



DEC 4 - Cantata Job part 3 (ch. 38–42) DEC 11 Exodus part 1 (ch. 1–4) DEC 18 NO CLASS (Christmas) DEC 25 NO CLASS (Christmas) JAN 1 NO CLASS (New Year's)

#### A THEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

God's *justice* regarding the treatment of the righteous is what's "on trial" here

The Satan's accusation is that Job only pursues righteousness because of what he gets (possessions) or keeps (health)

The Satan to God: "You've made it worth Job's while. Take away his stuff and his health and he'll curse You to Your face!"

No such thing as "disinterested righteousness"

Q: Will Job maintain he's still righteous even if he loses everything *and* suffers for no apparent reason?

If he will ... then righteousness is his most valuable possession, not his stuff or his health; he'll vindicate God's wisdom and God's ways

If he won't ... then the Satan's accusations will be proven correct

#### OUR STORY SUMMARY

Job is righteous, suffering ... and in the dark

Looking through the lens of the "retribution principle," his friends believe—since God is just—that Job must be a great sinner

Job, maintaining his righteousness, begins to voice suspicions about God's justice

So he's called for a hearing in court, with God as defendant and himself as the accuser ...

And then ... God shows up!

#### Summary of God's Speeches

God addresses Job as if he's claimed to be a "god," full of power and wisdom

God never answers Job's questions, but instead asks him 64 questions about creation, nature and the moral order of the universe

He refreshes Job's perspective ...

God is God ... and Job isn't!

Job, how can you comprehend My ways with men when you can't even comprehend My ways in nature? (38–40:5)

Job, your haughty attack on My ways in the moral universe—as if I were incompetent or even evil—is totally absurd and uncalled for. (40:6–41)

#### God's Points ...

(His wisdom) Job, your complaining suggests you could do better than I. But that isn't the case.

(His power) Job, since you've seen through creation that I've turned chaos into order, beauty and good, can't I do that in your situation? (e.g. Rom 8:28)

(His character) Job, on the basis of what you *do* understand about Me, can't you humbly, patiently and completely trust Me for what you *don't* understand?

#### Reading Between the Lines

Job, My sovereign wisdom vindicates My justice and the way I deal with men

Job, trust My Word and My character even when you're in circumstances that don't make sense

Job, give Me your *undivided* allegiance

Job, the answers you're seeking are found in "Who," not in "Why?"

#### Job's Response To God

First, Job is humbled and responds with ...

The awe of a renewed perspective of God  
 But as yet there's been no repentance, so God continues His questioning  
 Second, Job is repentant ...  
 He repents of not knowing God better and speaking arrogantly about Him  
 He takes back everything he said about God  
 Though his suffering still hasn't been relieved!

**What's The Purpose Of Suffering?**

3 Friends ... it's for your discipline (Judge)  
 Elihu ... it's for your direction (Teacher)  
 Job ... it's for my destruction (Bully)  
 God ...  
 Job, your faith in Me has demonstrated that Satan's accusations were false  
 Job, your suffering has deepened your spiritual insight regarding My wisdom and My ways

**Job's Suffering ...**

Glorified God's Name  
 Job didn't curse God as Satan predicted  
 Vindicated God's wisdom  
 Job recanted; didn't know what he spoke about  
 Vindicated God's ways  
 Job agreed that God knew best and did best  
 Grew God's saint  
 Job met God afresh in the midst of his suffering

**The Suffering Of The Righteous**

<u>Glorifies God's Name</u>	<u>Grows God's Saint</u>
Reveals our voluntary worship as God's surrendered servant	Refines our character as fire refines and purifies precious metal
Demonstrates our motivation of love for God not compensation	Deepens our understanding of God's Person and character
Silences Satan's false accusations	Strengthens us—turns saints into soldiers
Affirms and vindicates God's wisdom and ways	Allows us to trust/rest in God's benevolent wisdom

**Epilogue (42:7-17)**

God is angry with Job's three friends  
 They had limited God's wisdom and ways  
 He requires a sacrifice of atonement from the three friends ... but not from Elihu  
 He asks Job, His servant, to function as their priest and mediator and pray for them  
 The three would have to humble themselves before Job  
 Job would have to forgive them before praying

<u>Before</u>	<u>After</u>
7,000 sheep	14,000 sheep
3,000 camels	6,000 camels
500 yoke of oxen	1,000 yoke of oxen
500 female donkeys	1,000 female donkeys
7 sons	7 sons
3 daughters	3 daughters
70 years	140 years

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**APPLICATION: How should I respond if God calls me to distinguished service?**

**Remember ...**

Sometimes God steps aside and calls on an ordinary saint to become His extraordinary spiritual champion on the battlefield  
Ask "What can I get out of this?" not "How can I get out of this?"  
Continue to trust God and cling to Him in faith; be His weapon against the enemy and His witness before men and angels

**A Walk Of Faith Looks Like ...**

Mary, the mother of Jesus ... (Luke 1)  
Mary found FAVOR with God (v. 28)  
Mary EMBRACED an unexpected and unknown future (v. 38)  
Mary pressed through her FEAR, grabbed hold of FAITH, and quietly said YES, Lord (v. 38)  
Focusing on God's wisdom, power and character  
    Since in creation I've turned chaos into order, beauty and good, can't I do that in your situation?  
    On the basis of what you *do* understand about Me, can't you humbly and completely trust Me for what you *don't* understand?  
Drawing near to Him (Jesus' example in the garden, Matt 26:36-46)

How should the righteous respond to unmerited suffering?  
By embracing it rather than seeking to escape it

**A Rock Tumbler**



**Transformed!**



**FOR NEXT TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**VIDEO (no handouts) ON YOUTUBE** (private link; page is not searchable):  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGhFjfAlhYpqc2XYXZJXiwut\\_8g7P3qhF](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGhFjfAlhYpqc2XYXZJXiwut_8g7P3qhF)