

# What do you think?

- How does God feel about us?
  - What evidence do we have?
- Did God love Job?
  - When did He start? Did He ever stop?
- Did God love Job's children and servants?
  - Even when He gave permission to kill them?
- Was Job supposed to love God?
  - Why?





# Loving God No Matter What

*A Brief Look at  
the Story of Job*



# The Book of Job

- *Justice vs. Sovereignty* – Does God always operate according to justice?
- Job's Dilemma:
  - "Either:
    1. God is not just (but I know He is), or
    2. God is fickle (but I know He's not)."

# The Structure of *Job*

| PROLOGUE<br>1:1-2:13                                  | DIALOGUE<br>3:1-42:6 |                  |                  | EPILOGUE<br>42:7-17   |
|---|----------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| NARRATIVE:<br>INTRODUCES<br>JOB AND SETS<br>THE STORY | POETRY:              |                  |                  | NARRATIVE:<br>VINDICATES<br>JOB AND<br>CONCLUDES<br>THE STORY |
|   | Discussion<br>#1     | Discussion<br>#2 | Discussion<br>#3 |   |
|   | Discourse<br>#1      | Discourse<br>#2  | Discourse<br>#3  |   |

# The Structure of *Job*

## POETRY (3:1-26:14)

### Round 1:

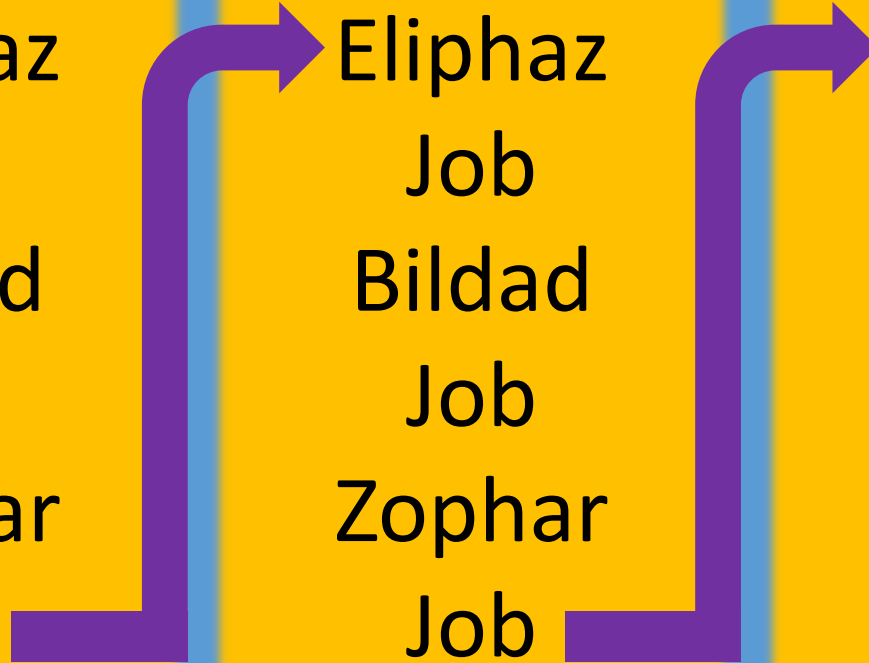
Eliphaz  
Job  
Bildad  
Job  
Zophar  
Job

### Round 2:

Eliphaz  
Job  
Bildad  
Job  
Zophar  
Job

### Round 3:

Eliphaz  
Job  
Bildad  
Job



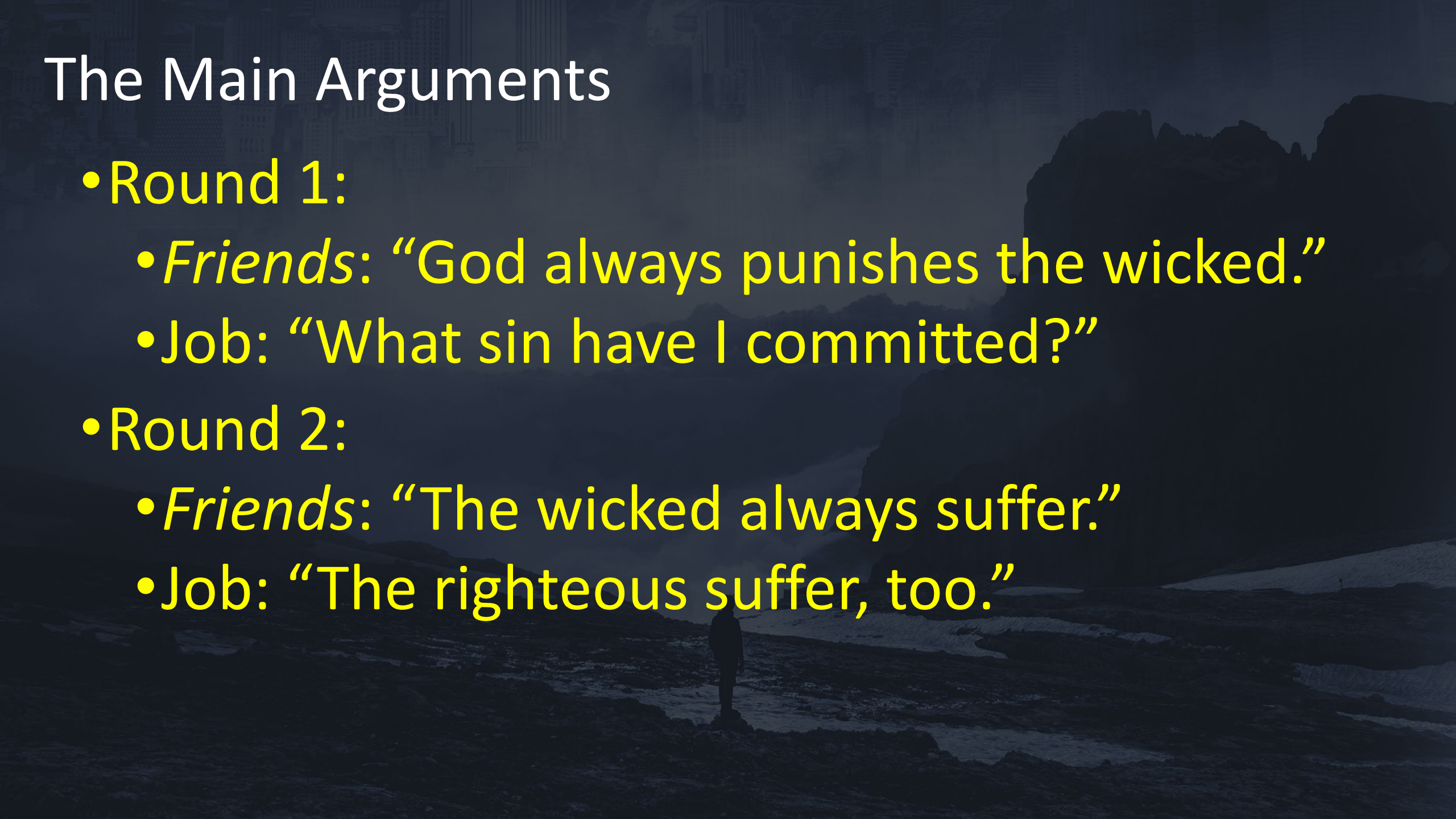
# The Main Arguments

- Round 1:

- *Friends*: “God always punishes the wicked.”
- Job: “What sin have I committed?”

- Round 2:

- *Friends*: “The wicked always suffer.”
- Job: “The righteous suffer, too.”





## Chap. 15 - Eliphaz

- “The painful life of the wicked man” [*sow-reap*]
- “Your own mouth condemns you” (2-13)
- “All men are sinful” (14-16)
- “The wicked man writhes in pain” (20-35)
  - This may be true for some but not all!
  - Contradicting/indicting himself (3)
    - Assertions, not arguments or evidence

## Chaps. 16-17 – Job

- “You’ve got it all backwards”
  - “My mouth would *help you*” (16:2-5)
  - “God is against *me*, not vice versa” (16:6-17)
    - “even though I’m innocent” (16:17)
  - “My advocate knows I’m innocent” (16:18-22)
- “God, deal with these mockers” (17:1-9)
- “OK, you three, try again” (17:10-16)



# Chap. 18 – Bildad

- “You can’t change the way things are”
  - “You think we’re dumb – but you’re dumb!”  
(2-3; see 17:10)
  - “Do you think you can remake the world?” (4)
  - “This is the only future for the wicked” (5-21)
    - “Surely...” (21)
    - **“You don’t know God”**

# Chap. 19 – Job

- “No one is listening to me!”
  - “Stop tormenting and insulting me” (2-6)
  - “I’m calling for justice but get none” (7-12)
  - “I’m all alone; pity me, don’t persecute me” (13-22)
  - “Oh that my words were written” (23-24)
  - “I know that my Redeemer lives” (25-27)
  - “Watch out for yourselves!” (28-29)



## Chap. 20 – Zophar

- “The triumphing of the wicked is short”
- “I’m offended!” (2-3)
- “All that you’ve said proves your guilt” (6-29)
  - Attempts to use Job’s words against him
  - Accusation: “You oppressed the poor” (19)



## Chap. 21 – Job

- “You’ve lost touch with reality”
  - “Hear what I have to say, then mock” (2-6)
  - “There are lots of wicked people in the world, and they seem to be doing just fine” (7-16)
  - “Do they really *all* die early?” (17-26)
    - “All men die -- some sooner, some later -- regardless of their character”
  - “I’m done with your empty words & lies!” (34)



# So What?

- God is not honored by wrong beliefs about Him, regardless of how strongly we hold to them
  - Any belief, view, doctrine, etc., must account for all of the available data
- IOW, Are you humble enough to change your belief to fit the evidence, or do you change (or ignore) the evidence to support your belief?

# So What?

- What are you facing right now?
- Does God love you?
- *What you believe determines how you live*
- Hold to what you know to be true, regardless of how you feel
- Hold to God's promises