

Introduction: How do we respond to adversity and suffering? What do we say when these overtake us; and, what do we do for, and say to, others when the same happens to them? Above all, do we know what God expects from us in the tribulations Jesus said happen to everyone in this present world (John 16:33)? *** When Job found himself with no possessions, no children, and his skin afflicted from head-to-toe, he sat in silence on ashes. In despair, he cursed his birth and questioned his Creator. His friends were sure he had sinned against God and his neighbors. Finally, God confronted Job out of a tornado for being ignorant of His wonders and sovereignty. Job then humbly confessed his ignorance and regretted the words he spoke. *** Today we heard the sovereign Covenant God, Yahweh, chastise Job's friends and require a sacrifice from them. They then needed to ask Job to pray for them because his prayer will find favor. Although Job never knew why he suffered, God rewarded him for his perseverance in all that happened to him. *** When Jesus came to earth, He forever changed suffering. What He suffered in the sacrifice of His Life to reconcile and redeem all who trust Him in humble, grateful obedience, coupled with His resurrection from death, He made a new way of life possible for all who live by His faithfulness. Job lived some two thousand years before Jesus came to earth in Bethlehem, but James described how Jesus redeemed all suffering in this way: Those who persevere under suffering for Jesus' sake receive even greater blessings than Job received after his perseverance (James 5:7-12). *** Old Testament writers used the word *qah-wah* for the attitude of persevering hope God gives His people. David used it of himself in expectation of the salvation God would give him for his faith (Psalm 71:5, in the context of Psalms 70-71; Psalm 62). Isaiah declared that those with persevering hope will have their strength renewed and run without getting weary (Isaiah 40:31). *** Paul wanted to share in the sufferings of Jesus because he knew it would lead to his own resurrection (Philippians 3:8-11). Peter said this about persevering hope in suffering: suffering should not be a surprise, rejoice in sharing Jesus' suffering, and praise Him in the suffering (1 Peter 4:12-16).

I. Yahweh is angry with Job's friends and requires a burnt offering. Job prays for them and Yahweh grants his request; Yahweh doubles Job's wealth, his siblings celebrate with him, his children are replaced, he lives a long full life.

(Job 42:7-17)

- A. In hot anger, Yahweh commands Job's friends to offer a burnt offering; Job will pray for them and Yahweh will grant his request. *(Verses 7-9)*

1. After Yahweh spoke these words to Job, He said to Eliphaz, 'My wrath is kindled against thee and thy two friends because y'all did not speak of Me what is right, as My servant Job'. *(Verse 7)*

Yahweh's wrath: The prose epilogue to the book begins with Yahweh pronouncing wrath on Job's friends for not speaking established moral truth about Him, as Job had just done.

2. Now, y'all must take seven bulls and seven rams, and y'all must go to My servant Job and offer a burnt offering; and he will pray for y'all because I will 'lift up his face' to not do with y'all (for) folly, because y'all have not spoken of Me what is right, as [did] Job. *(Verse 8)*

Burnt offering: The burnt offering signified that those offering it are committing to offer all that they are and all they say and do to God for His glory, a consuming commitment.

Job prays: The phrase 'lift up his face' means God will graciously give to Job what he has requested for his friends. They will not be punished for their 'folly' of rebellion against God and His truth, see the name of Abigail's husband, Nabal (1 Samuel 25:1-25).

Spoke what is established: Again, Job is commended and graciously accepted because he spoke of God according to established moral truth.

3. Then they went, Eliphaz, Bildad the Shuhite, Zophar the Naamathite, and they did what Yahweh had told them, and Yahweh 'lifted up the face' of Job. *(Verse 9)*

Obeded Yahweh: Job's three friends show their repentance by obeying all Yahweh commanded them.

Job accepted: By this, Yahweh showed that He graciously accepted Job's intercession for his friends.

Application: May we all be comforted to know Yahweh will use us when we honestly express their hurt and confusion to Him, and He might even allow us to pray for people who accuse us of sins of which we are innocent.

- B. Yahweh gives Job twice what he had before, his siblings celebrate with him, he is given the same number of children and dies after a full life. *(Verses 10-17)*

1. Yahweh restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends; then Yahweh added to all that (was) Job's – double. *(Verse 10)*

After Job persevered: After Job persevered through his suffering, humbled himself before Yahweh and prayed for his friends, his 'captivity was turned' (literally, KJV). Job never knew he was captive to the 'adversary'.

But now Yahweh turned the tables for Job and rewarded him doubly!

Those who persevere before Yahweh in humility are ultimately rewarded

2. Then all his brothers and sisters came to him, and all knowing him before ate bread with him in his house; they shared his grief and compassionately regretted all the evil Yahweh brought on him; and they gave him each one piece of silver and one gold ring. *(Verse 11)*

Family and friends: We now find out Job had siblings and others who knew him. They have food fellowship with him, and share in the grief he had experienced. It is said they too had regrets concerning Job, probably realizing they did nothing to help him during his suffering. Perhaps that is why they gave him gifts of precious metals?

3. Yahweh blessed the latter days of Job more than the first: he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. (*Verse 12*)
Wealth of livestock: True wealth in the ancient near-East came from the possession of animals for food and work. Job is now given exactly twice what he had in the beginning (Job 1:1-3).

4. And he had seven sons and three daughters: the first was named Jemimah, the second Keziah (cassia) and the third Keren-Happuch; and was not found women as beautiful as the daughters of Job in all the land; and their father gave them inheritance among their brothers. (*Verses 13-15*)
Children: Yahweh gave Job replacements for all his children, with extra attention to his daughters. Clearly God and His people did not regard women as less than men. His daughters are Job's greatest reward for his humble perseverance.

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5. After this Job lived one-hundred-forty years and saw his sons and grandsons (and) four generations; and Job died an old man (elder), full (satisfied) of days. (*Verses 16-17*)
Long, full life: Given he had ten adult children Job was at least forty years old when his suffering began. So his total lifespan was about one-hundred-eighty years. His contemporary Abraham died at age one-hundred-seventy-five years old (Genesis 25:7). Job was a satisfied elder until the end. In Job's days, Jesus had not yet redeemed suffering (1 Peter 2:21).

Application: We who follow Jesus should be inspired by Job's story to persevere in the faith in humility because Jesus has redeemed suffering, and has revealed the New Jerusalem as our reward (Revelation 22).

II. The Psalm writers thank Yahweh for blessings and mercy, and pray for restoration; then, they declare His salvation to those fearing Him and glory in His amazing character. (*Psalm 85:1-4, 9-11*)

- A. The sons of Korah thank Yahweh for His blessings and mercy, and petition Him for restoration and an end to His indignation. (*Verses 1-4*)
1. {To the choir director, to the sons of Korah, a Psalm} Yahweh, Thou accepted Thy land / Thou restored the captivity of Jacob // Thou forgave the iniquity of Thy people / Thou covered all their sin. *Selah* (*Verses 1-2*)
Four blessings: The sons of Korah (bald) praise Yahweh first of all for the favor He showed to the land Yahweh gave His word Abraham's descendants would occupy; then, they praise Him for returning them from the Babylonian captivity (with the same phrase used of Job's return from captivity to the 'adversary'); third, their iniquity (twisted brokenness) is forgiven; and, finally their sins are covered over.
 2. Thou withdrew all Thy wrath / Thou turned from Thy burning anger. (*Verse 3*)
Two mercies: Yahweh mercifully took away His wrath (as He had for Job's friends) and He turned from anger. Jeremiah prophesied that if God's people would humbly persevere and settle in Babylon for seventy years, they would be given a hope of a future prosperity – *shalom* (Jeremiah 29:4-14).

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3. Thou must restore us, God of our salvation / Thou must break Thy provocation with us. (*Verse 4*)
Two petitions: Because He is the God of their salvation, His people petition Him to restore them to Himself and no longer be provoked by their iniquity and sin.
- B. They declare His salvation to those fearing Him and glory in His strong love, faithful truth, righteousness and peace. (*Verses 9-11*)
 1. Surely to those fearing Him, His salvation is near / for glory to dwell in our land. (*Verse 9*)
Salvation to God-fearers: Glorious salvation is near to all people fearing God so they may dwell in the land He has given them. Salvation includes forgiveness of sin and iniquity, and also restoration from captivity in a foreign land.

Title: *Yahweh will forgive and restore those who fear Him. (#1)*

2. Steadfast love and faithful truth have met together / righteousness and peace have kissed // Faithful truth will spring up from the ground / and righteousness has looked down from heaven. (*Verses 10-11*)
God's glorious saving character: This couplet examines four of God's saving qualities in two ways. First, strong steadfast love and faithful truth have met together; and, righteousness and *shalom* – prosperous peace have kissed. Second, faithful truth will come up from earth and righteousness has looked down from heaven.

Interpretation: Many people, including Augustine, see this last section as a foretelling of what Jesus did in His incarnation. Jesus came as the God-Man to graciously give God-fearers His steadfast love and faithful truth. He also gives His righteousness to those who have received the peace He gives. Also, because in faithful truth He rose up from the grave and death, He ascended into heaven; and, from heaven, He gave us His righteousness to those who persevere in humble, faithful obedience to Him. His reward is to be our God-with-us now!

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Application: In light of all we have heard, we must seek to strive together to show the salvation we have received in Jesus to our neighbors. We must do this both in loving deeds and in showing faithful truth by working for just and righteous peace because we are Jesus' vessels of righteousness and faithful truth.

Conclusion: Yahweh is angry with Job's friends and requires a burnt offering from them, Job prays for them and Yahweh grants his request. After his humble perseverance, Yahweh doubles Job's wealth, his siblings celebrate with him, his children are replaced, and he lives a long full life. The Psalm writers thank Yahweh for blessings and mercy, and pray for restoration. Then, they declare His salvation to those fearing Him and glorying in His amazing character.

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