

YOU HAD IT COMING?!

August 4, 2019 Job 4-27 by Bob Branch

Thinking About Suffering with Faith and Truth, part 5

BIG IDEA: As we try to make sense out of suffering, we need to be cautious in applying simplistic solutions to problems that may be more complex than we realize. If we're not cautious, we can add to their suffering, reflect the Lord inaccurately, and create more disillusionment.

Why is Job suffering? If you do good, good will come to you. If you do bad/sin, bad will come to you—the Law of Retribution.

[Eliphaz] “Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed? As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it. **Job 4:7-8 (15:20, 24)**

[Bildad] “Surely God does not reject one who is blameless or strengthen the hands of evildoers. He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy. Your enemies will be clothed in shame, and the tents of the wicked will be no more.” **(8:20-22)**

[Job] “I was being blessed richly, and now I am cursed, and I changed nothing! What the heck?!” *(my summary)*

[Zophar] “Yet if you devote your heart to him and stretch out your hands to him, if you put away the sin that is in your hand and allow no evil to dwell in your tent, then, free of fault, you will lift up your face; you will stand firm and without fear.” **(11:13-15)** (see 11:20; 20:27, 29)

[Job] “All was well with me, but he shattered me; he seized me by the neck and crushed me. He has made me his target... My face is red with weeping, dark shadows ring my eyes; yet my hands have been free of violence and my prayer is pure.” **(16:12, 16-17)**

“Why do the wicked live on, growing old and increasing in power? They see their children established around them, their offspring before their eyes...” **(21:7-9)** (27:13, 17 cf. 17:9)

[Eliphaz] “You gave no water to the weary and you withheld food from the hungry, though you were a powerful man, owning land— an honored man, living on it. And you sent widows away empty-handed and broke the strength of the fatherless. **That is why** snares are all around you, why sudden peril terrifies you, why it is so dark you cannot see, and why a flood of water covers you. **(22:7-11)**

[Bildad] “Dominion and awe belong to God; he establishes order in the heights of heaven. **(25:1-2)**

1. The Law of RETRIBUTION: Do good, get good. Do bad, get bad

“As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.” **John 9:1-3** ESV

Who's behind this? What shall we do about it? How will God be glorified in it?

Trust God when we don't have answers.

2. Be cautious with OVERSIMPLIFIED, FORMULA THINKING— especially with those suffering and in pain.

3. The world is COMPLEX and there is not one solution to the problem of evil and suffering.

4. Even though it is not the universal answer to all suffering, we do REAP what we SOW.

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” **Galatians 6:7-9**

Good seeds to sow:

Bad seeds: