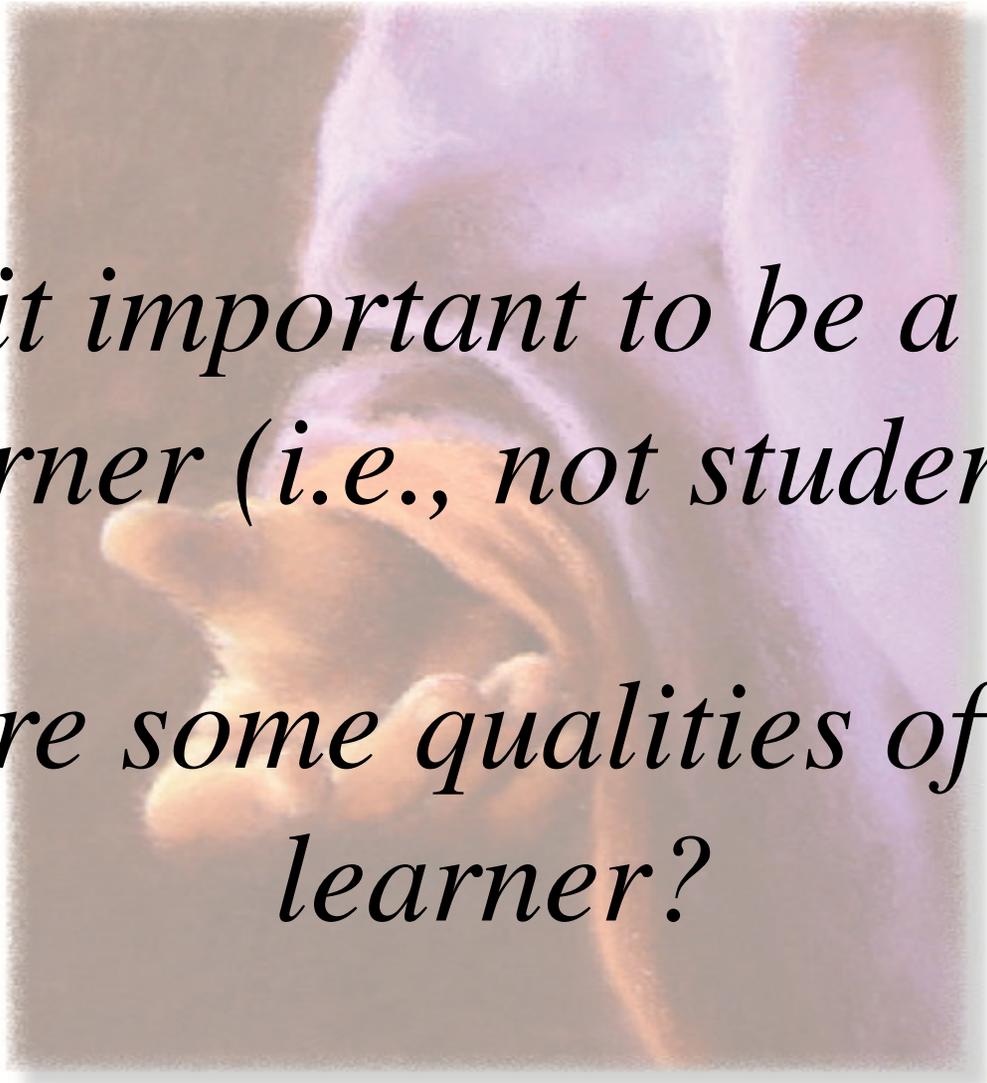


SOVEREIGNTY, SUFFERING,
AND SYMPATHY

A Thematic Study in Job

LESSONS LEARNED



Why is it important to be a lifelong learner (i.e., not student)?

What are some qualities of a good learner?

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

THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

Job's humility (42:1-6) and restoration (42:10-17)

Two ultimate questions raised in Job:

What is the purpose of Job's faith (1-2)?

What is the purpose of Job's suffering (3-37)?

The forgiveness of Job's friends (42:7-9)

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SUFFERING SOVEREIGNTY *SYMPATHY*
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THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

Central to Job is the important lesson of how a proper understanding of God's sovereignty, wisdom, and goodness will lead to hope and comfort in the midst of suffering and produce godly sympathy for others who suffer.

IN HIS HAND
SUFFERING **SOVEREIGNTY** **SYMPATHY**
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KEY LESSONS

1. Develop a God-centered understanding of sovereignty (six principles)
 1. Much of God's plan is unknown to us
 2. God is in control of everything
 3. God acts according to His plan, purpose and good pleasure
 4. God's plan is unconditional and certain
 5. God's plan is comprehensive and eternal
 6. God's plan is directed toward His glory

SUFFERING **SOVEREIGNTY** *SYMPATHY*
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KEY LESSONS

2. Maintain an eternal perspective
3. Trust God's wisdom and goodness without question or blame
4. Demonstrate faith and hope regardless of outcome and circumstances
5. Endeavor to have an accurate view of Scripture

SUFFERING **SOVEREIGNTY** *SYMPATHY*

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KEY LESSONS

6. Manifest Christ to those who are hurting

This is our “splendid opportunity for imitating the example and manifesting the spirit of Christ” (Thomas Murphy, *Pastoral Theology*, 239).

7. Cultivate a humble and teachable spirit

IN HIS HAND
SUFFERING **SOVEREIGNTY** **SYMPATHY**
“In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.”
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KEY LESSONS

When we believe, understand, and apply these seven key lessons from Job regarding sovereignty, suffering, and sympathy, we will walk victoriously through hardship, pain, agony, and affliction and be able to help others do the same.

IN HIS HAND
SUFFERING **SOVEREIGNTY** **SYMPATHY**
"In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."
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KEY LESSONS

“Heaven is the time and place where all believers will enjoy the absence of all evil and suffering and the presence of unmitigated joy. The problem of evil is the cry of the soul for that experience. It is placing upon this world expectations that can only be met in heaven. Considering our unworthiness in light of the infinite tributaries of God’s goodness, sovereignty, wisdom, grace, and mercy can reset the troubled heart with the power of perspective. (cont.)

SUFFERING

SOVEREIGNTY

SYMPATHY

“In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.”

Job 12:10

KEY LESSONS

“The realities of heaven and hell bring evil and suffering into sharp focus...God uses the troubles of our lives, culminating in the inevitability of our own deaths, to pry our grips off this world and refocus our hearts on what lies ahead with Him...If a believer can keep his mind on God, no evil in this world can steal his peace. And that will be enough till heaven.”

(Rick Holland, “Sorrow, Suffering, and the Sovereignty of God,” in *Right Thinking in a World Gone Wrong*, 187.)

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