

FOREST, TREES, & VINES

FOREST, TREES, & VINES | PT.3 | PASTOR RYAN ROBERTS

JOB IS A RIGHTEOUS MAN WHO ENDURES IMMENSE TRIALS YET ULTIMATELY SEEKS TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF HIS SUFFERING WHILE MAINTAINING HIS FAITH.

JOB 14:7-17

“For there is hope for a tree,
if it be cut down, that it will sprout again,
and that its shoots will not cease.
⁸ Though its root grow old in the earth,
and its stump die in the soil,
⁹ yet at the scent of water it will bud
and put out branches like a young plant.
¹⁰ But a man dies and is laid low;
man breathes his last, and where is he?
¹¹ As waters fail from a lake
and a river wastes away and dries up,
¹² so a man lies down and rises not again;
till the heavens are no more he will not awake
or be roused out of his sleep.

JOB BLESSED WITH PROSPERITY. BUT: The story takes a dramatic turn when Satan, the accuser, appears before God and asks to afflict Job.

This premise sets the stage for a deep **conversation and exploration** of **suffering, loyalty, and divine justice.**

JOB, DOES NOT CURSE GOD... HE POSES QUESTIONS, HE SPEAKS ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES OF HIS SUFFERING... BUT HE DOES NOT CURSE GOD.

IN CHAPTER 37 ELIHU GIVES HIS FINAL ACCUSATIONS AGAINST JOB... AS HE SEES A STORM APPROACHING IN THE DISTANCE...

JOB 37:21-24

Challenge: Remember the first verse throughout the entire story.

JOB 1:1-22 There was a man in the land of Uz name was Job, and that man was **blameless and upright**, one who feared God and turned away from evil. ² There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. ³ He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east.

“YOU CAN’T SEE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES”....

TRUTH: YOU MAY BE STANDING AMONG A RED WOOD FOREST! BUT IF YOU ONLY NOTICE THE ONE UGLY, DEAD STUMP, YOU MISSED THE PICTURE OF GOD’S GRACE AND BEAUTY.

IS THERE A WAY TO MAINTAIN FAITH IN SUFFERING?

WHAT IS REALITY?

- A. IS REALITY DEFINED DIFFERENTLY FOR A BELIEVER?
- B. IS REALITY A SET OF RULES?
- C. IS REALITY DETERMINED BY CIRCUMSTANCE, CHOICES, GOD, OR ALL OF THE ABOVE?
- D. CAN REALITY BE CHANGED OR CHALLENGED?

Reality *n.* in philosophy, that which genuinely exists, usually in contrast to that which only seems to exist. (APA Dictionary of Psychology, 2018)

Reality *n.*

- 1: the quality or state of being real
- 2: a real event, entity, or state of affairs
- 3: television programming that features people (especially people who are not professional actors) dealing with real-life situations or participating in contrived activities (such as competitions)

(Webster's Dictionary)

TRUTH: SOMETIMES REALITY IS RELATIVE TO WHAT IS PERCEIVED (THOUGHTS, KNOWLEDGE, ETC.)

I.O.W. IT MAY NOT ACTUALLY BE REALITY, BUT WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE REALITY.

ROMANS 8:18-22;26-28

IN CHRIST WE ARE...

- BORN AGAIN
- WASHED CLEAN, PURIFIED, HEALED, DELIVERED,
- GIVEN A NEW LENEAGE

BUT THERE'S STILL AN ISSUE OF HUMAN SUFFERING....
AND THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS THE WISDOM BOOK
OF JOB IS STILL RELEVANT TODAY.

**REMEMBER THE KINGDOM'S PROMISES ARE NOT BASED
ON WHAT WE CAN SEE BUT WHAT WE KNOW BY FAITH!**

3 CLEAR QUESTIONS RISE FROM JOB'S SUFFERING:

In **Job 13:25**, he asks:

“Will You frighten a wind-driven leaf?”

In **Job 23:1–3**, he asks:

“Do you have eyes of flesh? Do you see as a mortal sees?”

In **Job 23:10**, he asks:

“Have I not wept for those in trouble? Has not my soul
grieved for the poor?” (HAVE NOT BEEN GOOD ENOUGH?)

GOD IS ABOUT TO ANSWER!

JOB 38:1-30

GOD IS SPEAKING THROUGH A WORLDWIND, IN A STORM.

-GOD IS GREAT, VAST, WONDERFUL, AND SUPREME.

Psalm 145:3

Deuteronomy 10:17

1 Chronicles 29:11

QUESTION: WHY WOULD GOD RESPOND TO A MAN WHO HAS EXPERIENCED SUCH INTENSE SUFFERING, A MAN WHO HAS LOST EVERYTHING, LIKE THIS???

“YOU CAN’T SEE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES.”

TRUTH: OUR SUFFERING IN THIS WORLD SOMETIMES IS GREAT, AND FEELS OVERWHELMING, BUT IT IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE GREATNESS OF OUR GOD.

IN THE BIBLE... YOU FIND TEACHING ON:

- TAKING YOUR THOUGHTS CAPTIVE,
- SEEKING THE MIND OF CHRIST,
- DISCIPLINING YOUR FLESH,

BUT NOT PRETENDING YOU DON’T FEEL

GOD ISN’T CRUEL, BUT HE IS GREAT, AND HE IS JUST.

BIG QUESTION: Did God give Job answers?

God is absolute reality – Thomas Aquinas

JOB 38:39-41

JOB 40:1-30 JOB 40:1-18

WHAT IS GOD TRYING TO TEACH JOB? WHAT IS HE TRYING TO TEACH US???

God says things to Job's suffering like, *"Can you make a hippopotamus? Were you there when I did that?"*

KEY: GOD ISN'T CRUSHING JOB, THE ENEMY DID THE CRUSHING, GOD GIVES JOB **INSIGHT AND WISDOM** THAT HE IS THE LORD, PROVIDER, SAVIOR, AND HE IS WORTHY OF OUR TRUST.

GOD CREATES, AND GOD SUSTAINS!!!!!!

LET'S PONDER: how do we fit the New Testament, post-cross reality, into this?

JOHN 14:12-14 LUKE 9:1-2 MARK 11:23 MARK 16:14-18

TRUTH: IF YOU AND I ARE TO OPERATE IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, UTILIZE THE GIFTS HE GAVE US, AND FUNCTION AND OPERATE AS HIS CHURCH.... WE NEED TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE CREATOR AND GIVER OF ALL GOOD THINGS.

We have an action plan to play, but it is given and directed by the Almighty!

When you pray for someone, it's not you who is central, nor is the situation... THE CENTRAL FOCUS IS GOD.

EPHESIANS 1:7-10

God isn't crushing Job; the enemy did the crushing. God gives Job insight and wisdom that He is the Lord, the provider, the savior, and that He is worthy of our trust.

JOB 42:1-17