



“Cornering God”
Job 4-14

JOB

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PASTOR'S CONFERENCE



Embracing the Significance of the Marketplace as the New Mission Frontier

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
RENEWAL CHURCH, KAREN



Roslyn Jordan
Licensed Mental Health
Professional



Rev. Dr. Richard Mutura
Executive Director, Communi-
ty Transformation Centre



Dr. Steve Lee
Lead Pastor, Immanuel
Community Church



Cosma Gatere
Executive Director, Federa
Consulting Group



Katherine Leary Alsdorf
Senior Advisor, Global Faith & Work
Initiative at Redeemer City to City



John Alsdorf
Former Executive









the principle of retribution:

the righteous are blessed and
prosper while the wicked are
cursed and suffer

Job 1:21

He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."

**God is
good.**

**Life is
good.**



Job 4:7-8

Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed? As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it.

Acts 28:1-4

Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven

Acts 28:1-4

out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, "This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, the goddess Justice has not allowed him to live."

the principle of
retribution



Job's
suffering

Job's
righteousness

God's
character

the principle of
retribution



Job's
suffering

**Job's
righteousness**

God's
character

Job 4:17-19

Can a mortal be more righteous than God?
Can even a strong man be more pure than his
Maker? If God places no trust in his servants,
if he charges his angels with error, how much
more those who live in houses of clay, whose
foundations are in the dust, who are crushed
more readily than a moth!

Job 5:8

But if I were you, I would
appeal to God; I would lay
my cause before him.

Job 5:17-18

“Blessed is the one whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. 18 For he wounds, but he also binds up; he injures, but his hands also heal.

Job 6:8-9

“Oh, that I might have my request,
that God would grant what I hope
for, that God would be willing to
crush me, to let loose his hand and
cut off my life!

Job 6:24-30

Teach me, and I will be quiet; show me where I have been wrong. How painful are honest words! But what do your arguments prove? Do you mean to correct what I say, and treat my desperate words as wind? You would even cast lots for the fatherless and

Job 6:24-30

barter away your friend. But now be so kind as to look at me. Would I lie to your face? Relent, do not be unjust; reconsider, for my integrity is at stake. Is there any wickedness on my lips? Can my mouth not discern malice?

Job 7:12-20

“Am I the sea, or the sea monster, That You set a guard over me? “If I say, ‘My bed will comfort me, My couch will ease my complaint,’ Then You frighten me with dreams And terrify me by visions; So that my soul would choose suffocation, Death rather than my pains. “I waste away; I will not live forever. Leave me alone, for my days are but a breath. “What is man that You

Job 7:12-20

magnify him, And that You are concerned about him, That You examine him every morning And try him every moment? "Will You never turn Your gaze away from me, Nor let me alone until I swallow my spittle? "Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, So that I am a burden to myself?

Job 8:1-4, 20

Then Bildad the Shuhite replied: "How long will you say such things? Your words are a blustering wind. Does God pervert justice? Does the Almighty pervert what is right? When your children sinned against him, he gave them over to the penalty of their sin. ... Surely God does not reject one who is blameless or strengthen the hands of evildoers.

Job 9:13-22

God does not restrain his anger; even the cohorts of Rahab cowered at his feet. "How then can I dispute with him? How can I find words to argue with him? Though I were innocent, I could not answer him; I could only plead with my Judge for mercy. Even if I summoned him and he responded, I do not

Job 9:13-22

believe he would give me a hearing. He would crush me with a storm and multiply my wounds for no reason. He would not let me catch my breath but would overwhelm me with misery. If it is a matter of strength, he is mighty! And if it is a matter of justice, who can challenge him?

Job 9:13-22

Even if I were innocent, my mouth would condemn me; if I were blameless, it would pronounce me guilty. "Although I am blameless, I have no concern for myself; I despise my own life. It is all the same; that is why I say, 'He destroys both the blameless and the wicked.'

Genesis 18:25

Far be it from you to do such a thing—
to kill the righteous with the wicked,
treating the righteous and the wicked
alike. Far be it from you! Will not the
Judge of all the earth do right?”

the principle of
retribution



Job's
suffering

Job's
righteousness

**God's
character**

Job 9:33-35

If only there were someone to mediate between us, someone to bring us together, someone to remove God's rod from me, so that his terror would frighten me no more. Then I would speak up without fear of him, but as it now stands with me, I cannot.

Job 10:13-20

“But this is what you concealed in your heart, and I know that this was in your mind: If I sinned, you would be watching me and would not let my offense go unpunished. If I am guilty—woe to me! Even if I am innocent, I cannot lift my head, for I am full of shame and drowned in my affliction. If I hold my head high, you stalk me like a lion and again display your awesome power against me.

Job 10:13-20

You bring new witnesses against me and increase your anger toward me; your forces come against me wave upon wave. "Why then did you bring me out of the womb? I wish I had died before any eye saw me. If only I had never come into being, or had been carried straight from the womb to the grave! Are not my few days almost over? Turn away from me so I can have a moment's joy



John
Walton

*Job, NIV Application
Commentary*

We are used to reading the book of Job to find encouragement from Job's exemplary response to suffering. We consider his patience, longsuffering, faithfulness, righteousness, and integrity all to make him an admirable character. In our desire to preserve this pristine role model, we are perhaps sometimes too eager to eliminate or neglect anything that might compromise his stellar performance. This approach reads against the grain of the book's



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rhetorical strategy. The book is not trying to prove that Job's response to his situation is irreproachable; he is not held up as a paragon of virtue showing us how we ought to respond in suffering (though some of his responses are certainly admirable). The book is teaching us about God and his policies, not offering Job as a biblical paradigm for how to approach suffering. We will uncover the authoritative teaching of Scripture by unfolding its



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rhetorical strategy, not by imitating its characters. To say this another way, we will learn more about surviving crises by understanding God than by imitating Job.

Therefore we ought to be more discerning and allow Job his weaknesses: a flawed theology and a deficient view of God. Such allowance is essential because we often share these shortcomings.

Psalm 78:35-39

They remembered that God was their Rock, that God Most High was their Redeemer. But then they would flatter him with their mouths, lying to him with their tongues; their hearts were not loyal to him, they were not faithful to his covenant. Yet he was merciful; he forgave their iniquities and did not destroy them. Time after time he restrained his anger and did not stir up his full wrath. He remembered that they were but flesh, a passing breeze that does not return.

