

Why?

The story of Job is primarily about human suffering and faith. At the beginning of the book, Job is introduced as a blameless and upright man, blessed with wealth, a large family, and good health. But, in a strange heavenly scene, Satan challenges God, arguing that Job is faithful only because of his prosperity. God allows Satan to test Job's faith by taking away his wealth, children, and health, but forbids Satan from killing him.

But Job remains faithful, though he is deeply grieved.

God never directly explains Job's suffering but highlights the vastness of His knowledge and power, demonstrating that human understanding is limited. After Job humbly acknowledges God's wisdom and repents for questioning Him. God then restores Job's fortunes, granting him even more wealth, new children, and long life. Job's faithfulness is rewarded. The book of Job ends with the mystery of human suffering unresolved. Instead, it focuses on trusting God's wisdom rather than human understanding. In this story we learn:

God is supreme and God's ways and thoughts are beyond our comprehension.

We too, just like Job, want God to answer to us. Instead, he comes to us in Jesus – giving us his love and grace so that we can withstand the trials of life.

God asks us to trust him in amongst our challenges.

In all his trials Job chose to hold on to his faith in God, when it would have been very easy to walk away. The lesson for us in this is that we too need to stay close to God even when we are feeling like walking away from him.

The book of Job doesn't unlock the puzzle of why bad things happen to good people. Instead, it invites us to trust God's wisdom when we experience suffering rather than trying to figure out the "reasons" for it. This book invites us to honestly bring our pain and grief to God and to trust that he cares, realizing that he knows exactly what he's doing.

As the psalmist reminds us:

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm

23:4