

**“Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People?”**  
**Job – Week 1 of 2, Unlocking the Old Testament**  
**November 1, 2009**

**Job 19:13-27**

13 “He has put my family far from me,  
and my acquaintances are wholly estranged from me.  
14 My relatives and my close friends have failed me;  
15 the guests in my house have forgotten me;  
my serving girls count me as a stranger;  
I have become an alien in their eyes.  
16 I call to my servant, but he gives me no answer;  
I must myself plead with him.  
17 My breath is repulsive to my wife;  
I am loathsome to my own family.  
18 Even young children despise me;  
when I rise, they talk against me.  
19 All my intimate friends abhor me,  
and those whom I loved have turned against me.  
20 My bones cling to my skin and to my flesh,  
and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.  
21 Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends,  
for the hand of God has touched me!  
22 Why do you, like God, pursue me,  
never satisfied with my flesh?  
23 “O that my words were written down!  
O that they were inscribed in a book!  
24 O that with an iron pen and with lead  
they were engraved on a rock forever!  
25 For I know that my Redeemer<sup>b</sup> lives,  
and that at the last he<sup>c</sup> will stand upon the earth;<sup>d</sup>  
26 and after my skin has been thus destroyed,  
then in<sup>e</sup> my flesh I shall see God,<sup>f</sup>  
27 whom I shall see on my side,<sup>g</sup>  
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.  
My heart faints within me!

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<sup>b</sup> Or *Vindicator*

<sup>c</sup> Or *that he the Last*

<sup>d</sup> Heb *dust*

<sup>e</sup> Or *without*

<sup>f</sup> Meaning of Heb of this verse uncertain

<sup>g</sup> Or *for myself*

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**1. Causes of suffering**

**a. Punishment and/or consequences of sin (Numbers 12:10-12, Exodus 20:5)**

**b. To rid us of sin (Zechariah 13:9, Hebrews 12:5-7)**

**c. To increase faith, hope and intimacy with the Lord (Romans 5:3-5)**

**2. How is God involved in the causes of suffering? (Active vs. Passive will)**

**3. Positive results of suffering**

**a. It allows us to identify with others in their suffering**

**b. It gives God’s people an opportunity to serve those who are suffering (Job 2:11-13)**

**c. It can increase our confidence and trust in the Lord. (Job 19:25-27, 28:28)**

**Next Week: How to reap the benefits of suffering.**