

LIVING TRUTH

# JOB

FROM TRAGEDY  
TO *Triumph*

WITH CHARLES PRICE

MESSAGE GUIDE



# MESSAGE GUIDE

*The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on this message given by Charles Price.*

*We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.*

*As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord that may not have been immediately obvious.*

# MESSAGE GUIDE & QUESTIONS

## Job – From Tragedy to Triumph

### PART 1 – A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES

*Job: 1:1-3 & 13-22*

1. Please read and consider Job 1:1-3 and 13-22.
2. List some of the kinds of suffering that is current in this world; some may be personal to you, but others being suffering that you are aware of in other people.

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P \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_

W \_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_

Our H \_\_\_\_\_

Our M \_\_\_\_\_

The K \_\_\_\_

Our J \_\_\_\_

3. Does God have any part to play - either actively or by omission - in the suffering that we see in the world today?

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4. Here is our Dilemma...

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5. Who were the 6 principle characters in this story?

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6. Did God have much to say?

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7. We will look very quickly at this story under 4 headings.

8. **1. The Story –**

From the reading identify the positive aspects of Job

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9. Part 1 - What were the 4 disasters that took place – all on the same day.

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10. Part 2 - Job 2:4-6, Satan is allowed by God to test Job.

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11. **2. The Style –**

What was unique about the way in which this story was told?

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12. **3. The Secret –**

Read Job 1:6-12.

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13. But all of this was to determine ....

**4. The Response.** Consider the following verses:

Job 1:20, Job 2:9, Job 1:21 & 22.

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## Final Thoughts

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The story of Job presents us with the subject of ‘suffering’. And it explores the possible causes and possible explanations for suffering.

‘Suffering’ is only a problem if we try to  
reconcile it with a ‘good God’.

We reason that if there is ‘no God’ then there is no  
reason not to suffer, but if there IS a God then suffering  
should not happen. Right?

Let’s not pretend that evil and suffering are easy issues.  
**They are not!**

**We all have our theories and opinions about ‘suffering’, but  
when true suffering smacks us between the eyes our tidy  
theories and explanations don’t mean too much.**

## Job – From Tragedy to Triumph

### PART 2 – DEPRESSION & HOPE

#### *Job 3:1-3*

1. Read and consider Job 3:1-3.  
Recap Job's situation.

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2. This was Job's worst nightmare, and how did he react?

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3. Job's first question: **Why was I ever born?**  
Read and consider Job 3:3-10 [especially verses 3-4]

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4. Job's second question: **Having been born, why did I ever live?**  
Read and consider Job 3:11-13 and 16-17.

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5. Consider for a moment what the top 5 things that make us happy are.

- i. Believe in \_\_\_\_\_.

- ii. Family & \_\_\_\_\_.

- iii. Meaningful \_\_\_\_\_.

- iv. Having something to \_\_\_\_\_ [\_\_\_\_\_]

- v. A spirit of \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Job has lost all hope in the future.

Read and consider: Job 6:11; Job 7:6 and Job 19:10

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7. Job's third question: **Having lived, can I not die?**

Read and consider Job 3:2-22.

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8. Let's finish on a positive note. Yes – there is much tragedy and despair in Job's life, but all ends well.

Future studies will examine this more closely, but for now consider carefully the following scriptures:

Job 13:15, Psalm 25:3, Psalm 42:5

And especially: Job 23:8-10 and then 11-14.

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## Final Thoughts

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Where there is life, there is hope.

Suffering presents a real difficulty to all who believe that God is good, because in this situation it appears that God is either inactive or inadequate.

Job did not know that neither of these is true, and that something else was going on behind the scenes.

But God did speak; and He was there all the time in the storm, just waiting for the perfect time.



Can you trust God THAT much?

Knowing that when the time is right – when the time is perfect –  
He will intervene in a manner that will bring the most honor and  
Glory to His Name.

## Job – From Tragedy to Triumph

### PART 3 – JOB’S MISERABLE COMFORTERS

*Job 4:31*

1. Read and consider Job 2:11-13.

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2. What were the common thoughts and assumptions made by these 3 ‘friends’?

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3. So we will look at the specific perspective of the first 2 of Job’s so-called ‘comforters. The first being ‘**Tenamite**’ – who we will call “**The Mystic**”. Read and consider Job 4:12-17.

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4. However, Bildad the Shuhite is the Theologian. His authority is the doctrines of former generations. Read and consider Job 8:8-10.

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5. What do you think of Bildad's attitude; and why is he like he is?

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6. So - **Eliphaz** has **Personal Experience without Doctrine**, and **Bildad** has **Doctrine without much Personal Experience**.

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7. For now we need to briefly look at 3 Realities that Job had to live with at that time.

i. **Sometimes we feel distant from God – and it's OK!**

Read and consider Job 6:4 and Job 23:8-9.

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8. ii. **Sometime we do not have answers – and that is OK too!**

Read and consider Job 7:6.

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9. iii. We sometimes need to speak out our frustrations – and it is OK! It is emotionally healthy to do this, as it is better than keeping everything bottled up inside.

Read and consider Job 7:11.

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## Final Thoughts

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‘Suffering’ is a universal fact.

When we suffering we want an explanation to feel that we didn’t ‘lose something for nothing’, or ‘someone didn’t die in vain’. Most of the book of Job is about an attempt to explain his suffering.

*It is good to repeat this:*

Doctrine without personal experience is a poor thing. However, **personal experience without doctrine is dangerous.** It opens up dangerous and unreliable roads that **feel right to us, but have no relationship to objective truths.**

**Remember also:**

**The silence of God is not unusual. Nor does it mean He has forsaken you. One day He will break His silence**

## Job – From Tragedy to Triumph

### PART 4 – DELUSIONS ABOUT THE DOMINION & DISCIPLINE OF GOD

*Job 32:1-5*

1. How much of this story do you remember so far?

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2. What were the 2 conclusions that Job's friends came to as to why all this was happening to Job?

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3. What was the premise that Job's friends were building their conclusions on?

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4. But these 3 friends **wanted explanations.**  
**What did Eliphaz the Mystic say?**

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5. What did **Bildad the Traditionalist** have to say?

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6. And what about the third friend, **Zophar** – whom we have not looked at yet?

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7. So:

Eliphaz has P \_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_

without D \_\_\_\_\_.

Bildad has D \_\_\_\_\_ without much P \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_.

Zophar has neither D \_\_\_\_\_ nor E \_\_\_\_\_

only H \_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_.

8. **1. What Elihu believes about the discipline of God.**

Read and consider Job 33:14 – 22 and 36:15.

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9. **2. What Elihu believes about the Dominion of God.**

Read and consider Job 37:23, Job 34:10 and Job 35:5.

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10. It is important that we understand this scripture: **1 John 5:19**

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11. **3. Where Elihu is Deluded about God.**

Read and consider carefully Job 36:4-12.

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## Final Thoughts

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Perhaps you can see the 3 kinds of people and approaches in this story that are similar to what we would find in many, if not most, of our churches.

It begins to become clear why this story of Job is included in the scriptures.

**When we are faced with situations that we do not understand we should not look for explanations – we should look instead to God. Job 23:8-10**

## Job – From Tragedy to Triumph

### PART 5 – GOD SPEAKS OUT OF THE STORM

#### *Job 38*

1. Read and consider Job 38.

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2. Job has listened to Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Elihu, but now after 37 chapters of silence – **God Speaks**. Read and consider: Job 38:1-7; 31-33 and verse 36 plus Job 40:6-8

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3. Three things about the silence of God.

- i. **The silence of God does not indicate the absence of God.**

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- ii. **Silence does not indicate the Injustice of God.**

Read Job 40:8

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- iii. **Silence does not indicate the Neglect of God.**

Read Isaiah 5:19.

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6. **God's First Speech Out Of The Storm.** Read Job 38:1-40.

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7. And then there is the encouragement to 'remember the things you DO know'. Read Romans 1:20.

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8. And **"Remember The things You Don't Know"**  
Read Deuteronomy 28:29.

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9. **God's Second Speech Out Of The Storm.** Read Job 40:6-61.

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## Final Thoughts

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God's silences and delays stop us from taking Him for granted.  
It drives us to seek, to ask, to knock, more than anything.

When God does speak – after His protracted silence –  
He asks Job no less than 68 questions.

Job had been asking questions – and God remained silent.  
Now, God is asking questions, and Job remains silent.

Questions make us think! It is a great way to teach!

## Job – From Tragedy to Triumph

### PART 6 – MAKING SENSE OF NON-SENSE

#### *Job 42:1-17*

1. Read and consider Job 42:1-17. What is this story built around?

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2. To recap read the following scripture. Read Job 1:8.  
What does it tell us about Job?

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3. Read and consider Job 1:9.12

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4. What happened next that made matters even worse?

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5. In which chapter does Job make all sense of this?

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6. So – what 3 things can we learn from all this?  
**1. Look for the unexpected.** Read Job 42:2.

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a. **Suffering [and many mysteries of life] accomplishes a divine purpose.**

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7. **b. Suffering can be a test of reality.**

Read and consider 1 Peter 1:6-7.

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8. **2. Live with the Unexplained**

Job 42:3 and Job 23:8-14.

Psalms 66:10 and Isaiah 48:10.

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9. **3. Learn the Undiscovered.** Read Job 42:5-6.

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10. i. It is possible to have heard it all and know it all –

but have E \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_

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ii. It is possible to be theologically literate,

but S \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_

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iii. It is possible to have ‘dotted our ‘I’s’ and crossed our ‘T’s’  
and yet have N \_ S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

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11. In the end, everything was restored to Job – and then some.  
So one last question we ask ourselves: Were Job’s comforters  
right after all? Is God’s blessing in material prosperity?

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## Final Thoughts

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**Satan often has a high role in cosmic affairs which are evil in intent; but God’s purposes are never outwitted by the Devil.**

**When suffering comes to an innocent person it is never wasted – because God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.**

**And so the story ends!**

**It is a scripture given to us to encourage us,  
and to root out the true nature of our walk with God.**

# LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE

*This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.*

*Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' whilst also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.*

# LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE & QUESTIONS

## **Job – From Tragedy to Triumph**

### **PART 1 – A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES**

*Job: 1:1-3 & 13-22*

1. This entire series will be very challenging, because for those of us who believe that ‘God is good’, suffering is one of our biggest problems.

This study guide may well not answer all your questions, and may even throw up a few more that you didn't previously have, but we should face the difficult issues and not shy away from that which we don't understand.

2. Some of the kinds of suffering that are current in this world; that may or may not be personal to you.

**Famine**

**Poverty**

**Terrorism**

**War**

**Bullying**

**Racism**

**Greed**

**Our Health**

**Our Marriages**

**The Kids**

**Our Jobs**

Suffering can take many forms; some of which is physical and some emotional. It is very easy to feel beleaguered, victimized, and even persecuted in some situations.

The question is: **what is God doing about it?**

3. That is a big question that we will look at closely during the coming weeks. First of all we are confronted with a Dilemma.

#### 4. **The Dilemma**

- i. If God is omnipotent He has the power to eliminate all evil.
- ii. If God is omniscient He knows where and when evil exists.
- iii. If God is 'morally perfect [love] He has the desire to eliminate all evil.

Despite all the above...

- iv. Evil **does exist** in our world.
- v. So, if evil exists and God exists, then either...
  - a. God is NOT omnipotent so does not have the power to eliminate all evil.
  - or b. God is not omniscient, and doesn't know when evil exists.
  - or c. God is not morally perfect, and doesn't have the desire to eliminate all evil.
- vi. Therefore, because evil exists, God doesn't exist.

**Many people have stumbled and fallen from God over this very real issue.**

- 5. The 6 principle character are:
  - i. Job ii. Mrs. Job iii. Eliphaz iv. Bildad
  - v. Zophar vi. Elihu
- 6. God was silent for 37 chapters, but then He spoke twice 'out of the storm' in Chapter 38:1 and Chapter 40:6
- 7. The first heading is '**The Story**'
- 8. Job was: A good man. (Chapter 1:1b)
  - He was blameless, upright, feared God and shunned evil.
  - He was wealthy
  - He had good health
  - He had a good family of 7 sons and 3 daughters
  - He was wise

Spiritually, morally, materially and emotionally – everything was good. Read Job 1:3b

9. Disaster # 1 Attack by the Sabeans killing all oxen and donkeys, and all servants except one.  
Disaster # 2 Lightning causing fire that killed all of Job's sheep.  
Disaster # 3 Raided by the Chaldeans stealing Job's 3,000 camels.  
Disaster # 4 A hurricane destroyed the house of Job's eldest son, and killed ALL of Job's sons and daughters.
10. Read Job 2:9 – Even Job's wife turns against him.  
Read Job 2:13b – Even his friends were shocked at how great was Job's suffering.

**For 35 chapters Job's friends tried to help,  
but they only succeeded in driving Job into deeper  
depression and pain.**

**It takes 42 chapter to tell this story,  
And not until chapter 38 does God speak!**

11. Other than chapters 1 & 2 and the last chapter, all of Job was written in the form of poetry.
12. What the reader knows – but Job did not know – **was that something was going on behind the scenes which caused, literally, all hell to break loose against Job, his family, his servants and his friends.**
13. Job KNEW that that what had befallen him was not because there was something wrong with himself; and he knew it was not because there was something wrong with God.

**So where do the problems lie?  
The Book of Job does not give us the answer,  
but it does expose the WRONG answers.**

**It exposes the simplistic explanations that we have for suffering;  
the miraculous cures we want to offer for suffering;  
even the theological conclusions we come to about suffering.  
All are both raised and then rebuked in this Book of Job.**

**Job – From Tragedy to Triumph**  

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**PART 2 – DEPRESSION & HOPE**  
*Job 3:1-3*

1. Job is in a state of shock and confusion.  
In just one day Job has seen :
  - i. all his children – 7 sons and 3 daughters – killed in a tornado.
  - ii. 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels and 500 yoke of oxen all stolen or killed by unnatural weather [lightening].
  - iii. Almost all of his servants have been killed.

He is a totally broken man. His health has collapsed, and he is broken emotionally, materially, Financially, Mentally and Spiritually. And even his wife has turned against him.

2. What was happening to Job seemed to suggest that God was either inactive or inadequate to deal with whatever was happening, and this caused Job to sink into deep despair, during which he asks 3 questions
3. Have you ever wished you had not been born?  
If you have, then you join Job here.  
And you join Jeremiah in Jeremiah 20:14

And even Solomon in Ecclesiastes 7:1

**But your birth was not a fluke or a mistake.**

About Jeremiah, God spoke in Jeremiah 1:5

About Solomon David wrote in Psalm 139: 13-16

And about Job, God finally speaks in Job 38

Who made you?

Who gave you a mind?

Who gave you wisdom?

Who provides you food?

In your dark moments when you wonder about the value of your life, remember this:

**You have an origin before birth.**

**Before you were even in your mother's womb**

**– you were in the heart of God?**

4. Job's disillusionment is becoming even deeper when we read Job 6:4 and Job 6:8-10. And then consider what he says in Job 10:19.
5. The top 5 things that make us happy.
  - i. Believe in something.
  - ii. Family & relationships.
  - iii. Meaningful work.
  - iv. Having something to look forward to. [hope]
  - v. A spirit of gratitude.

All of these things had been suddenly cruelly stripped away from Job. No wonder he doesn't want to live. No wonder he wished he had gone from the womb to the tomb.

6. We all secretly fear that some crushing unexpected event will destroy everything we cherish and love. Our secret fears concern family, health, children, business, life and death. These fears can often haunt us, and sometimes paralyze us.



No one knew that Job lived with these fears, but now they have come upon him, Job wishes that having been born, he had never lived.

7. These are not suicidal thought; but is there any restoration of hope?
8. What are the 4 things that Job held on to?
  - i. He followed the Lord closely.
  - ii. He did not depart from the Lord's commands.
  - iii. Job treasured His words.
  - iv. He still trusted God.

## **Job – From Tragedy to Triumph**

### **PART 3 – JOB'S MISERABLE COMFORTERS**

*Job 4:31*

1. We are going to look at each of the 3 'friends' of Job, who in fact turned out to be rather 'Miserable Comforters'.
2. *If you do what is right, your life will go well.  
So if your life is going badly, you must be doing what is wrong.*

*Another common thought was: If you sow well, you will reap well. If you sow badly, you will rep badly.*

*How about: Positive and good actions will bring reward in health and prosperity. Negative and bad actions bring about trouble and suffering.*

*Or maybe; Positive & good actions in this life will bring you back at a higher level. And negative & bad actions may bring us back as a cockroach.*

Hold it! That is not what the Bible teaches BUT what about Galatians 6:7-9

**We have to accept the fact that in the physical and materials realm, the wicked do sometimes prosper.**

3. Tenamite is led and heavily influence by ‘dreams’ – even ghosts. Look especially at verse 15.

He is totally convinced that Job is a sinner.

Read and consider his comments in Job 4:17 and Job 15:14.

In Tenamite’s mind, that is why all these bad things have happened to Job. His certainty is rooted in subjective experience of dreams and visions.

**There is no objective revelation!**

4. It is valuable to learn from the past, and Bildad creates a watertight system of doctrine, with some good points. Read and consider Job 25:2 and Job 8:3-6

But Bildad has a very low opinion of man.

Read and consider Job 25:4-6

5. Bildad can speak of no personal experience of God; he only has ‘cold doctrine’ which he uses as a sledgehammer against the suffering man that Job is.

He said very harsh words about Job’s children [Job 8:4] whom he had no doubt had sinned and deserved their fate.

Doctrine without personal experience is a poor thing.

However, **personal experience without doctrine is dangerous.**

It opens up dangerous and unreliable roads that **feel right to us, but have no relationship to objective truths.**

6. This could have end up very depressing, but as we shall learn in later studies that will take us through the remainder of this book, and does end up well for Job.

7. There are times when God is nowhere to be seen or felt. This CAN happen in seasons of our lives – **don't panic!**
8. Job's friends bombarded him with explanations for his trouble, but none of those explanations rang true to Job, BUT he had no other explanations himself.  
  
At this stage, **it is OK to say I don't know, I can't explain – but I still trust God!**
9. Don't be afraid to speak out to God exactly what you feel. Job did that in Job 7:16-21. **Do you ever feel like that? Then speak it out, speak it out to God. He can take it .....**

## **Job – From Tragedy to Triumph**

### **PART 4 – DELUSIONS ABOUT THE DOMINION & DISCIPLINE OF GOD**

*Job 32:1-5*

1. After a seemingly trouble-free life. Job suddenly came into extreme trouble. He lost his business, servants, wealth and family [all 10 of his children killed], and then his health failed.

His life began to fall apart, and Job became depressed and confused, even wishing he had not been born.

We, the readers, know something that Job did not know; and that was that God had allowed Satan to attack Job

3 friends came with the intention of sympathizing with Job, but they did not do a very good job.

2. The 2 conclusions that Job's friends came to as to why all this was happening to Job were:
  - a. EITHER God was being unfaithful to Job.  
[Which was not so]
  - b. OR Job had been guilty of a secret sin, and now it was all coming out and he was suffering consequences.
3. The premise was that **'every bad event must have a bad cause'**. Is this true?

Whist that can be true in some situations. For example:

- i. If you smoke heavily all your life you will probably get lung cancer. *The 'cause' is traceable, and it is self-inflicted.*
- ii. If you drive dangerously, you are likely to get in an accident causing damage, injury and perhaps even death. *Again, the cause is traceable and self-inflicted.*

**However, some events can be just that a person was in the wrong place at the wrong time, and there was no 'deserving' ingredient in the equation at all – right or wrong.**

**As examples that Jesus mentioned, look at Luke 13:4 and Luke 13:1-5**

4. **Eliphaz the Mystic's** ideas were based on his own experience of dreams, visions and spirits gliding past his face at night
5. **Bildad the Traditionalist** was the systematic theologian whose ideas came from the traditions of previous generations whom he trusted.
6. Well **Zophar** was the **Rationalist** whose ideas were based on **Reason**. He was the 'common sense' man – reasonable, logical and rationalistic.

7. Eliphaz has Personal Experience without Doctrine.

Bildad has Doctrine without much Personal Experience.

Zophar has neither Doctrine nor Experience, only Human Observations.

It was not unusual for Zophar, being young, to feel that way. The self-satisfaction of older generations often causes young people to become frustrated and revolt.

8. Elihu agrees with Zophar, Eliphaz and Bildad that if something bad happens to someone it is because they themselves did something bad; but whereas the other 3 believe the bad events are punishment, Elihu believes that the bad events have the purpose of 'corrective discipline'. The following scriptures – Hebrews 5:8 and Hebrews 12:5 – 7 - appear to support Elihu's way of thinking.

Job's 3 friends saw his suffering as an expression of a stern, unsmiling judge, handing down punishment. Whereas Elihu saw Job's suffering as an expression of a kind, loving Father, designed to turn back his soul from the pit.

**It is true that bad things – pain and suffering – may be our friend, though we don't usually see it that way until afterwards. Hebrews 11:12.**

**What Elihu DIDN'T know was that God and Satan had made a battleground of Job's soul, and his suffering was neither about punishment or chastisement.**

9. Elihu's understanding of God being Almighty, **is that everything that happens is God's will**; because He is **just** nothing happens that is not deserved or right – hence **chastisement**.

10. God is the **author** and **originator** of all things,  
But He is **not the controller** of all things.

Elihu shows no sympathy to Job because in His mind, to sympathize is to suggest that God is wrong.

**If we try to put everything into a cold, doctrinal box, we will lose any sympathy, compassion and love for people.**

**Many things hurt, offend and contradict God. Genesis 6:6.**

11. In these scripture verses you will find truths, half-truths and untruths.

**If there is anything more dangerous than lies and error – it is half-truths.**

## **Job – From Tragedy to Triumph**

### **PART 5 – GOD SPEAKS OUT OF THE STORM**

#### *Job 38*

1. To briefly recap.

Job had unexpectedly fallen upon very hard time, losing his wealth, family and health. Friends came to comfort him and assume 2 possible explanations for Job's suffering:

- a. EITHER God was being unfaithful to Job.
- b. OR Job has been guilty of a secret sin, and now he is suffering the fruit of that sin.

2. Now God speaks for 4 chapters and basically He gives His autobiography.

- But i. He says NOTHING about the issues in the previous 37 chapters
  - ii. He says nothing about Job's suffering.  
[which is the theme of the whole book]
  - iii. He says nothing about Satan's involvement.
  - iv. He says nothing about the accusations of the 4 friends.
3. God spoke 'out of the storm;. He had been there all the time. When God is inactive our instinct is to think He is absent.
  4. His character demands the assumption of justice.
  5. Waiting for God can be healthy – he is never in a hurry.
  6. This covered a great many things such as:
    - The Bigness of God
    - The finest Detail of God
    - Creation of the World                      Job 38:4
    - Creation of the Universe                  Job 38:31-32
    - Creation of Scientific Law                Job 38:33
    - Creation of the Human Mind            Job 38:36
    - Creation of the Animal World          Job 39
  7. When God is silent remember what you already know about His creative power and sustaining presence in the universe, Colossians 1:17
  8. There are mysteries that we are not invited to look into.
    - If it is revealed, it belongs to us – know and believe it.
    - If it is not revealed – mind your own business.
    - There are limits to what we do know, and can know.
    - Read Job 42:3 and Psalm 131:1
  9. God gives bizarre illustration to show His greatness, and God is not obligated to always explain Himself to us.

One of the main conclusions of this book of Job is that we cannot always understand the ways of God, and He does not always reveal them to us.

We sometimes walk in darkness  
Or as 2 Corinthians 5:7 says,  
“We live by faith, not by sight”

## Job – From Tragedy to Triumph

### PART 6 – MAKING SENSE OF NON-SENSE

*Job 42:1-17*

1. And so we approach the end of this study on one of the most perplexing books in the Bible; a story that is built around a challenge that Satan gave to God. Job 1:9
2.
  - i. **God held Job up to Satan as an example of being the best of men.**
  - ii. **Spiritually** - Job was Blameless and upright, fearing God and shunning evil.
  - iii. **Materially** - Job was a wealthy successful businessman with much livestock and servants.
  - iv. **Emotionally** - Job had a secure family of 7 sons and 3 daughters.
  - v. **Physically** - Job was healthy and strong
3. Job was happily getting on with his life oblivious to the fact that a conversation about him was taking place in heaven between God and Satan. A conversation whose consequences would have a great impact on Job and his family.
4. Three so-called friends of Job came to him to try to explain Job's suffering. They all assumed that the cause was that there was



something wrong with Job, and this just added to his stress.

5. Chapter 42. Read all 17 verses.
6. The Devil was behind the challenge, and although it seemed that God was absent He was, in fact, present and working. **'No plan of yours can be thwarted'**.
7. This is where our spiritual lives are proved genuine. Suffering enables us to discover whether our Christian life is built on mere words and creeds, or on the Living Jesus Christ.  
We speak of trusting God – and so we must!
8. There is so much that we DON'T know and we will probably never know. But what DO we know? We know that God has plans for us – not problems. **Our TRUST must remain firmly in Him.** Job 31:24-28 and Philippians 4:12
9. There is a big difference between the ears hear and the eyes seeing.
10.
  - i. It is possible to have heard it all and know it all – but have Experienced Little
  - ii. It is possible to be theologically literate, but Spiritually Barren.
  - iii. It is possible to have 'dotted our 'T's' and crossed our 'T's' and yet have No Substance
11. Absolutely not! By his experiences Job was weaned from any sense of entitlement, and therefore he could be trusted with whatever God chose to bless him with.

As he said: **The Lord gives and the Lord takes away!**

## If you know nothing else about the Book of Job you probably know it's a book based on suffering—physically, materially, emotionally, and even spiritually as God remains silent for a long period.

We know that most of us would have great difficulty accepting suffering in our own lives when it comes to our health, our kids, our marriage, our job or our circumstances.

The Book of Job presents us with this whole question of suffering and explores possible causes and explanations for it.

*"Then Job fell to the ground in worship and said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.' In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing."* —Job 1:20-22 (NIV)

Charles Price in this expository series '*Job: From Tragedy to Triumph*' presents deep truths in a simple, practical and understandable manner. *It is his prayer that we are able to face life as it is, with all its pain, suffering and unanswered questions. Not by burying our heads in the sand so we won't even ask the hard questions, but by discovering what Job discovered at the end of the book—that God spoke to him out of the storm, right when he was in the midst of severe tragedy, and moved on to triumph in God.*



**Charles Price**, one of the most sought after Bible expositors today is blessed with an innate ability to present the deep truths of God's word in a simple, practical and understandable manner. He is the former

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*In this Message Guide:*

- 1) **A Look Behind the Scenes**
- 2) **Depression and Hope**
- 3) **Job's Miserable Comforters**
- 4) **Delusions about the Dominion and Discipline of God**
- 5) **God Speaks out of the Storm**
- 6) **Making Sense of Nonsense**



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