

The Answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything

Job 20-42

Job 21:4-9 (NLT)

Job: “My complaint is with God, not with people. I have good reason to be so impatient. Look at me and be stunned. Put your hand over your mouth in shock. When I think about what I am saying, I shudder. My body trembles.”

Job 21:4-9 (NLT)

“Why do the wicked prosper, growing old and powerful? They live to see their children grow up and settle down, and they enjoy their grandchildren. Their homes are safe from every fear, and God does not punish them.”

Ask the right question, enter the right prompt, and realize there's much more to it than fairness.

Elihu's response:

- Cocky (36:2-4), attacks Job (34:7-9,36)
- Theologically right, pastorally tone deaf

Job 33:9-10 (NLT)

Elihu: “You (Job) said ‘I am pure, I am without sin; I am innocent; I have no guilt. God is picking a quarrel with me, and he considers me his enemy.’”

Job 33:12-14 (NLT)

Elihu: “But you are wrong, and I will show you why. For God is greater than any human being. So why are you bringing a charge against him? Why say he does not respond to people’s complaints? For God speaks again and again, though people do not recognize it.

**Don't judge fairness with only a
fraction of the equation.**

Job 21:4-7,9 (NLT)

“Why do the wicked prosper, growing old and powerful? They live to see their children grow up and settle down, and they enjoy their grandchildren. Their homes are safe from every fear, and God does not punish them.”

Job 36:16-19 (NLT)

Elihu: “God is leading you away from danger, Job, to a place free from distress. He is setting your table with the best food. But you are obsessed with whether the godless will be judged. Don’t worry, **judgment and justice will be upheld.**”

Job 36:16-19 (NLT)

18 But watch out, or you may be seduced by wealth. Don't let yourself be **bribed into sin**. Could all your wealth or all your mighty efforts keep you from distress?

2 Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that anyone should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

Job 36:15, 21 (NLT)

15 But by means of their suffering, he rescues those who suffer. For he gets their attention through adversity.

21 Be on guard! Turn back from evil. For God sent this suffering to keep you from a life of evil.

**God's wisdom takes into account costs
steeper than pain and discomfort.**

Job 37:23-24 (NLT)

We cannot imagine the power of the Almighty; but even though he is just and righteous, he does not destroy us. No wonder people everywhere fear him. All who are wise show him reverence.

God's response: Job 40:7-10 (NLT)

“Brace yourself like a man, because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them. Will you discredit my justice and condemn my just to prove you are right? Are you as strong as God? Can you thunder with a voice like his? All right, put on your glory and splendor, your honor and majesty.

Job 42:5-6 (NLT)

Job's final response:

5-6 "I've only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. I take back everything I said and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance."

Job 42:7-8 (NLT)

Conclusion: After the LORD had finished speaking to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "I am angry with you and your two friends, for you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has. So take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer on your behalf. I will not treat you as you deserve, for you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has."

Job 42:10,16-17 (NLT)

Conclusion:

10 When Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes. In fact, The Lord gave him twice as much as before!

...16-17 Job lived 140 years after that, living to see four generations of his children and grandchildren. Then he died, an old man who had lived a long, full life.

It's not so simple, but God knows and cares.

There's freedom in realizing we don't know all.

Suffering isn't a sign God doesn't love or care about you.