

Is it Better to Die?

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Job 3-7.
- B. Job is the story of a man undergoing a test of faith.
- C. Job lost his children and health, and his wife turned against him.
- D. Despite all that has happened, Job remains faithful.
- E. Job is baffled by what God is doing—he is left wanting nothing more than to die.

II. Job's questions.

- A. Why was I ever born?
 - 1. All this is given so that we might understand the anguish of those under trial.
 - 2. Job curses the day of his birth, but he never curses God in all of this.
 - 3. Nothing seems harder to bear than unexplained trouble.
 - 4. Job views death as peaceful but the absence of all opportunity. This tells us that Job's view of death needs to be further informed.
- B. Why cannot I at least die now?
 - 1. Job questions what the purpose of his life is when all it produces is fear and trouble.
 - 2. There is purpose to life when it does not seem to be there.

III. The response of Job's friends.

- A. He suggests that Job should follow his own advice in order to be relieved.
- B. He implies that Job is not innocent. He argues that the righteous are never punished and that confession will restore Job.
- C. It is characteristic of humanity to blame Satan when we suffer and blame another when that person suffers.
- D. Eliphaz assumes that justice undergirds the entire universe, but this is a misuse of biblical truth.
- E. There are deeper reasons for suffering than just sin.

IV. Job's response.

- A. Job beckons God and rebukes his friends.
- B. Job's dilemma is that he knows God is doing this, but he does not know why.
- C. We see things that Job does not see: there are always two purposes—Satan's and God's.
 - 1. Satan wants to break Job's faith.
 - 2. God wants Job to understand Him much better.

Application questions:

1. How has Job's story influenced you? Have you or someone you know ever experienced trauma like Job? Explain.

2. What is the proper way to respond to those suffering in light of Job?

3. How would you respond to someone who claims that God is wicked for putting Job through this kind of suffering? Explain.
