

SOVEREIGNTY, SUFFERING,
AND SYMPATHY
A Thematic Study in Job

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE...



*What is the danger of
assumption and speculation?*

*What kinds of troubles do we
face when we speculate and
assume?*

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

JOB'S FRIENDS – MOTIVATION

Read **Job 2:11-13** and discuss:

What was their initial concern?

What was their initial reaction?

What was their initial approach?

What was their motivation?

What lessons do we learn from them?

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

JOB'S FRIENDS – MOTIVATION



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

JOB'S FRIENDS – APPROACH & IMPACT

Their Change in Approach

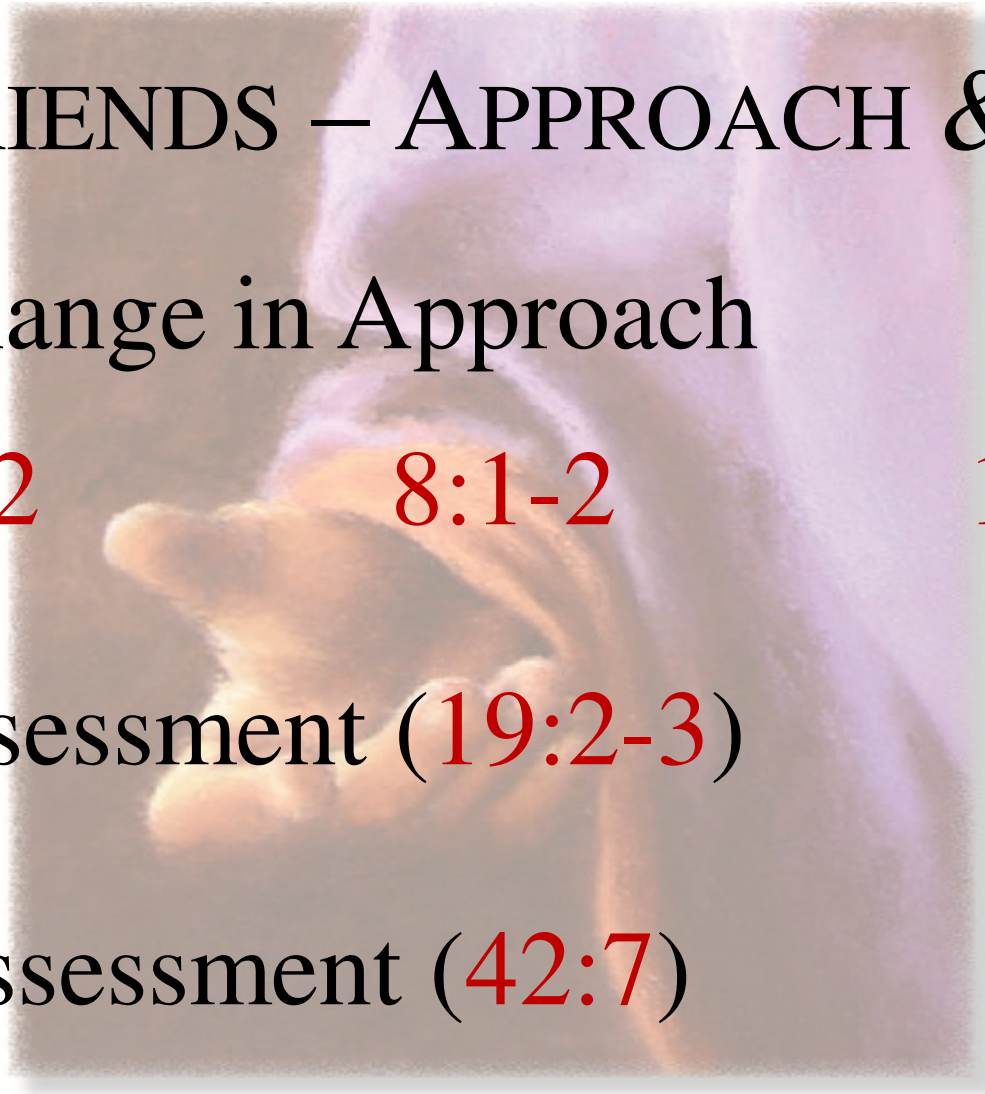
4:1-2

8:1-2

11:1-3

Job's Assessment (19:2-3)

God's Assessment (42:7)



IN HIS HAND
SUFFERING SOVEREIGNTY *SYMPATHY*
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JOB & HIS FRIENDS – THE DIFFERENCE

The Source of Their Problems

- In what ways does our understanding of doctrine and theology affect our words and actions?

The Center of Their Focus

- Why is it important to have a God-centered theology?

SUFFERING *SOVEREIGNTY* *SYMPATHY*
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Job 12:10

COMFORT FOR THE AFFLICTED

“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...]

SUFFERING *SOVEREIGNTY* *SYMPATHY*
"In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."
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COMFORT FOR THE AFFLICTED

“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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