

The Lesson of Job

Faith in an Incomprehensibly Complex War zone

**“[God] mocks at the calamity of the
innocent.**

**The earth is given into the hand of
the wicked;**

He covers the eyes of its judges –

**If it is not he, who then is it?” (Job
9:23-24)**

**From the city the dying groan,
And the throat of the wounded cried for
help;
Yet God pays no attention to their
prayer. (Job 24:12)**

‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’

Therefore *I have uttered what I did not understand* (Job 42:3)

**I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes.” (Job
42:6)**

“Think now, who that was innocent ever perished?

Or where were the upright cut off?

As I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same.

By the breath of God they perish, and by the blast of his anger they are consumed.” (Job 4:7-9)

**“How happy is the one whom God reproves;
therefore do not despise the discipline
of the Almighty.**

**For he wounds, but he binds up;
he strikes, but his hands heal.**

**He will deliver you from six troubles;
in seven no harm shall touch you.**

**In famine he will redeem you from death,
and in war from the power of the
sword.” (Job 5:17-20)**

**“At destruction and famine you shall laugh,
and shall not fear the wild animals of
the earth.**

**You shall know that your tent is safe,
you shall inspect your fold and miss
nothing.**

**You shall know that your descendants will
be many,
and your offspring like the grass of the
earth.”**

**“You shall come to your grave in ripe old age,
as a shock of grain comes up to the
threshing floor in its season.**

See, we have searched this out; it is true.

**Hear, and know it for yourself.” (Job
5:22,24-27)**

**“the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: ‘My
wrath is kindled against you and against
your two friends; for you have not spoken
of me what is right...’ (Job 42:7)**

I. The Vast Complexity of Creation

“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?” (Job 38:2). “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth” (Job 38:4)?

Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? (Job 38:5-7)

Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?

Declare, if you know all this. (Job 38:16-18)

**What is the way to the place where the light is distributed,
or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth? (Job 38:24)**

Do you know the ordinances of the heavens?

**Can you establish their rule on the earth?
(Job 38:33)**

II. The Forces of Evil Resist God

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, *and the sea was no more.*”

Rev. 21:1

“...who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb... and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped?’” (Job 38:8, 10–11)

“Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook, or press down its tongue with a cord?

(Job 41:1).

“It is the first of the great acts of God—only its Maker can approach it with the sword.” (Job 40:19)

**“It’s sneezes flash forth light,
and its eyes are like the eyelids of the dawn.**

**From its mouth go flaming torches;
sparks of fire leap out.”**

**“Out of its nostrils comes smoke,
as from a boiling pot and burning
rushes.**

**Its breath kindles coals,
and a flame comes out of its mouth...**

**It counts iron as straw,
and bronze as rotten wood...”**

(Job 41:18–21, 27)

This cosmic beast fears nothing (Job 41:33)

It cannot be captured or domesticated

(Job 41:1–8)

Even “the gods” are “overwhelmed at the sight of it” (Job 41:9, 25)

And no one “under heaven” can “confront it and be safe” (Job 41:11)

“I had eaten no rich food, no meat or wine had entered my mouth, and I had not anointed myself at all, for the full three weeks.” (Dan 10:3)

“He said to me, ‘Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.’”

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me twenty-one days. So Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, and I left him there with the prince of the kingdom of Persia.” (Dan. 10:12-13)

“Then he said... ‘Now I must return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I am through with him, the prince of Greece will come. But I am to tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth. There is no one with me who contends against these princes except Michael, your prince.’ (Dan. 10:20-21)

“For we wanted to come to you —certainly I, Paul, wanted to again and again—but Satan blocked our way.” (1Th. 2:18)



5 Principles for Praying in the War zone

- 1. RESOLVE: “GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME”**
- 2. RESOLVE: PRAYER IS EFFECTIVE**
- 3. ACCEPT “I DON’T KNOW”**
- 4. BE STENGTHENED BY GOD, AND PERSIST**
- 5. KEEP AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE**