



## Message Study Guide

### Introduction

Job had been suffering and in misery for months with open sores all over his body. Why did God allow such misery to come upon a man whom he had described earlier in the book as being "perfect and upright" in the eyes of the Lord? During this time of severe testing, Job bore the grief of losing seven sons and three daughters. Everything he had in life had been wiped out, including his wealth in just one afternoon. As he lay just outside of the city in a heap of ash, he faced the cruel reality that not only had he lost all of these things, but now, even his own wife is repulsed by him; his brothers wanted nothing to do with him, and little children literally despised him. How and why could such a thing happen to one of the godliest men on earth?

If any man in history ever had the right and a just cause to ask Why Me? - Why Now? - Why This? , it had to be Job. When the initial testing had started, Job was strong in his faith and seemed to handle everything with amazing submission to God's absolute sovereignty over his life. At first, Job said things like, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord...".

But then things began to change when his misery lasted longer than he had anticipated. Hours had turned to days, days turned to weeks, and now weeks had turn into months. In Job's mind, that was simply too long. At this point, though he was a perfect and upright man, he began to lose his confidence and faith that God was with him and that God really did love him. Job even found himself saying things about God that simply were not true. At his lowest point, he even considered God to be his enemy rather than his friend.

In today's message, Pastor Ron will examine the last few chapters of the book of Job to see how Job was able to rise above questioning God to live the remainder of his life resting completely in God's sovereignty and His goodness. When Job's faith and confidence in God returned, God then gave him twice as much as he had at the beginning.

### Discussion Points

The Scriptures make it clear that the trials and sufferings of Job had at least a two-fold purpose behind it: God designed the testing to refine Job's faith, confidence, and righteousness, and to demonstrate His own value, sufficiency, and glory, not only to Job, his family, and his friends, but also to the whole world. His suffering was not a punishment. It was not a sign of God's anger.

### Discussion Questions

1. Job's three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar preached some very bad and dangerous theology to Job during his time of testing. Give one example of bad theology for each of his three friends.
2. In Job 38, God began to ask Job a series of questions about the world, heaven, and animals. Read this chapter carefully to determine what you believe God was trying to accomplish through this line of questioning.
3. In Job 40, God pauses in the questioning to give Job the opportunity to respond. What correct conclusion did Job come to? Which verse contains the answer?
4. What three proofs can you find in Job 42 that Job finally understood what God was speaking and doing regarding his own case?

### Think About It

Amazingly, Job was able to rise above all of his circumstances to come to a place of complete confidence and reliance upon God's will for his life. Murmuring and complaining was later replaced with a humble submission to the simple fact that God knows what is best for our lives.

### Do Something About It!

When things happen in our lives that we do not understand, rather than asking Why Me? - Why Now? - and Why This?, we can make a deliberate choice to believe in our hearts that everything God does is good and right. Pray that God will give you that assurance.

### Be Willing To Change

"God withholds no good thing from those who walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).