

SUFFERING...SOVEREIGNTY...FAITH

“Preparing to Hear from the Lord”

Job 32-37

I. Greatest test in suffering is not the pain, but not knowing “why” (33:13)

II. God speaks to us through revelation and pain (33:14-22)

C.S. Lewis, “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

III. Suffering is preventive and affirmative (33:26-30)

John 9:1-3, 6-7

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.

Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

IV. Suffering forms a deeper quality of existence (36:15)

V. Storms come for discipline and refreshment (37:11-13)

VI. In the midst of suffering focus on the majesty and might of God (36:22-33; 37:1-24)

VII. Transform the question from “Why?” to “For what purpose?”

Simone Weil, “The extreme greatness of Christianity lies in the fact that it does not seek a supernatural remedy for suffering, but a supernatural use for it.”