

God Is Not Defined By Our Circumstances **Job 1:1-2:10**

Many of us know the story of Job, some of us have experienced Job-like circumstances, the question is do we respond like Job did, here in the opening 2 chapters of this book? **Job 1:20-21**

Too often we let our circumstances define for us who God is, how God works and how God relates to us!

- How many of us have questioned God's existence when things in our lives have fallen apart around us?
- How many of us have gotten angry at God when He didn't give us what we asked/prayed for?
- **How many of us have walked away from God for a season b/c of something circumstantial that happened in our lives?**

We live in a broken and fallen world, and that realization has led many to deny the existence of God, the sovereignty of God and/or the love of God!

But God is not defined, or confined, by our circumstances, & His love for us can't be denied based upon what's going on in our lives or in the world around us!

The story of Job clearly reveals a God who exists, a God who is in charge, a God who is all-knowing, & a God who is active & loving despite Job's circumstances!

- **Even though Job had no idea what was going on in the heavenly realm, it didn't deny the existence & activity of God in His life!** And Job knew it!
- Nothing was done to Job outside of God's sovereign rule. God was always in charge & Satan only had the power to do what God allowed him to do.
- Job didn't know why these things were happening but his ignorance to the "why" didn't change what He believed & how he responded to God!

We may not, like Job, always see the evidence of God at work in our lives, we may not understand His ways, we may not even like or agree with what He is doing, but that doesn't deny the truth of who He is!

God never promises us answers to all the "why" questions but that doesn't change the fact that He is all-knowing, all-powerful, ever-present, a loving God.

Job had a knowledge of God that was not altered by his circumstances! But how did Job come to know God in such a way?

He wasn't from Israel, He didn't have the Scriptures, but God obviously revealed Himself to Job somewhere/somehow and it led to Job's incredible response of fear/reverence, trust, and worship amidst his circumstances!

What Job had to work with was God's general revelation, His "*creation, preservation, & government of the universe that are like a beautiful book that makes us ponder the invisible things of God*"! – Belgic Conf. Article 2

We too have God's general revelation that leaves us "*without excuse*" of knowing what Job knew, but we have even more at our disposal!

God's special revelation is what God has made known to us "*more openly by His holy & divine Word, as much as we need in this life & for our salvation...*"

It's by God's Word/Scriptures that we know God's promises, see His continued faithfulness, & it's by the Living Word/Jesus that we see God most clearly.

It's the Easter reality that paints the clearest picture of God's true nature!

What God has done for us in Christ reveals most clearly a God who exists (He even took on flesh), who is sovereign (Satan's best couldn't thwart His plan) who is all-powerful (He even conquered the power of sin and death), ever present & active (redeeming, renewing, recreating), and a God who is love (He laid down His life for us)!

Job may have known about the promise of Genesis 3, but Job didn't have the fulfillment that we have today in what Christ accomplished!

When circumstances in life lead us to question God, doubt His goodness & deny His love, we need cross-centered vision! **We need to be cross-eyed!**

"I always view my circumstances against the backdrop of the cross, where God clearly demonstrated once and for all His deep love for me." - Blackaby

Anything we may endure in life, cannot undue what God has already done in Christ to reveal to us His true nature!

"I see love, I see love. I see heaven breaking through! I see grace! I see God's face, shining pure & perfect love. When I see You (Christ), I see love!" -Third Day

"Experiencing God" pg 22-23 – "*Never allow your heart to question God's love...*"

H.C. #28 – "How does the knowledge of God and His providence help us?"

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