

Please note that our previous weekly devotionals are now available for download online at [www.calvaryop.org/bible](http://www.calvaryop.org/bible).

## **Trusting the Wisdom of the Lord**

Imagine for a moment that you lost your entire family, your house, and most of your possessions in one horrific swoop. Not only that, but while you're in the thick fog of grieving your losses, you become afflicted with painful sores from head to toe. Knowing that you're seriously hurting both physically and emotionally, your friends come by to visit. But instead of giving you comfort, they accuse you of being indirectly responsible for everything that's recently befallen you. How would you be feeling about life then?

This is where Job finds himself in the book that bears his name. I've always thought that the book of Job should be required reading for everyone, as it explores important questions about the nature of wisdom, reality, and human existence. The book filters those large, philosophical questions through a lens that asks, "If God is good, then why do good people suffer?" This tough question is the underlying theme that runs through all 42 chapters of the book.

A large chunk of the book, including this week's readings, is set up similar to a legal disputation, where one of Job's friends presents an argument along with the evidence for his argument. Job then replies with a rebuttal along with his own evidence. And back and forth they go, as if they were in the courtroom, lawyers vying to win a verdict. As the book goes on, Job's friends become increasingly agitated with him because he refuses to accept that his profound losses and current illness have anything to do with any sin he might have committed. Indeed, Job doubles down on his own good character saying, "Behold, I have prepared my case; I know that I shall be in the right. Who is there who will contend with me? For then I would be silent and die." (Job 13:18-19 ESV)

Job's friends were stuck in a common theology that says since no human is pure in the sight of a righteous and almighty God, every person's suffering is indicative of how guilty they are in the eyes of God. Job strongly disagrees with this, saying that this did not match his life experience. He argues that inexplicably, godly people do suffer despite their high character and that God must have his reasons. This last part is important because Job repeatedly refuses to curse God for his current state in life and trusts that God has wisdom that is beyond human understanding. "If one wished to contend with [God], one could not answer him once in a thousand times. He is wise in heart and mighty in

strength-who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded?" (Job 9:3-4)

Only a few of us will encounter losses as great and rapidly as Job, but all of us will encounter difficulties in life that cause us to wonder why God has allowed this to happen. Let us follow Job's example and lean not on our own understanding, but on the wisdom of the Lord. Let us not curse God, but trust that there may be reasons that we cannot see outside of our own limited viewpoint.

~ *Matt Aggen*

---

**January 21st Readings**

JOB 8:1-11:20

-

**January 22nd Readings**

JOB 12:1-14:22

-

**January 23rd Readings**

JOB 15:1-18:21

-

**January 24th Readings**

JOB 19:1-21:34

-

**January 25th Readings**

JOB 22:1-25:6

-

**January 26th Readings**

JOB 26:1-29:25

-

**January 27th Readings**

JOB 30:1-31:40