

JOB

Job 1.8

The plot in the book of Job involves God, Satan, Job, his three friends, and a fellow named Elihu. However, the story also involves us, the readers; because this is the Word of God and we dare not ignore it. As these key characters look at Job and his situation, what do they see? And what do we see?

WHAT DOES GOD SEE?

The Lord looks at Job and sees a man unique in his character and conduct, so much so that God said there was nobody else like him.

*Then the LORD said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? **There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.**'* Job 1.8

Job 6.21; 7.21; Ezekiel 14.14, 20

Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 16.7; Psalm 44.27

Job 2.9; 60.29; 13.15; 27.5; Job 42.7

WHAT DOES SATAN CLAIM TO SEE?

'Does Job fear God for nothing?' Satan replied. 'Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.' Job 1.9-11

Revelation 12.7-12; Zechariah 3.6-7; Job 1.12; 2.6; Luke 22.31-32; Job 1.7; 2 Corinthians 11.3; 1 Peter 5.8-9; 2 Corinthians 11.13-15

WHAT DID HIS FRIENDS NEED TO SEE?

After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, 'I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.' Job 42.7-9

Job 6.14-21; 13.4; Job 16.2

Job 2.7-8; 7.13-14; 19.20; 21.6; 30.27; 2.12

WHAT DID JOB WANT TO SEE?

*Now that I have prepared my case,
I know I will be vindicated.
Can anyone bring charges against me?
If so, I will be silent and die.* Job 13.18-19

Job 42.8; 9.3, 15, 33; 13.3; 38.1-40.2; 40.5

WHAT MUST WE SEE?

First, we must see that suffering is a part of life. We are a fallen people living in a fallen world, and God never promised that this earth would always be a friendly place.

Second, God sometimes permits us to suffer so that we can help encourage others. 2 Corinthians 1.4-5

Third, let's not follow the bad example of Job's friends.

Last, the book of Job reveals the truth that believers should continue trusting in God even when undeserved suffering occurs in their lives. Believers often suffer like Job, without knowing why. They need to learn to admit that God has better control of their lives as the Creator than they do themselves. Also, there are some things about nature and suffering that believers are just not meant to know. Most important, if what believers know about the person of God is not motivation enough to keep them worshiping him, then they have forgotten that they are only finite mortals. The book of Job probes the hearts of believers, uncovering the reasons why they follow God. Do believers follow God because of the benefits he gives or out of a deep love and sacrificial reverence for God?