

**Looking for Jesus in the Book of Job:
His Longing, Our Reality
May 30, 2010**

Summary: In the severity of his suffering, Job was hopeless, helpless and bankrupt. Those without Christ are like that as well but often do not recognize it. The yearning for Job in the agony of his suffering was for a mediator, an advocate and a redeemer; all of which are fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ. Discovering Jesus here in the book of Job provides a wealth of wisdom for practical Christian living today.

1. A. What does Bildad say regarding the suffering of Job and what theology of suffering does this represent?
Job 8:1-4

 - B. The accusation of Bildad is not the only reason for suffering. What are six reasons for suffering in the world? Why do bad things happen to good people?
 - * We do suffer because of our sin Proverbs 4:19, Jeremiah 2:19, John 8:3-11
 - * Suffering can glorify God John 9:1-3, 11:4, I Peter 4:12-14
 - * Suffering makes us better ministers II Corinthians 1:3-5, James 1:2-4, 2:5
 - * We suffer from our human condition Genesis 3:17-19, Ecclesiastes 2:22-23
 - * Suffering brings us closer to God Philippians 3:10 I Peter 2:20
 - * We might suffer as an example for others, Job 1:1-12, James 5:10

 - C. Do you see God's purposes for suffering in your life today? How is the pain in your life drawing you closer to Him?
Psalm 42:1-6, Lamentations 3:19-25
2. A. How does Job respond to Bildad, and what is Job yearning for?
Job 9:1-3, 9:14-16, and verses 32-35

 - B. Clearly, Job is yearning for a **mediator**. This would be one who can act as an arbitrator between him and God as *acceptable* for both sides, *trusted* by both sides and who represents *legal justice* for both sides. How does Jesus Christ demonstrate all three components of such a Mediator for all of us who are sinners?
Isaiah 53:5-6 & verse 11, I Timothy 2:5-6, Hebrews 2:14-18, 4:14-16, I Peter 3:18

 - C. Think of who you are and what you deserve, or better, how little you are and the goodness of God which you could never deserve. Then think of the almighty, sovereign and invincible holiness of God; that there is no impartiality with Him. In the case of Job, he was yearning for justice; but is that what we should really want? Having to recognize the justice of God, what must we depend on Him for, in our case?
Psalm 130:3-4, Jer. 14:7-12, Ephesians 2:1-9
3. A. What does Job yearn for because of his friends being such scoffers?
Job 16:18-21

 - B. In verse 19 we see him longing for an **advocate** on high. In what fashion is Jesus Christ our Advocate?
Romans 8:31-34, Hebrews 7:22-25, I John 2:1-2

C. Satan, the accuser, still accuses us even though we who belong to Christ have been forgiven and cleansed. How do we do battle against our defeated foe?
Psalm 103:1-14, Ephesians 6:10-20, I John 1:8-9

4. A. At his lowest point, what, or rather Who, does Job cry out for?
Job 19:13-25

B. “*As for me, I know my Redeemer lives!*” A **redeemer** in ancient times was a person who paid the debt of another who was unable, because he was family, he had the power, he was willing, he was a free man, and he took action. Remarkably, Jesus fulfills all five of these characteristics as the ultimate Redeemer.

First, Jesus *became man*, like us. Isaiah 7:14, John 1:1 & 14

Second, Jesus has the power as *God*. Isaiah 9:6, Colossians 1:13-17, Hebrews 1:1-3

Third, Jesus was, and is, ever so *willing*. Matthew 20:29-34, Mark 1:40-42, Romans 5:8

Fourth, Jesus was *perfectly innocent*, in bondage to nobody. Hebrews 7:26

Fifth, Jesus *takes action!* I Peter 2:24, Revelation 1:4-6

C. The most important personal discipline we can have as believers is to rehearse the Gospel of Jesus Christ each and every day. God is holy and we are sinful. “*He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.*” “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” Are you in prayer to God this way every morning? If not, are you willing to start right away? Do you know someone who can hold you accountable?

II Peter 1:1-4, 3:18