



Series: *How God Makes Men*

Job: the principle of suffering for no apparent reason

How God molds men through suffering

Job 1, 2, 42; various

1. What is something you've gained through suffering that you could have gained no other way? Are you suffering now and, if so, can you explain what you're going through?
2. Because we can read it in the Bible, we know how the terrible tragedies that struck Job came about. But Job never did find out. And while we know the ending, he had no idea how the story would end. With that in mind, how do you respond to what he said in in Job 1:21-22; 2:10; 13:15; 23:10-12; and 42:1-6?
3. What has been said in this lesson that helps you make better sense of suffering? How will you respond to future suffering differently because of the principle we've explored?

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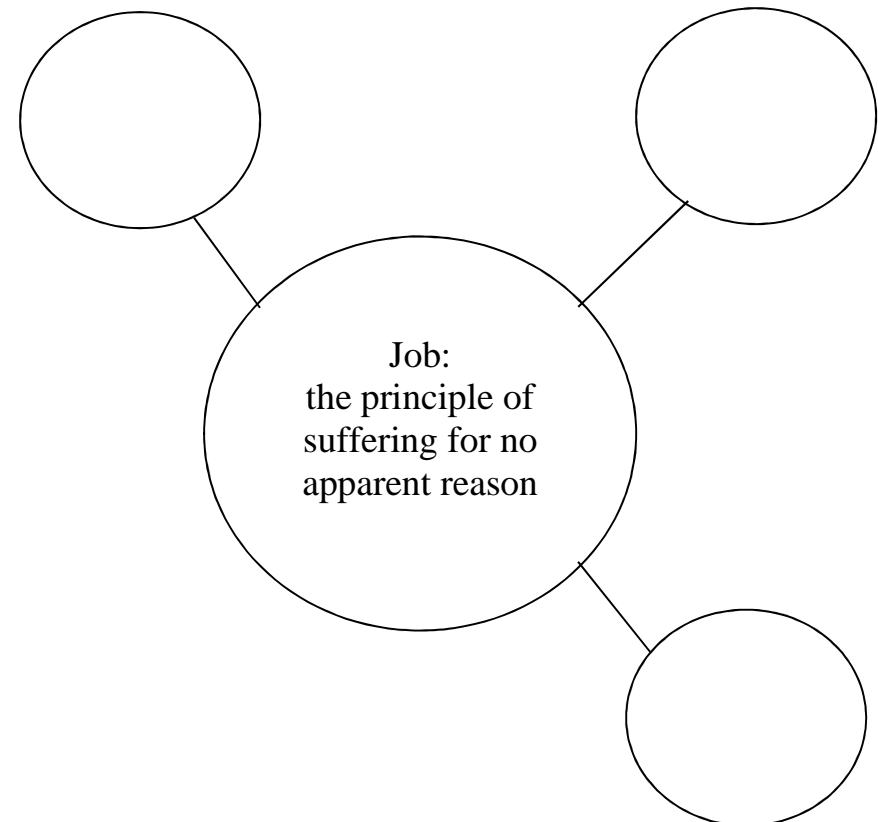
Job: the principle of suffering for no apparent reason

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Note-Taking Outline

The Big Idea: _____



Reasons & Benefits for Suffering

1. So that the work of God might be displayed in our lives, as in the case of the man born blind (John 9:3)
2. For God's glory, so that God's Son may be glorified through it, as in the raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11:4)
3. So that our perseverance, character, and the hope that does not disappoint may be developed (Romans 5:3-5; also Daniel 11:35)
4. So that evil may be punished, as with the Israelites driving out the nations that occupied Canaan (Deuteronomy 9:4-5)
5. So that we may be delivered from bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the light (Romans 8:20-21)
6. So that we may comfort others with the comfort we ourselves have received (2 Corinthians 1:4; also Luke 22:31-33)
7. So that we will not rely upon ourselves but upon God (2 Corinthians 1:9)
8. So that God may receive praise (1 Peter 1:6-7)
9. Because when we suffer, sin loses power (1 Peter 4:1-2)
10. So we may learn obedience (Hebrews 5:8)

Our Responses to Suffering

1. "Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:12).
2. "The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name" (Acts 5:41).
3. It's a privilege to suffer for Christ (Philippians 1:29).
4. We're invited to participate in the fellowship of His sufferings (Philippians 3:10).
5. "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that testing of your faith develops perseverance" (James 1:2-3).
6. "Rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ" (1 Peter 4:13).