

SUFFERING AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY MEANS HE... (James McDonald)

- is the Ruler of all
- answers to no one
- can accomplish whatever HE Choose
- sees history from beginning to end
- is Afraid nothing, Ignorant of nothing, Needing nothing
- never makes a mistake

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL AND SUFFERING TO EXIST ?

There Were Serious Consequences for their Disobedience

- Sin and Death
- Creation was Cursed
- Pain and Suffering

Deuteronomy 30:19 This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now CHOOSE LIFE, so that you and your children may live

SOVEREIGNTY AND SUFFERING IN THE LIFE OF JOB

Job 1:8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

God States that Job...

- is blameless
- is upright
- fears God
- shuns evil

Job 1:20-22 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship [21] and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." [22] In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrong doing.

Then Job Fell on His face before God...

- **in complete Surrender**
- **in total Acceptance**
- **and refused to sin**

Job 2:10 ..."You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

They saw God in a Small two Dimensional way...

- **He gives Good things to those who Obey**
- **He Destroys and Punishes those who Disobey**

Job 42:5-6 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; [6] Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes." (NASU)

GOD'S RESPONSE TO OUR SUFFERING AND CRIES ?

Matthew 7:9-11 "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? [10] Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? [11] If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. (NASU)

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO GOD WHEN WE ARE HURTING ? (John Piper)

Respond to God by...

- **Reaffirm the Absolute Sovereignty of God**
Psalms 115:3 ...our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. (NASU)
- **Freely and Fully Express our Emotions**
Job 1:20-21 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head...
- **Trust the Goodness of God**
Psalms 63:3 Your unfailing love is better to me than life itself; how I praise you! (NLT)
- **Submit to ALL that God is doing in Your Life**
Job 2:10 ..."Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

SO WHAT??