

THE BOOK OF JOB

Ch 4-7 A Dried-up Brook of Advice



THE RECIPROCITY PRINCIPLE

(A DEEPLY INGRAINED ASSUMPTION)

HUMAN ACTION

GOD'S JUSTICE

DO GOOD



BLESSING/BENEFIT

DO WRONG



**PUNISHMENT &
DISASTER**

Job 4

¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied to Job: ² “Will you be patient and let me say a word? For who could keep from speaking out? ³ “In the past you have encouraged many people; you have strengthened those who were weak. ⁴ Your words have supported those who were falling; you encouraged those with shaky knees. ⁵ But now when trouble strikes, you lose heart. You are terrified when it touches you. ⁶ Doesn’t your reverence for God give you confidence? Doesn’t your life of integrity give you hope?”

7 “Stop and think! Do the innocent die? When have the upright been destroyed? 8 My experience shows that those who plant trouble and cultivate evil will harvest the same. 9 A breath from God destroys them. They vanish in a blast of his anger.

Job 5

¹ “Cry for help, but will anyone answer you? Which of the angels will help you? ² Surely resentment destroys the fool, and jealousy kills the simple. ³ I have seen that fools may be successful for the moment, but then comes sudden disaster.

⁶ But evil does not spring from the soil, and trouble does not sprout from the earth. ⁷ People are born for trouble as readily as sparks fly up from a fire. ⁸ “If I were you, I would go to God and present my case to him.

17 “But consider the joy of those corrected by God! Do not despise the discipline of the Almighty when you sin. 18 For though he wounds, he also bandages. He strikes, but his hands also heal.

24 You will know that your home is safe. When you survey your possessions, nothing will be missing.
25 You will have many children; your descendants will be as plentiful as grass! 26 You will go to the grave at a ripe old age, like a sheaf of grain harvested at the proper time! 27 “We have studied life and found all this to be true. Listen to my counsel, and apply it to yourself.”

**WHEN I SUFFER, DO I ASSUME GOD IS
PUNISHING ME TO GET MY ATTENTION?**



Hebrews 12

5 “My child, don’t make light of the LORD ’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you.

6 For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.”

... ¹⁰ For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God’s discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness.

John 9

1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth.

2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

**WHEN I SUFFER, DO I ASSUME GOD IS
PUNISHING ME TO GET MY ATTENTION?**



Job 6

¹ Then Job spoke again: ² “If my misery could be weighed and my troubles be put on the scales, ³ they would outweigh all the sands of the sea. That is why I spoke impulsively. ⁴ For the Almighty has struck me down with his arrows. Their poison infects my spirit. God’s terrors are lined up against me. ⁵ Don’t I have a right to complain? Don’t wild donkeys bray when they find no grass, and oxen bellow when they have no food?

14 “One should be kind to a fainting friend, but you accuse me without any fear of the Almighty. 15 My brothers, you have proved as unreliable as a seasonal brook that overflows its banks in the spring 16 when it is swollen with ice and melting snow. 17 But when the hot weather arrives, the water disappears. The brook vanishes in the heat.

21 You, too, have given no help. You have seen my calamity, and you are afraid. 22 But why? Have I ever asked you for a gift? Have I begged for anything of yours for myself? 23 Have I asked you to rescue me from my enemies, or to save me from ruthlessness?”

**AM I WILLING TO FOREGO MY OWN COMFORT
IN ORDER TO STAND BY A SUFFERING FRIEND?**



Job 7

⁷ Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath; my eyes will never see happiness again. ⁸ The eye that now sees me will see me no longer; you will look for me, but I will be no more. ⁹ As a cloud vanishes and is gone, so one who goes down to the grave does not return.

...¹⁷ “What is mankind that you make so much of them, that you give them so much attention, ¹⁸ that you examine them every morning and test them every moment? ¹⁹ Will you never look away from me, or let me alone even for an instant?

²⁰ If I have sinned, what have I done to you, you who see everything we do? Why have you made me your target? Have I become a burden to you? ²¹ Why do you not pardon my offenses and forgive my sins? For I will soon lie down in the dust; you will search for me, but I will be no more.”

GOD'S JUSTICE



TENSION

**RECIPROCITY
PRINCIPLE**

**JOB'S
INNOCENCE**

**DO I STILL BELIEVE IN GOD'S GRACE
WHEN I'M SUFFERING?**



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