



SOVEREIGNTY, SUFFERING,
AND SYMPATHY

A Thematic Study in Job

AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

COINCIDENCE

Coincidence - The occurrence of events that happen at the same time by accident but seem to have some connection (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/coincidence>)

“Fate,” “random chance,” and “luck” are more ways of expressing a lack of belief in the sovereignty and providence of God





JOB'S AFFLICTIONS

Satan's Challenge (1:6-11; 2:1-5)

The Lord's Permission (1:12; 2:6)

Satan's Implementation (1:13-19; 2:7-9)

Job's Response (1:20-22; 2:10)

IN HIS HAND
SUFFERING SOVEREIGNTY *SYMPATHY*
"In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."
Job 12:10



*Why Do Bad Things
Happen to God's
People?*

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KEY CONCEPTS

Purpose

Isaiah 40:13-14

Good Pleasure

Psalms 115:3

Isaiah 46:9-11

Philippians 2:13

Ephesians 1:9

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KEY CONCEPTS: GOOD PLEASURE

NIV Ephesians 1:9 *And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ*

NASB Ephesians 1:9 *He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him*

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KEY CONCEPTS: PROVIDENCE

WSC Q. 8. *How doth God execute his decrees?*

A. God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

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KEY CONCEPTS: PROVIDENCE

WSC Q. 11. *What are God's works of providence?*

A. God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

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KEY CONCEPTS: PROVIDENCE

“God’s providence should lead the believer to be patient in adversity and thankful in prosperity, resting confidently in his Lord.

He is to seek to understand the meaning and purpose of God’s dealings with him in the light of the Word of God.” (RP

Testimony 5.2)

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PRINCIPLE #3: GOD
ACTS ACCORDING TO
HIS PLAN, PURPOSE,
AND GOOD PLEASURE

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PRINCIPLE #3

Global vs. local perspective

Luke 22:22

Acts 2:23

Acts 4:27-28

God brings good from evil

Romans 8:28

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GOD BRINGS GOOD FROM EVIL

“What happens contrary to his will occurs, in a wonderful and ineffable way, not apart from his will. For it would not happen if he did not allow it. And yet he does not allow it unwillingly but willingly. But he who is good would not permit evil to be done, unless, being omnipotent, he could bring good out of evil.” (Second Helvetic Confession 8.7, quoting Augustine)

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ULTIMATE QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of Job's suffering?

What is the purpose of Job's faith?

1:9-11

2:4-5

THE PURPOSE FOR BOTH IS
ROOTED IN GOD, NOT JOB!!!

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AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE: SUMMARY

“Let the people of God comfort themselves in all cases by this doctrine of the divine decrees; and, amidst whatever befalls them, rest quietly and submissively in the bosom of God, considering that whatever comes or can come to pass, proceeds from the decree of their gracious friend and reconciled Father, who knows what is best for them, and will make all things work together for their good.” [continued...]

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AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE: SUMMARY

“O what a sweet and pleasant life would you have under the heaviest pressures of affliction, and what heavenly serenity and tranquility of mind would you enjoy, would you cheerfully acquiesce in the good will and pleasure of God, and embrace every dispensation, how no matter how sharp it may be, because it is determined and appointed for you by the eternal counsel of his will.” (Thomas Boston)

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