

questioning of the justice of my suffering, and I humbly submit to your will."

(Chapter 42:1-6)

EPILOGUE

Scene One: Job's three friends are reproved by God. (Chapter 42:7-9)

Scene Two: Job's sufferings are relieved. (Chapter 42:9b; 10a)

Scene Three: Job's latter end (one of double blessing and long life) is revealed. (Chapter 42:10b-17)

In the end, Job acknowledges that God is all-powerful and just, and that He has the right to do with him whatever He pleases. Job confesses the truth of God's sovereignty and God's righteousness, and acknowledges that he does not need to know God's reasons for permitting suffering to fall on him, unless He chooses to reveal them.

He repents of his foolish and sinful questioning of the justice of his suffering, acknowledges that God is in control of all things, humbly submits to the will of God, and looks to God for whatever deliverance from suffering He is pleased to grant.

2. What does Job's suffering mean for our suffering?
 - a. Job's experience shows us that it is possible for a righteous person to suffer. This is important, especially at those times when we are weak and prone to interpret our suffering as a chastisement for our sins.
 - b. Job's experience shows us that Satan may be responsible for sudden physical problems, or may attempt to exploit those problems into attitudes or actions that are displeasing to God. We need to be aware of this possible source of disbelief, discouragement, anger, resentment, or bitterness; and not permit Satan to get an advantage over us in order to dishonor God through us.
 - c. Job's experience shows us that Satan is closely bound by God's providential control, and that he can do nothing to us except by God's permission. Satan would like to have us and torment us and destroy our lives, but God is not about to let Satan wreak his hatred and malice on those whom He has purchased with the priceless sacrifice of His own Son's life!
 - d. Job's experience shows us that, in spite of extreme circumstances, it is humanly possible to submit to God's Plan, and to accept evil as well as good from the gracious hand of God. Job's example of submission can be a powerful model when we are in the throes of suffering and pain.