

What God is Doing Through the Circumstances in Our Lives is None of Our Business

God Criticized Job for Thinking He Could Figure Out What God Was Doing in His Life The account of the suffering of Job is a biblical example of someone who tried to discern what God was doing in his life through his circumstances. Job was suffering because of a confrontation between God and Satan (Job 1 and 2). It even involved the death of Job's children. Job's friends thought they had it all figured out. For example,

- **Job 8:1, 4** *Bildad the Shuhite answered, "...If your sons sinned against Him, then He delivered them into the power of their transgression."*
- **Job 11:1, 5** *Zophar the Naamathite answered, "...But would that God might speak, and open His lips against you"*
- **Job 15:1, 6** *Eliphaz the Temanite responded, "...Your own mouth condemns you, and not I; and your own lips testify against you."*

Job's friends all concluded that they knew what God was doing. They all said Job was suffering because of some sin for which God was punishing him. They went on for days trying to get Job to believe that. Job agreed in principle, but he was also trying to understand what he had done to deserve this suffering from God. The one thing Job agreed with his friends about was that a person should be able to figure out what God is doing in his life from his life circumstances. So, Job wanted an explanation from God.

Job 38:1-4 *Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now gird up your loins like a man, and I will ask you, and you instruct Me! Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?"*

God went on to give Job a science quiz, asking him if he knew what God had done. But Job did not know any of the answers. Then:

Job 42:7 *It came about after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right..."*

The theme of the Book of Job is that we cannot figure out what God is doing from our feelings, or circumstances, or the advice of our friends, and what God is doing in our lives is none of our business.

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