

A hand holding a white flag on a wooden stick against a blue sky with clouds.

# Be Submissive

*Job*

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore  
CICFamily.com • BibleStudyDownloads.org



**Rabbi Harold  
Kushner**

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

When  
**BAD**  
Things Happen to  
**GOOD**  
People

HAROLD S. KUSHNER

With a New Preface by the Author

***Small Group: Do you agree with this title?***

**What righteous suffering  
have you experienced or  
are experiencing now?**

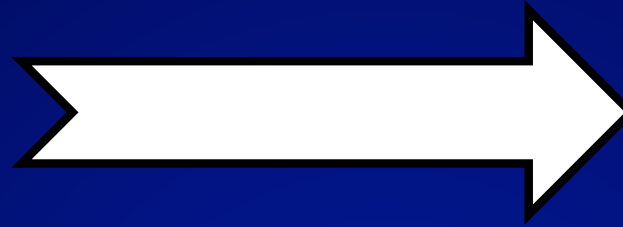




**What is the proper  
response to righteous  
suffering?**



**SIN**



**SUFFERING**

**GODLINESS**



**BLESSING**

***The Rule of Job's Day***



# Prevailing Theology of Retribution

**"The house of the wicked will be destroyed,  
but the tent of the godly will flourish"  
(Prov. 14:11 NLT)**

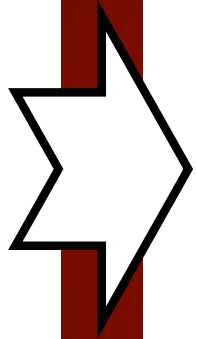
**"Those who fear the LORD are secure;  
he will be a refuge for their children"  
(Prov. 14:26 NLT)**

**Really?**

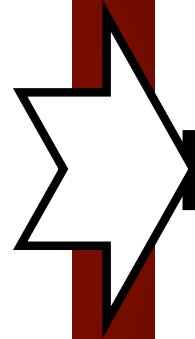
**Always?**

# ***JOB IN A NUTSHELL***

**SETTING**

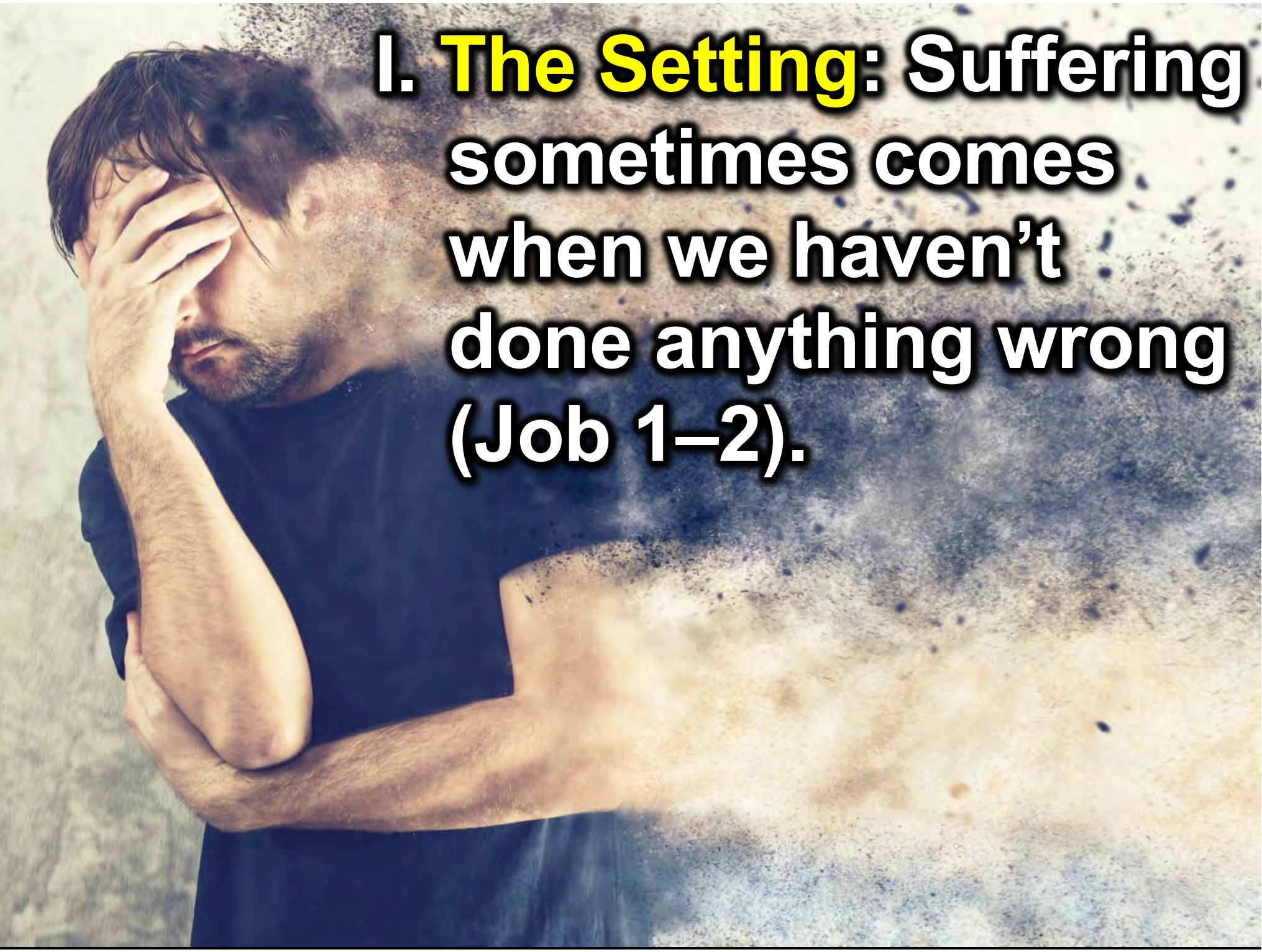


**DEBATE**



**RESOLUTION**



A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue t-shirt, is shown from the chest up. He is covering his face with his right hand, with his fingers spread, suggesting a state of distress, grief, or despair. His left arm is crossed over his chest. The background is a textured, mottled surface with shades of blue, grey, and white, resembling a wall or a piece of paper with a rough texture. Overlaid on the right side of the image is text in a bold, sans-serif font. The first part of the text, 'I. The Setting:', is in yellow, while the rest is in white with a black outline.

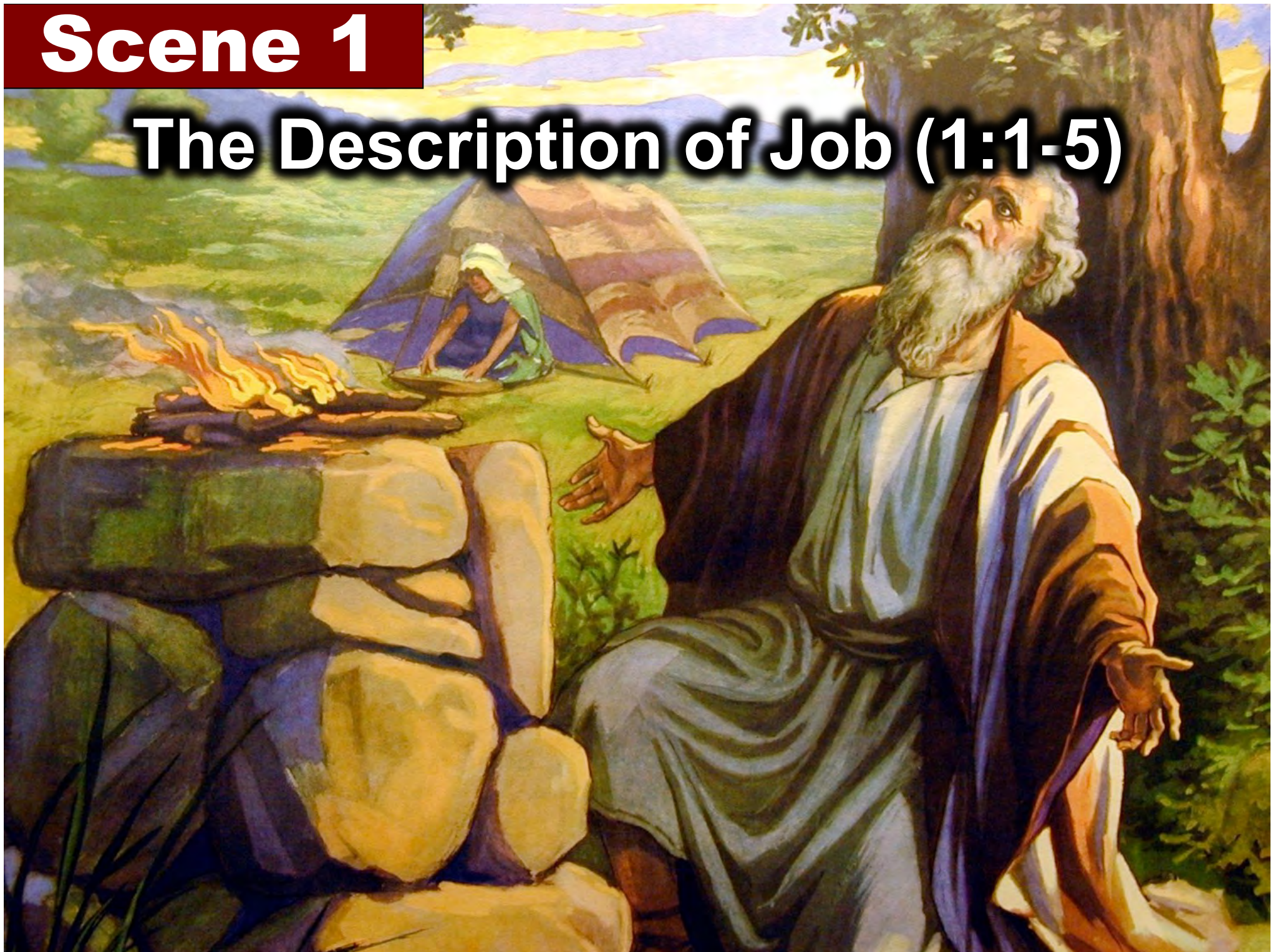
**I. The Setting:** Suffering  
sometimes comes  
when we haven't  
done anything wrong  
(Job 1–2).

**Job 1**



# Scene 1

## The Description of Job (1:1-5)





**No (e.g., Tremper Longman)**

**Yes (e.g., Rick Griffith) <sup>358</sup>**

**It is only a thought experiment**

**Why not a *real* experiment?  
Job is parallel to the real men  
Noah & Daniel (Ezek 14:14, 20)**

**It is written in stylistic poetry**

**Why can't Job have real  
poetic dialogue (cf. Song)?  
Many societies do this.**

**Job had seven sons and three  
daughters**

**Job could have actually had  
the ideal number of children.**

**Job is one of the last books of  
the OT—  
at least in its final form**

**What textual support shows  
that Job a late date? It has  
unity (cp. Job 1 & Job 42).**

***Ha Satan* ("The Accuser") in  
Hebrew is not a definite name  
as it has the article ("the")**

**Portuguese has a definite  
article in names; Satan is  
the Accuser (Rev 12:10).**

**Did Job really exist?**



# Scene 2 Chess





# Scene 3

## The Description of Satan (1:6-12)



# Satan's Attacks in Job 1

	1	2	3	4
<i>Attacker</i>	<i>Sabeans (1:14-15)</i>	<i>Fire of God (1:16)</i>	<i>Chaldeans (1:17)</i>	<i>Wind (1:18-19)</i>
<i>Animals Killed</i>	<i>1000 oxen 500 donkeys</i>	<i>7000 sheep</i>	<i>3000 camels</i>	<i>—</i>
<i>People Killed</i>	<i>Many servants</i>	<i>Many servants</i>	<i>Many servants</i>	<i>7 sons 3 daughters</i>
<i>Interchange</i>	<i>Man</i>	<i>God</i>	<i>Man</i>	<i>God</i>

**Satan waited until a day of celebration (1:13)**  
**Satan didn't challenge God's limitations**



**"The LORD gave, the LORD took away.  
Blessed be his name" (1:21b).**



# Job 2

II. (Job 3–41) Job & 4 friends unsuccessfully dialogue regarding the reason for his suffering, but God declares that this question should not be asked because of His incomprehensibility & sovereignty.

# Outline 360

Job 4–31 has 3 cycles of controversy.  
(Eliphaz begins each series & Zophar does not speak in the last series.)



First Cycle					
Eliphaz	4–5	→	Job	6–7	
Bildad	8	→	Job	9–10	
Zophar	11	→	Job	12–14	
Second Circle					
Eliphaz	15	→	Job	16–17	
Bildad	18	→	Job	19	
Zophar	20	→	Job	21	
Third Cycle					
Eliphaz	22	→	Job	23–24	
Bildad	25	→	Job	26–31	

# Scene 5



**Job's Wife:  
"Curse God  
and die!" (2:9)**

# Five Responses to Suffering

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Huang Sabin, SBC, adapted

PERSON	RESPONSE	SOLUTION	MODERN EQUIVALENT	ANSWER
--------	----------	----------	----------------------	--------

NLT Job 2:9 His wife said to him, "Are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die."





**"Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and nights. No one said a word to Job, for they saw that his suffering was too great for words" (2:13 NLT).**

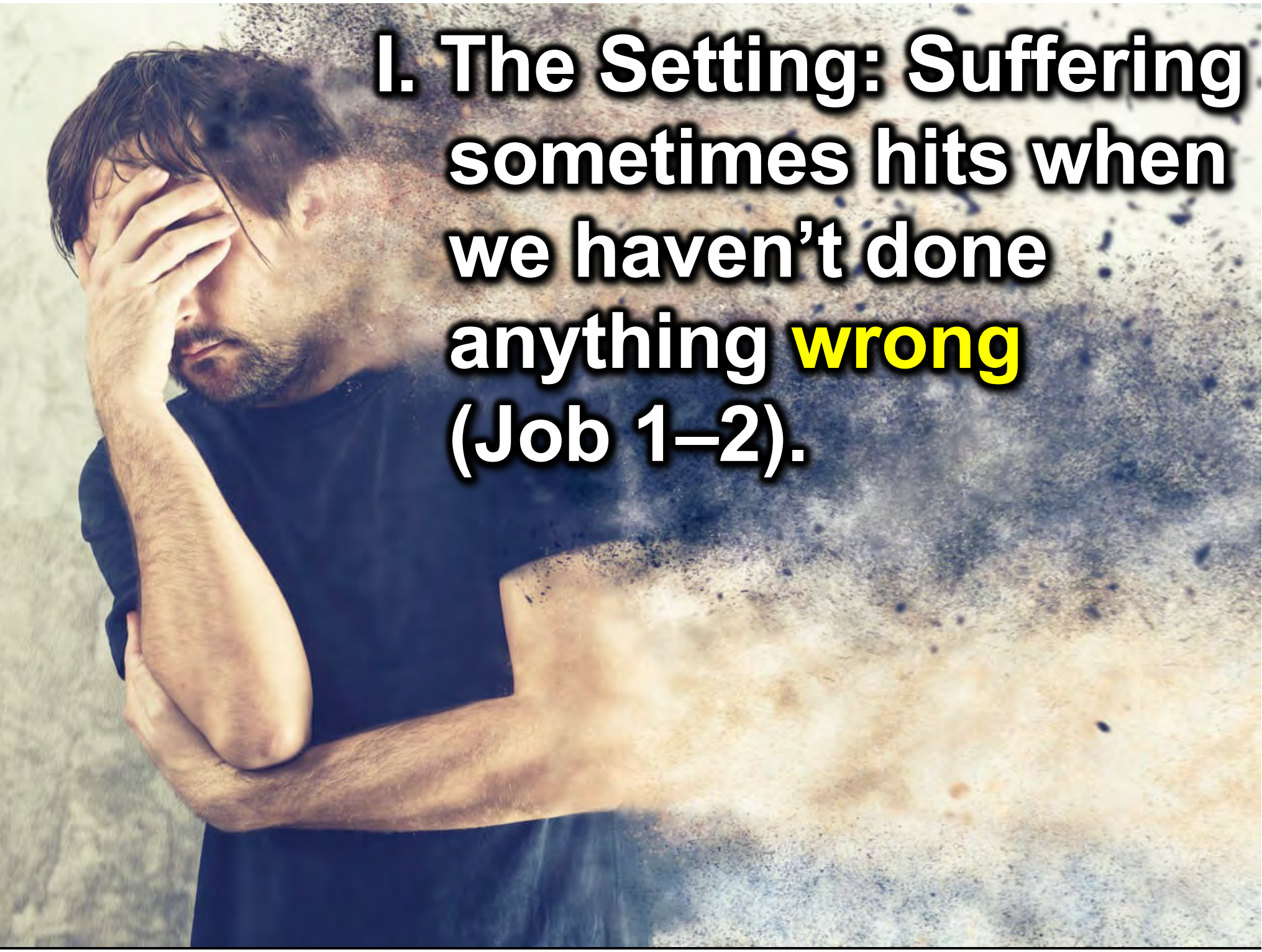
Are you experiencing  
righteous **suffering**?



**What is the proper  
response to righteous  
suffering?**





A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue t-shirt, is shown from the chest up. He is covering his face with his right hand, with his fingers spread, suggesting a state of distress, grief, or despair. His left arm is crossed over his chest. The background is a textured, mottled surface with shades of blue, grey, and white, resembling a wall or a piece of paper with a rough texture. Overlaid on the right side of the image is a large block of text in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black outline. The text reads: "I. The Setting: Suffering sometimes hits when we haven't done anything **wrong** (Job 1–2).". The word "wrong" is highlighted in yellow.

**I. The Setting: Suffering  
sometimes hits when  
we haven't done  
anything **wrong**  
(Job 1–2).**





**What is our typical  
response to  
righteous suffering?**

II. The Debate: We struggle with  
righteous suffering until God  
shares his **incomprehensibility**  
(Job 3–41).



# Job 3





# The Debate (Job 3–41)



# JOB

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## God's Incomprehensibility Explains Righteous Suffering

Righteous Suffering			Unsuccessful Dialogue				Restoration	
Chapters 1–2			Chapters 3–41				Chapter 42	
Dilemma			Debate				Deliverance	
Ruin			Reasons				Repentance	
Prose			Poetry				Prose	
Heaven and Earth			Land of Uz (North Arabia)				Heaven and Earth	
Job's Character 1:1-5	Satan's Assaults 1:6–2:10	Job's Friends 2:11-13	Cycles 3–26	Job 27–31	Elihu 32–37	God 38–41	Obedience 42:1-9	Blessings 42:10-17

Patriarchal Times

**II. (Job 3–41) Job & 4 friends unsuccessfully dialogue regarding the reason for his suffering, but God declares that this question should not be asked because of His incomprehensibility & sovereignty.**

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# Five Responses to Suffering

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Huang Sabin, SBC, adapted

PERSON	RESPONSE	SOLUTION	MODERN EQUIVALENT	ANSWER
1. Job's Wife	Curse God & die (2:9)	Suicide	Young people	Unacceptable
2. Three "friends"	Suffering is from sin (4:7-8)	Repentance	"Name it, claim it"	Not always applicable

NIV Job 4:7 "Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed? <sup>8</sup>As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it."

# The Cycles of Debate in Job

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**Eliphaz**

**Bildad**

**Zophar**

**RETRIBUTION**

**You only get  
what you deserve!**

**Their Basic Premise**





**Job**

***I don't deserve  
what I got!***

**Job's Basic Premise**



# Five Responses to Suffering

374

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3. Job	God's not fair & doesn't care (19:7)	Complain	Most mourners	Unbiblical

NIV Job 19:7 "Though I cry, 'I've been wronged!' I get no response; though I call for help, there is no justice.' "

# Cycles of Debate



**Tone**

**Implication**

**Insinuation**

**Indictment**

**Content**

**General  
Recommendations**

**Specific  
Advice**

**Vicious  
Accusations**

**Speakers**

**Eliphaz  
Bildad  
Zophar**

**Eliphaz  
Bildad  
Zophar**

**Eliphaz  
Bildad**

**Length**

**12 chapters**

**7 chapters**

**10 chapters**

**Chapters**

**3–14**

**15–21**

**22–31**



# Why do the innocent suffer?

**Satan:**

**Deserved**

**3 Friends:**

**Retribution**

**Elihu:**

**Discipline**



# Job 32

# Elihu's Addressees (32–37)

367

## First speech

To all four (32:6-9)

To the three (32:10-14)

To Job (32:15–33:33)

## Second speech

To the three (34:1-15)

To Job (34:16-37)

## Third speech

To Job (35:1-3)

To the three (35:4-16)

## Fourth speech

To Job (36:1–37:1)

To the three (37:2-13)

To Job (37:14-24)



# Five Responses to Suffering

374

Huang Sabin, SBC, adapted

PERSON	RESPONSE	SOLUTION	MODERN EQUIVALENT	ANSWER
--------	----------	----------	----------------------	--------

ESV Job 33:14 For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it. <sup>15</sup>In a dream, in a vision of the night. . . <sup>19</sup>Man is also rebuked with pain on his bed and with continual strife in his bones.

4 Elihu

Trials are for  
teaching  
(33:14-19)

Endure

Most  
preachers

Inadequate



# Perspectives of Job's Friends

Bruce Wilkinson & Kenneth Boa, *Talk Thru the Bible*

373

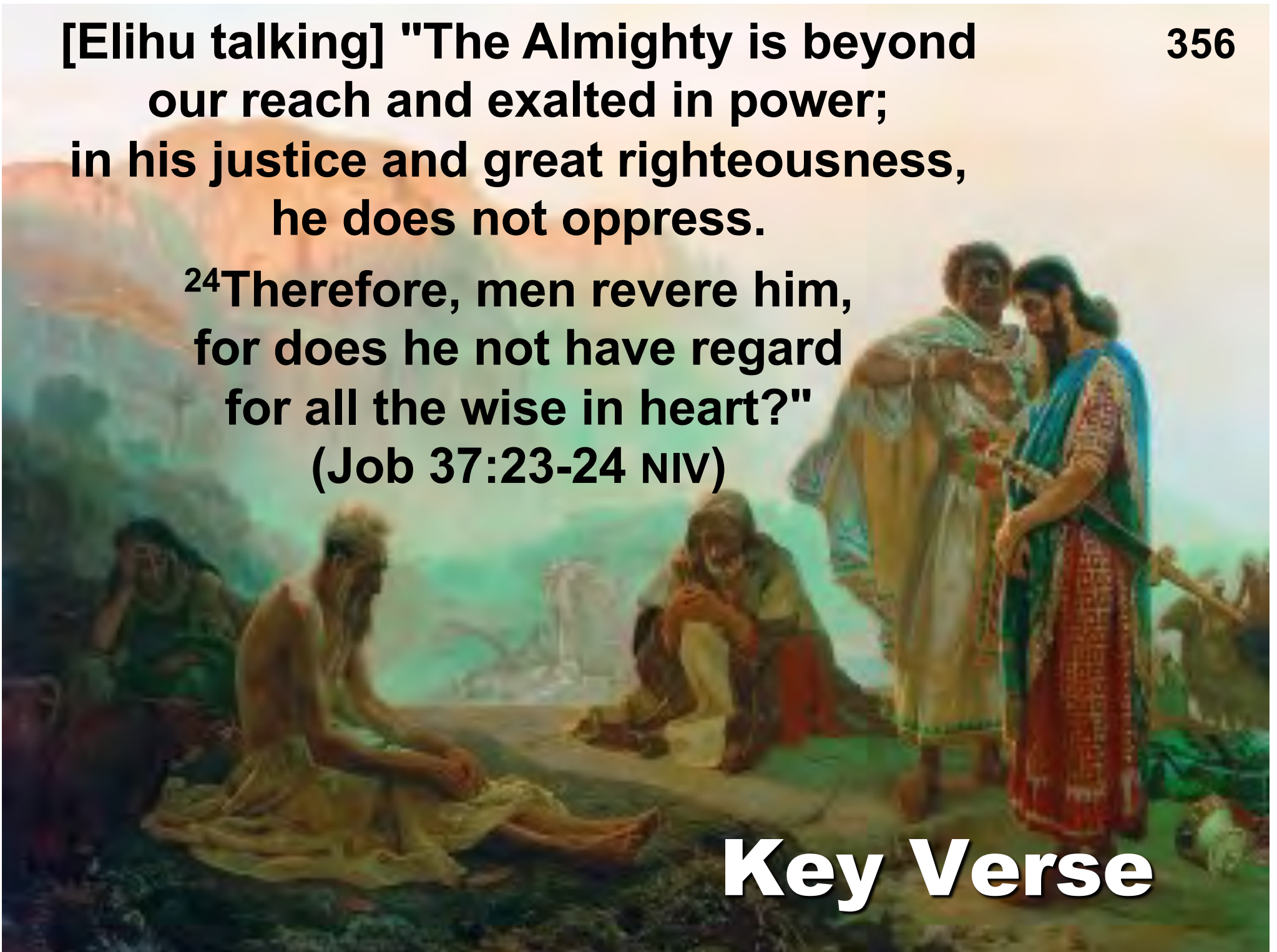
	Eliphaz	Bildad	Zophar	Elihu
Characteristic	Theologian	Historian, legalist	Moralist, dogmatist	Young theologian, intellectual
Relies on	Observation, Experience	Tradition	Assumption	Education
Personality	Considerate	Argumentative	Rude, blunt	Perceptive, some conceit
Voice	Philosophy	History	Orthodoxy	Logic
Argument	"If you sin, you suffer"	"You must be sinning"	"You are sinning"	"God purifies and teaches"
Advice to Job	Only the wicked suffer	The wicked always suffer	The wicked are short-lived	Humble yourself and submit to God
Key Verse	4:8; 5:17	8:8	20:5	37:23
Concept of God	Righteous; punishes wicked, blesses good	Judge; immovable lawgiver	Unbending, merciless	Disciplinarian, teacher

**[Elihu talking] "The Almighty is beyond  
our reach and exalted in power;  
in his justice and great righteousness,  
he does not oppress.**

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**<sup>24</sup>Therefore, men revere him,  
for does he not have regard  
for all the wise in heart?"  
(Job 37:23-24 NIV)**

**Key Verse**





# Job 38

# Why do the innocent suffer?

**Satan:**

**Deserved**

**3 Friends:**

**Retribution**

**Elihu:**

**Discipline**

**God:**

**Incomprehensibility**



# **Job's Mid-Term Exam (38–41)**

**Part 1 (Short Answer, 38:1–40:5): Can you answer even *one* of my questions?**

**Part 2 (Essay Questions, 40:6–41:34):**

- ✓ Which of my attributes do you have (40:6-14)?
- ✓ How are you stronger than Behemoth (40:15-24)?
- ✓ How are you stronger than Leviathan (41)?



# Five Responses to Suffering

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Huang Sabin, SBC, adapted

PERSON	RESPONSE	SOLUTION	MODERN EQUIVALENT	ANSWER
--------	----------	----------	----------------------	--------

ESV Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: <sup>2</sup>"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? <sup>3</sup>Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. <sup>4</sup>Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding."

5. GOD

Not "Why?" but  
"Who?" (38–42)

Worship

None

Unpopular

# Job 40

# **Job's Mid-Term Exam (38–41)**

**Part 1 (Short Answer, 38:1–40:5): Can you answer even *one* of my questions?**

**Part 2 (Essay Questions, 40:6–41:34):**

- ✓ Which of my attributes do you have (40:6-14)?
- ✓ How are you stronger than Behemoth (40:15-24)?
- ✓ How are you stronger than Leviathan (41)?



## Behemoth (Job 40:15-24)

"Look at the behemoth, which I made along with you and which feeds on grass like an ox. <sup>16</sup>What strength he has in his loins, what power in the muscles of his belly! <sup>17</sup>**His tail sways like a cedar**; the sinews of his thighs are close-knit. <sup>18</sup>His bones are tubes of bronze, his limbs like rods of iron" (40:15-18 NIV).



**The cedar  
was the  
largest tree  
in the Mid-  
East**





The tail of an elephant  
is **not** like a cedar!





**Not** like a cedar tree on  
a hippo either!

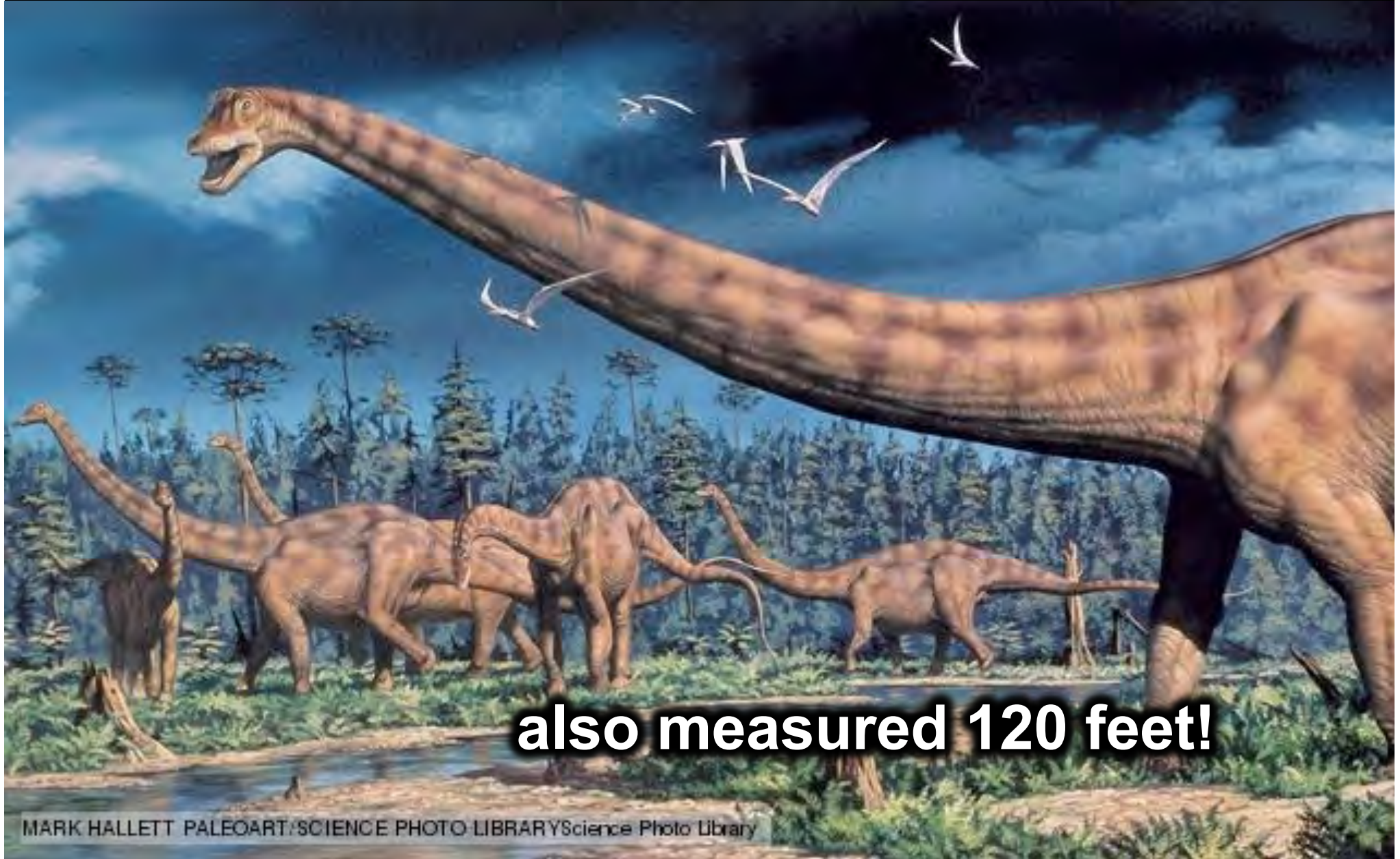
# Apatosaurus

A detailed illustration of an Apatosaurus standing on a sandy bank. The dinosaur is dark green with lighter, scaly patterns on its back and tail. It has a long, thick neck and a small head. The background shows a prehistoric landscape with a body of water, palm trees, and a cloudy sky. The text 'Apatosaurus' is in the top left, and 'weighed 35 tons & measured 120 feet!' is in the bottom right.

**weighed 35 tons &  
measured 120 feet!**



# Diplodocus



**also measured 120 feet!**



# Job 41

# What's the Leviathan?

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**Job 41**



# Leviathan (Job 41:1-34)

**"Can you pull in the leviathan with a fishhook or tie down his tongue with a rope?**

**<sup>2</sup>Can you put a cord through his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook?**

**<sup>3</sup>Will he keep begging you for mercy? Will he speak to you with gentle words?" (41:1-3 NIV).**





A painting of Job, an elderly man with a long white beard, sitting on the ground and looking up in despair. The background is dark and textured.

**Did God  
answer Job?**

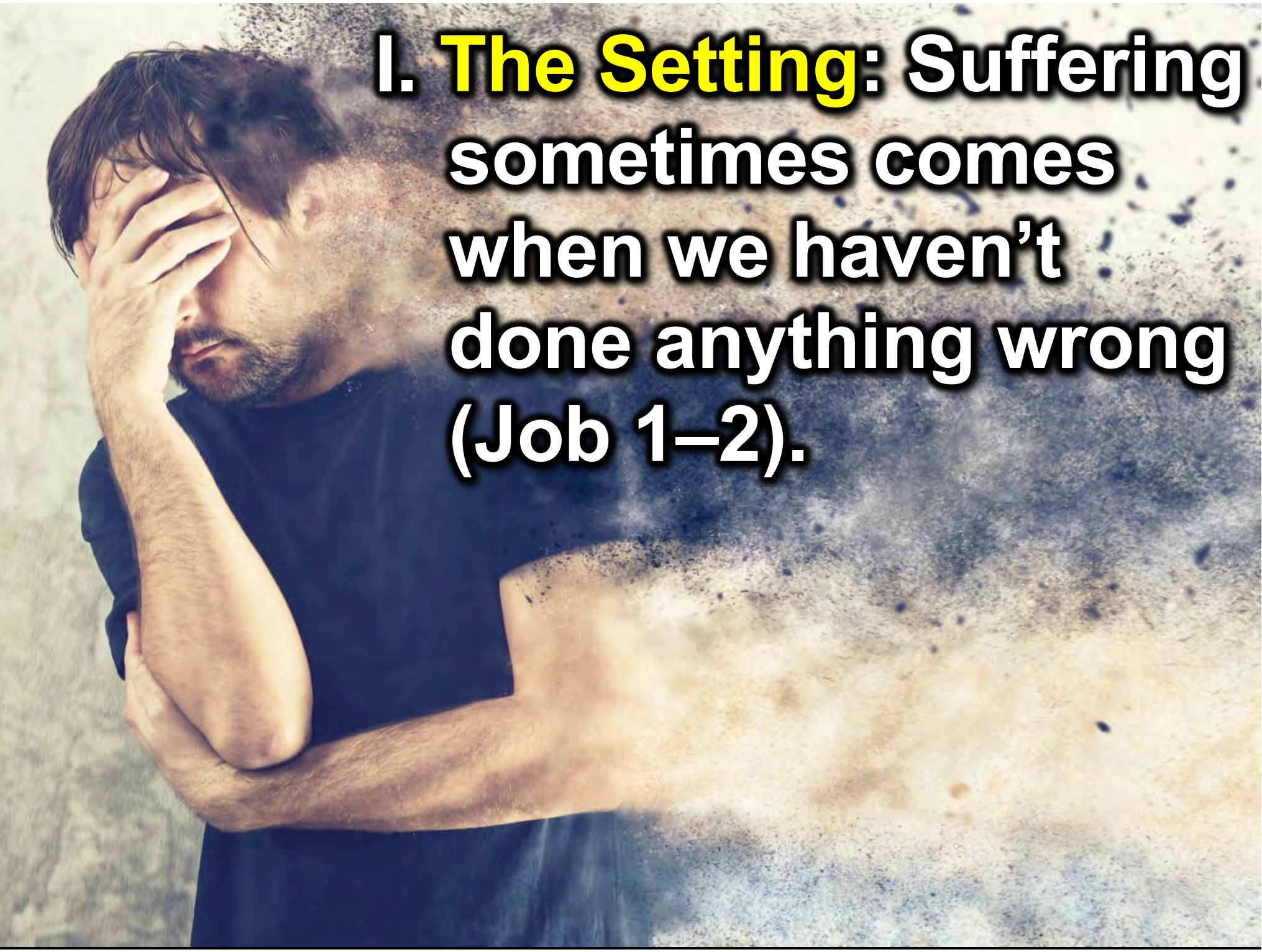
**How?**

**God probably will not reveal  
why you are suffering—so  
rest in your ignorance.**

**What is the proper  
response to righteous  
suffering?**



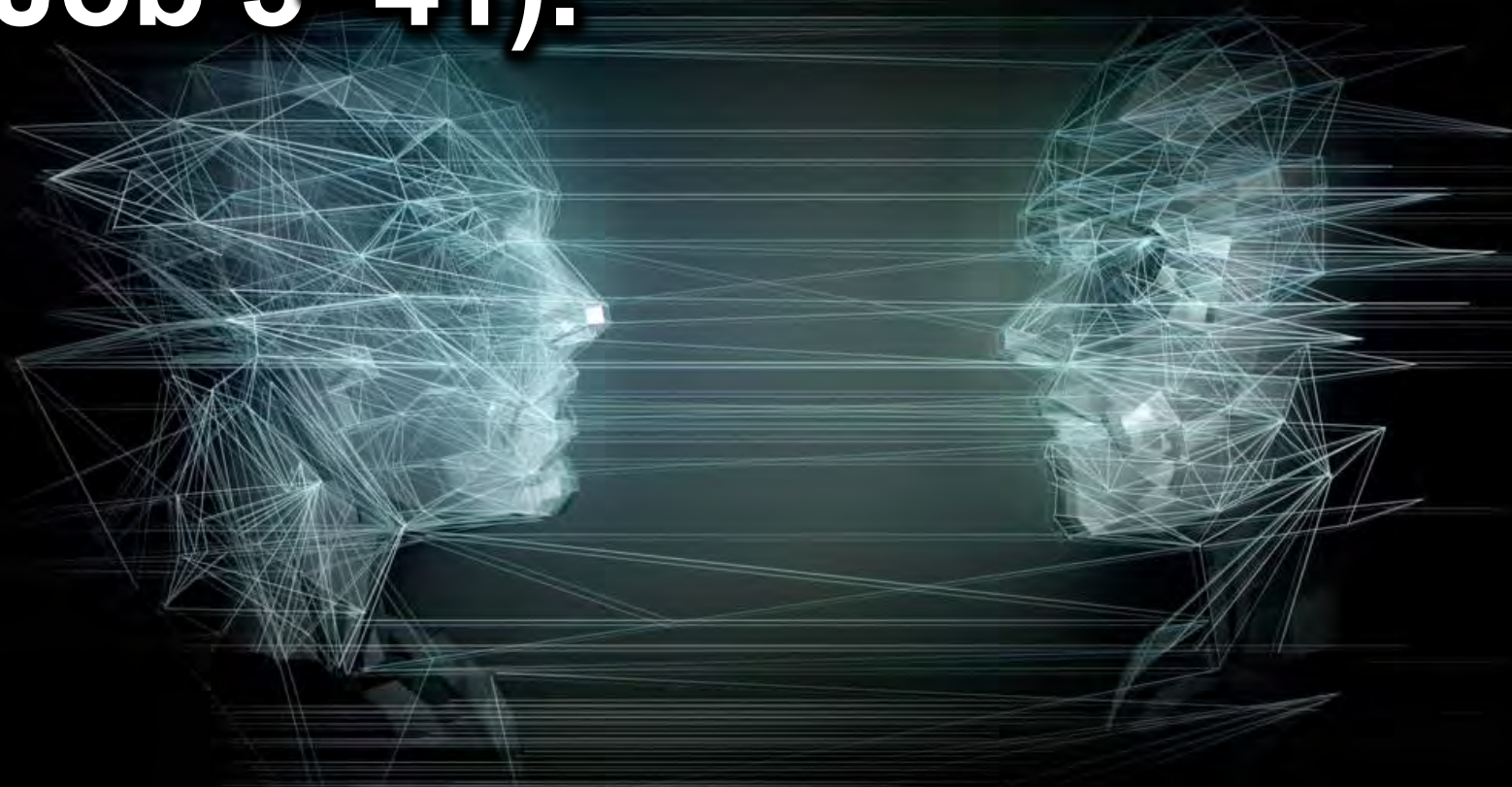


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**I. The Setting:** Suffering  
sometimes comes  
when we haven't  
done anything wrong  
(Job 1–2).



**II. The Debate:** We struggle with righteous suffering until God tells us to rest in his incomprehensibility (Job 3–41).



**III. The Resolution:** Our proper response is to submit to God (Job 42).

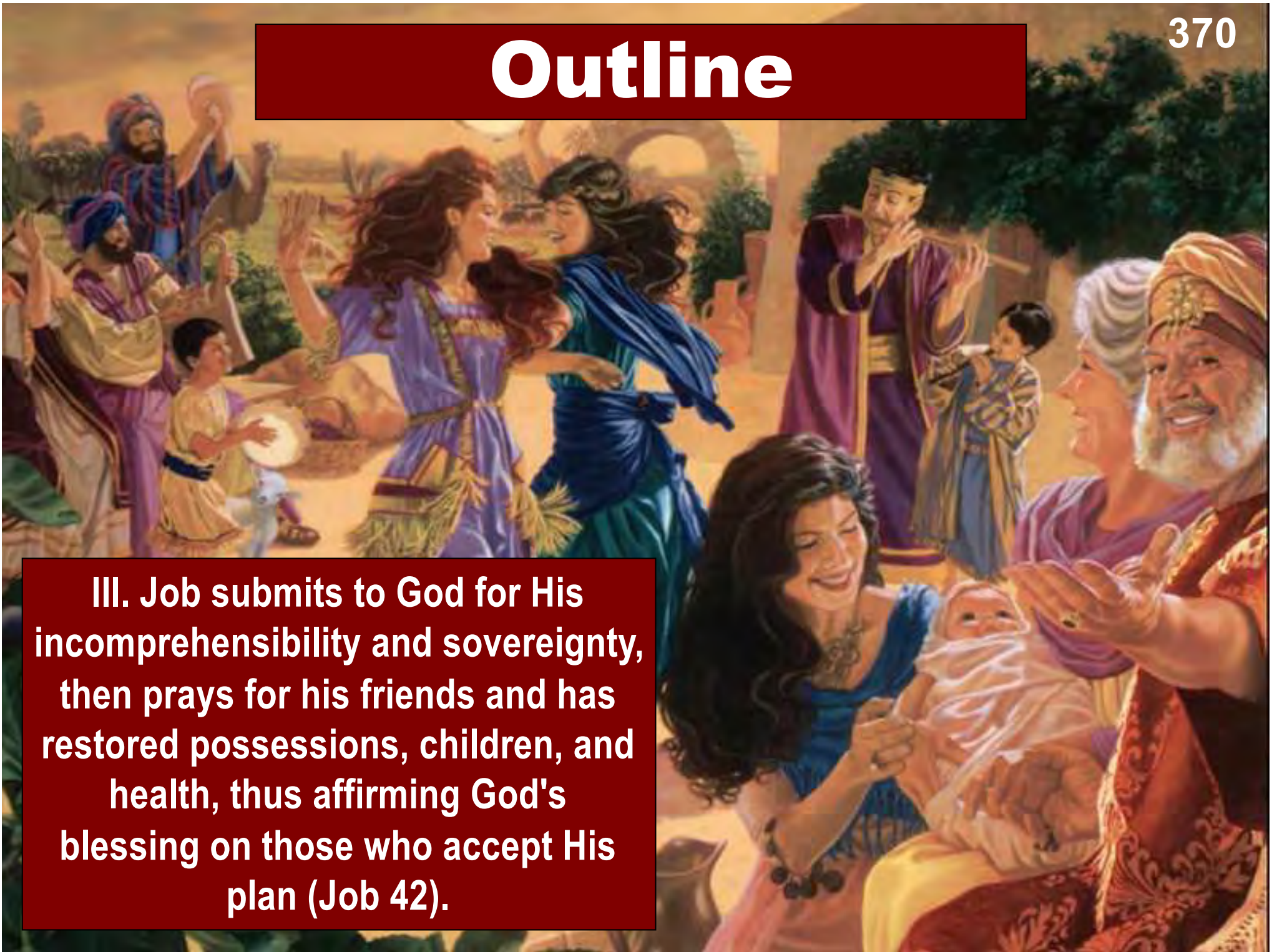




# Job 42

# Outline

**III. Job submits to God for His incomprehensibility and sovereignty, then prays for his friends and has restored possessions, children, and health, thus affirming God's blessing on those who accept His plan (Job 42).**



# Contrasts Between Job 1 and Job 42

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	<b>Job 1</b>	<b>Job 42</b>
<i><b>Description</b></i>	Blameless & upright, feared God & shunned evil	Blameless yet repentant, feared God & prayed for friends
<i><b>Sons</b></i>	7	7
<i><b>Daughters</b></i>	3 (ate with brothers at feasts)	3 (more beautiful, got inheritance)
<i><b>Sheep</b></i>	7,000	14,000
<i><b>Camels</b></i>	3,000	6,000
<i><b>Yoke of Oxen</b></i>	500	1,000
<i><b>Donkeys</b></i>	500	1,000
<i><b>Servants</b></i>	"Large number"	Assumed large
<i><b>Age</b></i>	Unstated	Lived another 140 years



**Don't strive to know reasons—  
long to know God instead!**

**Job's suffering, dialogue with others  
and God, and restoration reveal that  
*the proper response to righteous  
suffering is submission to God*  
rather than questioning His  
incomprehensibility and  
sovereignty.**



**What is the proper  
response to righteous  
suffering?**



# Main Idea of JOB



**Submit to God's  
incomprehensibility rather  
than try to figure suffering out.**



# Job

## Key Word

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# Incomprehensibility



The problem of  
suffering

# APPLICATION



**During righteous suffering...**

- 1. Do not question the reason for your plight.**
- 2. Submit to God by trusting in God's wisdom.**



# **Don't try to force God to tell you the things he will not tell.**

**"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law" (Deut 29:29 NIV).**

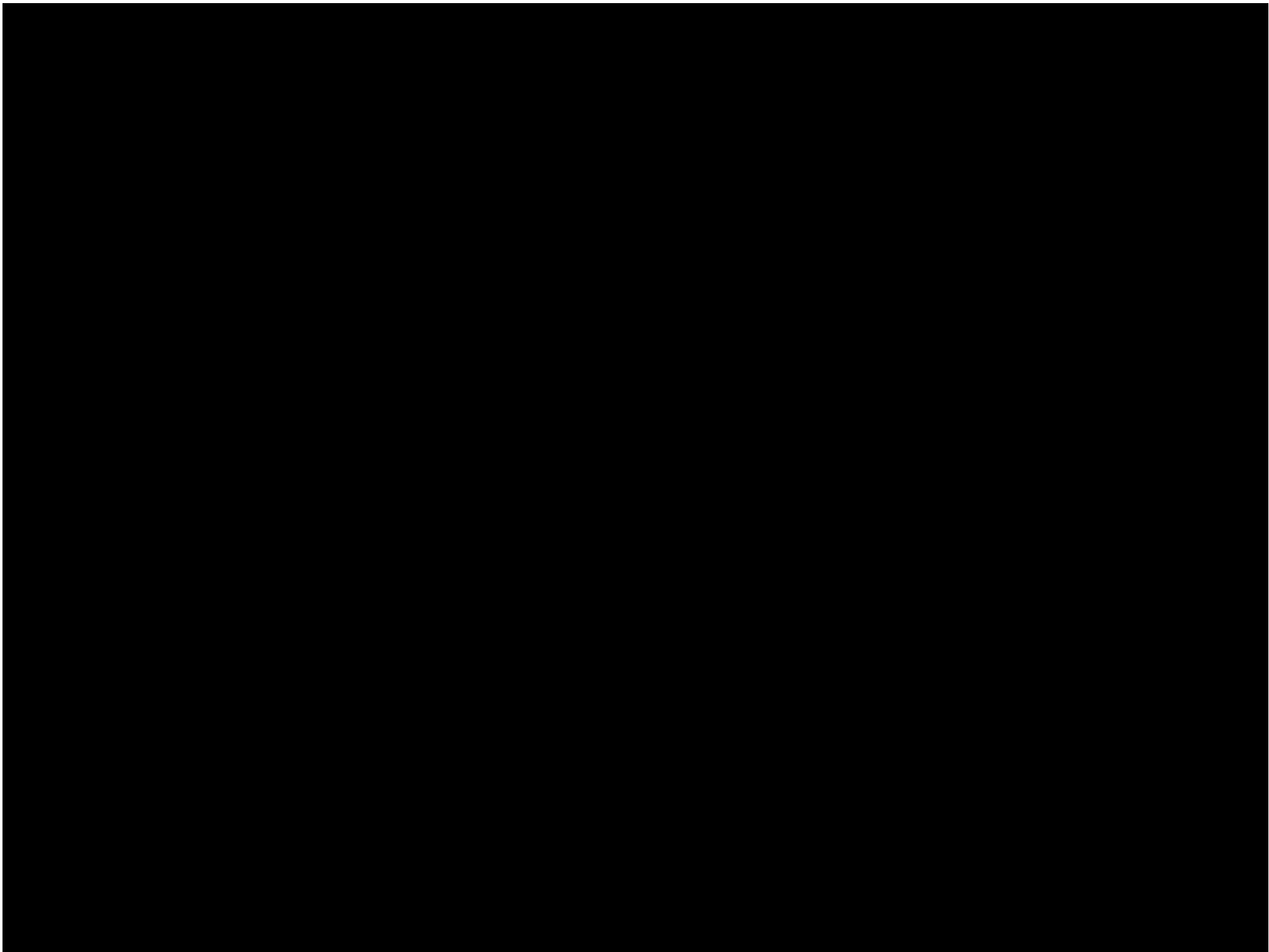
**"The LORD our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions" (Deut 29:29 NLT).**



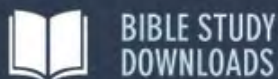
A person is seen from behind, sitting in a small boat on a very calm lake. The sun is setting or rising between two mountain ranges, creating a bright, glowing path of light that reflects perfectly on the water's surface. The sky is a deep blue, and the mountains are silhouetted against the light. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

**"Be still and know that I am God."**

**Psalm 46:10**




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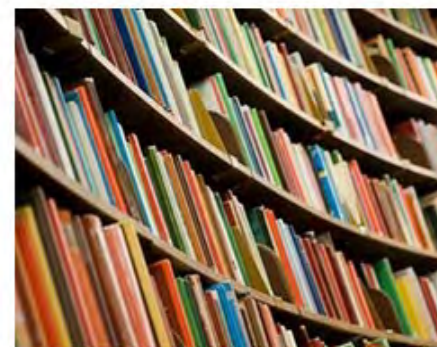
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