**JOB**

**Why Do Good People Suffer?**

**What you need to REMEMBER:**

The grand theme of the Bible is the description of how God is working through human history to restore His creation to its original, pristine condition. The history of the nation of Israel dominates much of the Bible because God decided their nation would create the context in which the Agent of Restoration, Jesus, would be born, live and die.

We have seen that there was nothing exceptional about the people of Israel. They were subject to the same flaws and moral failings as all people. Their history is a story of persistent failure interrupted by brief moments of success. The Golden Age of Israel’s history occurred during the reigns of King David and King Solomon. It is largely from that era from which the next section of the Older Testament comes.

**What you need to KNOW:**

The book of Job introduces the first of the five Wisdom and Poetry books of the Older Testament. Job predates Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon by centuries making it the only book in the collection that did not originate in Israel’s Golden Age – mostly written by David and Solomon. The author of Job is unknown and scholars believe that it was probably written before Moses wrote the Pentateuch, making it the oldest book in the Bible.

The story of Job is possibly the greatest literary prose in all of Scripture. As you read about Job’s life, you will meet a man who inexplicably suffered staggering loss for no apparent reason. You will learn that the reason for Job’s suffering had to do with events that were occurring behind the veil of what can be seen in the physical realm. Job’s tangible losses of wealth, loved ones and health were compounded by the emotional pain brought on by the terrible advice given by his friends and his wife who told him to simply “curse God, and die.”

Nevertheless, Job held onto his faith while honestly struggling through his inner doubts and questions about why God would allow him, a good man, to suffer so greatly. In the end, God uses a series of rhetorical questions to describe His vast knowledge, wisdom and power – suggesting that Job should trust Him in even the worst situations. Happily, by the end of the story, God restores everything Job had lost.

The subject matter of Job is timeless, as relevant for the ancients as it is for those living in our modern era. The experience of Job explores questions like: “If God is good and all powerful, why does human suffering still exist?” and “Why do the righteous and the innocent suffer?” In addressing these questions, the story of Job reveals that the human drama of pain, sorrow, suffering and a prevailing faith are all a part of a greater drama that is playing out in the unseen spiritual realm. The book of Job points out that the Almighty Lord doesn’t owe us an explanation regarding these things, He simply expects us to have faith that He is good, but allows human suffering for purposes known only to Him.

**GET GOING!**

**Continue your personal Walk Through the Bible by reading, or listening to, Job.**