

The Book of Job
Conversations at the Garbage Dump: Round 3 (Bildad)
Job 25-28 (page 363)

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Times of suffering...

- can strain my friendships (Job 25:1-26:4)

- deepen my understanding
 - of God (Job 26:5-13)
 - of me (Job 26:14)

- teach me to re-establish my focus and personal priorities (Job 27:1-28:28)
 - To set my thoughts on God (Job 27:2-13)

 - To *live* with integrity (27:3-6)

 - To *know* that evil will not triumph in the end (27:11-23)

 - To *understand* that wisdom is not a product of human effort (28:1-19)

 - To *pursue* the wisdom that comes from God alone (28:20-28)

Personally...

Think back to the last time you experienced a time of significant spiritual growth in your life. Was suffering or difficulty involved? How did God use that challenge to help you to grow?

What is your first response to suffering when it comes your way?

Why do you think we are so quick to resist it rather than to embrace it and learn from it? _____

How does your concept of God affect the way that you view suffering or difficulty in your life? Do you need to spend some time in the scriptures learning more about who God says that He is and why you should trust Him? Is that important to God? To you? _____

An Overview of the Book of Job

The Character of Job (1:1-5)
The Calamities of Job (1:6-2:10)
The Comforters of Job (2:11-13)

Job's Complaint (3:1-26)

Dialogue/Dispute: Round 1
(4:14-14:22)

Eliphaz's speech (4-5)
 Job's response (6-7)
 Bildad's speech (8)
 Job's response (9-10)
 Zophar's speech (11)
 Job's response (12-14)

Dialogue/Dispute: Round 2
(15:1-21:34)

Eliphaz's second speech (15)
 Job's response (16-17)
 Bildad's second speech (18)
 Job's response (19)
 Zophar's second speech (20)
 Job's response (21)

Dialogue/Dispute: Round 3
(22:1-31:40)

Eliphaz's third speech (22)
 Job's reply (23-24)
 Bildad's third speech (25)
 Job's response (26-31)

Elihu's speeches (32-37)

God's Confrontation (38-42:6)

God's first speech (38:1-40:2)
 Job's response (40:3-5)
 God's second speech (40:6-41:34)
 Job's response (42:1-6)

Job and His Friends (42:7-17)

God vindicates Job (42:7-9)
 God restores Job's fortunes (42:10-17)

A Profile of Job's Four Friends

	Eliphaz	Bildad	Zophar	Elihu
Distinctive:	Theologian, Pragmatist	Historian, Legalist	Moralist, Dogmatist	Theological Intellectual
Relies on:	Experience	Tradition	Assumption	Education
Voice of:	Philosophy	History	Orthodoxy	Logic
Key Phrase:	"I have seen..."	"Ask the former generations..."	"Know this..."	"Listen to me..."
Argument:	"If you sin, you suffer..."	"You MUST be sinning since you suffer..."	"You ARE sinning since you suffer..."	"Suffering may be to PURIFY and INSTRUCT..."
Advice to Job:	"ONLY the wicked suffer"	"The wicked ALWAYS suffer"	"The wicked are SHORT-LIVED"	"HUMBLE yourself before God"
Meaning of Name:	"God dispenses"	"Contention"	"Rough" of "Chirper"	"He is my God"