uncared for, and they even may reach a point where they hate their own life... They are seeking for escape!
- 2. David asked a question similar to Job's when he said, "What is man?" (Psalm 8:1-4)
 - a. If you contemplate what David was focusing on you will be just as blown away as

- he was! Think about God's power, His majesty, His holiness, & His wisdom!
- b. As you think on how great Jehovah is, think about all the wonderful things He has done for us – From creating us, to providing our needs, to sending Christ!
- c. The fact God would show such great care and devotion to us individually shows how much we mean and how much we matter to Him! No one is insignificant!
- 3. Sometimes we have an unbalanced view of ourselves because we respond to pride by running to the opposite extreme (**Romans 12:3-4**)
- 4. Jesus shows that man has great value! (**Matt 16:26; Phil 3:8; John 3:16**)
- 5. Standing in the midst of the great universe, man seems insignificant; however, he is of greater value than all of creation! Why? Because Christ died for us to save us!

III. WHERE CAN I FIND A MEDIATOR?

A. One theme resounds throughout the book of Job – God is a JUST God!

1. During one the first series of speeches Bildad implores for Job to repent on the basis that God is just (**Job 8:1-3**)
 - a. Remember the theme is – God is right & God is in control! Bildad understands this
 - b. The problem is Bildad doesn't understand the basis for suffering – He assumes that suffering comes as the result of sin, therefore God must be punishing Job!
2. When Bildad stops, Job affirms he was right in that God is just & great (**Job 9:2-12, 14**)
 - a. Job faces his own sinfulness – Since I have sinned, how can I be right with God? He knew sin separated him from God so how can he be right with God again?
 - b. Job sees that God is great and powerful but feels God is removed, unconcerned, unreachable, & incomprehensible – Chasm of difference stood between them!
 - c. Not only does Job feel separated from God due to sin but also due to God's greatness, wisdom, & might... Could he really understand God & God him?
3. Zophar points out just how limited man is to understand such a great God! (**Job 11:7ff**)
4. With such a chasm how could Job approach God? He needed a mediator! (**Job 9:25-35**)
 - a. Job could try to act like nothing was wrong but that was simply impossible! Yet he and God could not just come together because God was not a man like him!
 - b. Job's question is "How can I stand before God?" → This is not the same as asking, "What must I do to be saved?" – This is about a relationship & knowledge
 - c. What Job is looking for is an arbiter or umpire – A mediator → This is a person who knows what is like to be on both sides of the chasm & brings them together
 - d. Job captures the meaning well by saying, "Who might lay his hands on us both" – Picture a man standing with one hand on God's shoulder & one on Job's

B. Jesus Christ stands between us and God serving as our mediator!

1. **Illustration:** Man takes a visit to the White House and knocks on the door
 - a. He says, "I want to see the President" – He is going to get turned away quickly!
 - b. Suppose you do get in to see him and you ask to discuss his policies. Can you relate to him and he to you? He grew up in a wealthy & powerful family!
 - c. This times infinity is our situation with God! God is eternal, wise, & all powerful! He spoke the world into existence! He has immeasurable glory and riches!
 - d. Job's problem is our problem... How can we approach and openly speak to God?
2. By becoming a man Jesus put his hand on both God and man and brought the two together in unity (**I Timothy 2:5-6**)
 - a. A mediator is a go-between, a person who brings two sides together. For one to be a good mediator he must understand what it's like to be on both sides

- b. Notice the wording – “...the MAN Christ Jesus.” - The Spirit could have chosen several ways to speak of Christ but here He emphasizes His humanity
- c. Jesus stands as our mediator knowing what it means to be God because He is/was God & He understands what it means to be man because He became a man!
- 3. As Jesus is at the right hand of His Father He bridges the chasm of nature, wisdom, and experience and thus mediates between us! (**Hebrews 2:14-18; 4:15-16**)
- 4. In order to be our true mediator he had to face everything, even death! (**Hebrews 5:8**)
 - a. Jesus was and is a perfect being; however, as far as being our Savior and Mediator He was imperfect until He went all the way, dying for our sins!
 - b. Jesus was not a perfect Savior until He faced it all! Now – Regardless of what you are facing we cannot look to God & say, “You don’t understand what it is like!”
 - c. More importantly, we have in Jesus a mediator who knows exactly what we need!
- 5. Certainly we cannot talk about Jesus as our mediator without taking a moment to consider his mediating work in our salvation from sin! (**I Tim 2:5-6; Romans 5:1**)

IV. HOW CAN I FACE DEATH?

- A. Job’s uncertainties and questions only increased as he saw he might be facing death!
 - 1. Anytime people face death it is a very questioning time just because of the unknown
 - a. Even for a Christian who has faith and hope there are many questions that arise and unknown things – What will the transition be like? Where exactly will I go? Will I be conscious of what is going on? Will I know and recognize others?
 - b. But what about Job? He did have Christ’s resurrection to rest upon! As far as we know no one had been raised? He didn’t have all the N.T. teachings we have!
 - c. Job was like all of the O.T. writers... He had a very neutral to bleak view of death!
 - 2. As Job first faces suffering his wish is that he had not even been born! (**Job 3:1-5**)
 - a. Job seems to have lost everything – Possessions, family, health, and friends and he is stripped to the bare essence of his being... He has nothing!
 - b. Here we see good evidence that depression had set in within Job – Who would blame him considering all that he suffered... He needed relief in any form!
 - c. Long before he faced the possibility of death, Job was wishing he didn’t even exist!
 - 3. Job had a very bleak view of eternity as he faced his sufferings (**Job 3:11ff, 26**)
 - a. Remember, Job lived some 500 years before Moses wrote the book of Genesis... His knowledge was incomplete! He couldn’t reference God’s word!
 - b. Later on he spoke of death as a dark place of shadows (**Job 10:20ff**)
 - c. When Job looked out at what was beyond this life, beyond death, he saw it as a place of darkness, a place of no order, a place without light – A dark view!
 - d. This was not a place he looked forward to except for the fact that he saw it as an escape from sin and the sufferings he was experienced... It was a relief
 - 4. The uncertainties for Job increased as he realized he might die (**Job 14:1ff, 7-14**)
 - a. Job saw a tree as having more hope than he had! Plants have more hope because they have the ability to regenerate themselves as they drop seeds & grow new
 - b. Job looked at death as if there was nothing more... When you’re dead that’s it!
 - c. While Abraham lived about the same time, he had a different view which had a big impact on him – Job doesn’t seem to have this concept (**Hebrews 11:13-16**)
 - 5. But Job found hope and he exhibits trust in his redeemer: (**Job 19:23-26**)
 - a. Funny irony – Job longed to have his words inscribed in a book or on stone so he might be judged more righteously... yet here we are reading his words today!
 - b. In the preceding verses (**vs. 13-20**) Job describes his physical state and with such

- a description it would seem to him and others that death was imminent!
- c. Due to suffering and uncertainties Job had a very bleak view of his death; but through it all he stayed faithful because of what he knew!

B. Our view of death can be much different because Jesus has provided the answer!

1. Life and death are realities and everyone has to face those realities (**Hebrews 9:27**)
 - a. For the atheist they can look but there is nothing to be found! Think about how an atheist would then face suffering & trials here in life? How do you deal with it?
 - b. Robert Engersol (Atheist) standing at the grave of His brother: “Death is a narrow veil between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities. We cry aloud and the only answer is the wailing echoes of our cries.”
 - c. Vertrand Russell: “We stand on the shore of an ocean, crying to the night and to the emptiness. Sometimes a voice answers out in the darkness, but it is the voice of one drowning and in a moment the silence returns.
 - d. Many go through life building bigger houses & amassing wealth without real faith... Then when life is shaken out from under them they have nothing but despair!
 - e. When we are faced with our own mortality or the mortality of those we love we cry out and what do we hear? We are blessed to hear Jesus!
2. In Jesus’ life He provided people with hope as they faced death (**John 11:17ff**)
 - a. Lazarus, their brother had been dead only four days. They were in the middle of the process of mourning and likely had many questions about his condition
 - b. Martha has confidence in “The Resurrection” – She evidently had obtained more information than Job... This likely came as the result of her listening to Jesus
 - c. Notice Verse 25 – Jesus claims to be the source of life! Jesus is the one who has the power & the authority to raise people from the dead → He’s man’s hope!
 - d. How do we know He is the resurrection & the life? He proved it by raising Lazarus!
3. He gave the ultimate proof of the resurrection of the dead when He arose (**I Cr 15:20-23**)
 - a. He is the firstfruit – Ever have a fruit tree or garden? The first apple comes & it is juicy and sweet! It’s proof of more fruit to come in the likeness of the first
 - b. Because Jesus was raised from the dead we can know that all of us will one day be raised from the dead as well... If a man dies... He WILL live again!
 - c. Remember Job’s mindset – “There is more hope for a tree than man” because if the tree is cut down its seed is planted and produces another tree... That’s the same imagery Paul goes on to use to describe our hope! (**I Cor 15:35-44**)
4. The hope Jesus provides greatly impacts the way we view life! (**John 11:26; 2 Tim 1:10**)
 - a. So long as we live in Him & believe in Him we will never die! This is not about physical death... but even if we die physically we will continue live spiritually!
 - b. We face trials and sufferings with the knowledge that so long as we follow God’s will nothing can separate us from Him! Even in death we’ll continue to live!
5. Paul faced suffering knowing that despite what happened to him, he would never die... He was constantly being renewed on a daily basis (**2 Cor 4:16-18; 5:1ff**)
 - a. Paul was able to face suffering and trials because he referenced the resurrection!
 - b. Paul saw life with perspective! The perspective that Jesus gives! He can look toward death not with dark despair but with hope and eager anticipation!

CONCLUSION: Job faced some very difficult questions that until Jesus came, was crucified, and was raised from the dead would remain unanswered! Jesus Christ is the answer to all of Job’s uncertainties and He is the answer to ours! Are you lost or struggling with sin? Jesus is your answer!