

*Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. (Luke 24:27)*





A painting depicting a scene in a lush, green landscape. In the foreground, three figures are walking along a dirt path. The figure on the left is a woman wearing a dark blue dress and a red shawl, carrying a staff. The figure in the center is Jesus, with long hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a blue shawl, pointing upwards with his right hand. The figure on the right is a man with a beard, wearing a brown robe and a red shawl. In the background, there are large, leafy trees and a distant city with a prominent tower. The sky is bright and hazy.

# *Finding Jesus in Injustice*

*Job*

# Job's Experience

- He was righteous and blameless
- He experienced tremendous suffering
- His friends said he deserved it -- *God would not afflict the innocent*
  - They defended *injustice* as *just*
- Tension: *interpreting experience*

# Things Job Knew About God

- God is the Creator
- God is sovereign
- God is wise
- God is just / righteous
- God is *knowable / personable*
- God is benevolent



# Job's Questions

- Those who sin deserve to suffer. But I am blameless, so why am I suffering?
- How do I make sense of God's apparent *injustice*?
- How do I make sense of God's apparent *indifference*?

# Job's Struggle

- *Where is God?*
- *Why is He not answering me?*
- *How can I, a mere man, contend with Almighty God?*
- “You can’t fight city hall!”
- Rollercoaster of thoughts/emotions

# Job's Desire

- See Job 9:32-35
  - We are not on equal ground (32)
  - There is no *umpire* (33)
    - *Above* both God and Job?
    - *Between* God and Job?
    - *If only there was 3<sup>rd</sup> party*

# Job's Desire

- See Job 16:18-22
  - “...my witness is in heaven, And my advocate is on high.” (16:19)
  - He is confident there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> party *between* them to plead with God and assure fairness



# Job's Desire

- Job saw a need for someone to advocate on his (mankind's) behalf
- He believed that such a *one* existed
- He believed this *one* was in heaven
  - Not a mere man (cf. 5:1; 33:23)

# Job's Desire

- See Job 19:23-29
  - *I know that my Redeemer lives (25)*
    - Confident: *I know*
    - Personal: *my*
    - Expectant: *Redeemer* (Heb: *go'el*)
    - Correct: *God* (26)

# Job's Desire

- The *go'el*:
  - Avenger (Num. 35:16-28)
  - Guarantor (Lev. 25:25-28)
  - Surrogate (Ruth 4:13-17)
  - Advocate (Prov. 23:10-11)



# Job's Desire

- See Job 33:23-28
  - *An angel as mediator (interpreter)*
    - Extraordinary
    - Reminds man of what is right
    - Intercedes, pays a ransom
      - *Messiah -> angel (Mal. 3:1)*

# *Jesus in Job*

- NOT the full NT doctrine of Christ as mediator (see 1 Tim. 2:5-6)
- Job was not asking for pardon/grace, he was asking for vindication/justice
  - Asking for someone to allow him the chance to make his case

# *Jesus in Job*



**GOOD PEOPLE**



**BAD PEOPLE**



# *Jesus in Job*

GOOD  
THINGS

BAD  
THINGS



GOOD PEOPLE



BAD PEOPLE

# *Jesus in Job*

GOOD  
THINGS

BAD  
THINGS



GOOD PEOPLE



BAD PEOPLE

# *Jesus in Job*

- “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Cor. 5:21)
  - Cf. burnt offerings (Job 1:5)
  - “He Himself is the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 2:2a; cf. Isa. 53:6)



# *Jesus in Job*

- Job foreshadowed Jesus' undeserved suffering, but...
  - Job's suffering was not vicarious
  - Job's suffering was not salvific
  - Job was *blameless* but not *sinless*
  - Job didn't die
  - Job *attacked* God

# *So What?*

- Was it right for Job to question God?
  - Lesson: *humble faith*
  - “Just trust Me, even when it doesn’t make sense to you, because you don’t see the big picture like I do.”

## *So What?*

- “There is a rebuke in it for any person who, by complaining about particular events in his life, implies that he could propose to God better ways of running the universe than those God currently uses.” (Francis I. Andersen)

# *So What?*

- In the midst of suffering, remember:
  - God is the Creator
  - God is sovereign
  - God is wise
  - God is just / righteous
  - God is *knowable* / *personable*
  - God is benevolent

Perspective  
Power  
Plan



# *So What?*

- Because we live in a fallen world, we will experience suffering & injustice  
–See 1 Peter
- Keep in mind: Sometimes bad things happen to good people to make them *better*

## *So What?*

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:31-32)

# *So What?*

- We should stand up for/with those who experience suffering & injustice
  - See Heb. 10:32-39; cf. Matt. 23:23; Luke 18:1-8
  - However, Rom. 12:14-21