

“Raising the Stakes”
Job 2

JOB

MAKING SENSE OF
SUFFERING





**TRADING
PLACES**



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."

Job 2:1-6

On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. And the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns

Job 2:1-6

evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.”

“Skin for skin!” Satan replied. “A man will give all he has for his own life. But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.”

Job 2:1-6

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“Skin for skin!” Satan replied. “A man will give all he has for his own life. But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.”

Job
16:9

His anger has torn me and hunted
me down, He has gnashed at me
with His teeth

Job
19:21

Pity me, pity me, O you my friends,
For the hand of God has struck me.

Job 2:4-6

“Skin for skin!” Satan replied. “A man will give all he has for his own life. **But now stretch out *your* hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.**”

The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.”

Job 2:3

Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; **he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.** And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him **without any reason.**"

the principle of retribution:

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

the principle of
retribution



Job's
suffering

Job's
righteousness

God's
character



F. Rachel
Magdalene

*On the Scales of
Righteousness*

[God's] actions constitute a horrifically cruel deed if all that is at stake is a test of Job's faith. Surely God has other, less invasive and traumatic ways to gather such data. ... If God is capable of destroying ten children and stripping Job of any human dignity on a bet—on a dare—then he is, to my mind, a very immature, highly insecure, and deeply troubled god ... The withdrawal of all Job's blessings and the imposition of suffering are much more than an investigation of Job's state of mind; they are, more important, an investigation of God.

Psalm 73:3-4, 11-14

For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. ... They say, "How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?" This is what the wicked are like— always free of care, they go on amassing wealth. Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments.

How do we reconcile the truth that God is good and just with a world that he has created which often seems cruel and unjust?



John
Walton

*Job, NIV Application
Commentary*

Whenever we raise questions about God's justice, we tacitly suggest that if we were given the chance, we would be more just. When we question God's love, we imply that we could be more loving. His grace, his mercy, his patience—name whatever attribute you will: If we think we can do them better than God, we have a defective view of God (not to mention an unrealistic conceit and a superficial and simplistic knowledge of the problem).

Job 2:7-8

So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

Exodus 4:21

The LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but **I will harden his heart** so that he will not let the people go.

Exodus 8:15

But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, **he hardened his heart** and did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

2 Samuel 24:1

Again the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and **he incited David against them**, saying, "Go and take a census of Israel and Judah."

1 Chronicles 21:1

Then **Satan** stood up against Israel
and moved David to number Israel.

2 Samuel 24:10

Now David's heart troubled him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the LORD, "**I have sinned greatly in what I have done.** But now, O LORD, please take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have acted very foolishly."

Job 7:5

My flesh is clothed with worms and a crust of dirt, My skin hardens and runs.

Job 19:17

My breath is offensive to my wife, And I am loathsome to my own brothers.

Job 19:20

My bone clings to my skin and my flesh, And I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth.

Job 30:17

At night it pierces my bones within me, And my gnawing pains take no rest.

Job 30:30

My skin turns black on me, And my bones burn with fever.

Job 2:9-13

His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!"

He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from

Job 2:9-13

their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.



There is often a
profound loneliness that
accompanies suffering.

Psalm 61:1-2

Hear my cry, O God; Give heed to my prayer. **From the end of the earth** I call to You when my heart is faint; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

Job 23:8-10

But if I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him. When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him. But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.

1 Peter 1:6-7

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.