

When Suffering Doesn't Add Up

Job Part 1

Job 1:13-19 (ESV)

“¹³ Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ and there came a messenger to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants^[c] with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” ¹⁶ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

Job 1:13-19 (ESV)

¹⁷ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” ¹⁸ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

Retribution Principle (RP)

+ action = + divine blessing

- bad action = - divine curse

Job 1:9-11 (ESV)

⁹Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? ¹⁰Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.”

Retribution Principle (RP)

+ action = + divine blessing

- bad action = - divine curse

Is a good person only skin deep, motivated by
what he receives?

Job 1:20-21 (ESV)

²⁰ Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. ²¹ And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”

Job 2:4-8 (ESV)

⁴ Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵ But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” ⁶ And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.”

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.

~~Retribution Principle (RP)~~
~~+ action = + divine blessing~~
~~- bad action = - divine curse~~

Don't read into your own suffering.

Don't assume God's retribution,
abandonment, or apathy

Retributive Punishment vs Restorative Discipline

Hebrews 12:5-6

5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

2:18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Job 2:9

Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.

10 But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?”[a] In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job 2:12-13 Job's friends

12 And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven. 13 And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

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~~+ action = + divine blessing~~
~~- bad action = - divine curse~~

Don't read into other's suffering; don't
blame God or them.