



BETHELEVANGELICALCHURCH
CLYDACH

Growing Together...
...in God's Word

October 2015

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We begin by continuing our reading of Genesis, particularly the story of Joseph. A book that begins by telling us how the universe itself was created, finishes by focussing in on the details of one individual's story – and the message is that no matter what happens, no matter where he is, the Lord is with Joseph. It's a wonderful reminder that God's care is both cosmic and deeply personal. His providential care over Joseph is an expression of his covenant with the children of Israel. Look out for the many ways in which God shows he is with Joseph, even when it seems as though Joseph is entirely alone.

Thursday 1 October – Genesis 38-39

What do you think are the main lessons for us from Genesis 38?

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Joseph is more honourable than Judah, yet goes to prison! What does that tell us?

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Friday 2 October – Genesis 40-41

The butler 'forgot' Joseph (40:22). Why is that so poignant?

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What does chapter 41 teach us about the way God works in all our lives?

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Saturday 3 October – Genesis 42-43

Why do you think Joseph tested his brothers in the way that he did?

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What does this story teach us about how we should forgive one another?

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Monday 5 October – Genesis 44-45

What New Testament story does Judah's offer remind us of?

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Why does Judah's offer make such an impact on Joseph?

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Tuesday 6 October – Genesis 46-47

Why do you think God reassured Jacob/Israel in 46:3-4?

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Both Pharaoh and the Egyptians were in Joseph's debt (47:25-26). In the light of 39:2, 21, 23, what does that teach us about God's care for the whole world?

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Wednesday 7 October – Genesis 48-49

Can you think of any ways in which these prophecies came true?

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The prophecies are based on the character/deeds of each son. What does that teach us about the way we live?

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Thursday 8 October – Genesis 50, Job 1

Reflect on 50:20. Does that help as you think about those who have wronged you?

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We're reading Job next because this story happened very early in Biblical history. Job struggles with the question of how wise, godly people are to handle terrible tragedies in their lives that seem completely unfair or without any logical explanation. When Job experiences tragedy, his friends assume God must be angry with Job. Job himself questions God's justice, and wants a hearing before God so that he can be vindicated.

When you're reading the speeches, remember that Job is all about unanswered questions. Not everything the friends say is helpful, or even true. And even though Job speaks righteously, he's also speaking partly in ignorance (until the very end). Look out for false assumptions, and ask whether you make the same assumptions in your own difficulties.

Why do you think we're told why Job is suffering, even though Job and his friends were never told?

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Friday 9 October —Job 2-3

What does Job want in chapter 3?

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How do we know that even in this chapter, Job is trusting in God?

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Saturday 10 October —Job 4-5

Eliphaz seems to think that Job must have sinned, because otherwise it would be unfair of God to make him suffer. Do people still think something similar today?

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Does Eliphaz offer good or bad advice in chapter 5?

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Monday 12 October —Job 6-7

How does Job counter Eliphaz's accusations of sin (esp. 7:20-21a)?

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How does Job's faith in God help us when we're suffering?

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Tuesday 13 October –Job 8-9

Bildad agrees that suffering is ALWAYS a consequence of sin. Today, people seem to think the opposite (it NEVER is). Who is right?

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What's Job's big problem in chapter 9? What does he need?

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Wednesday 14 October –Job 10-11

If Job had a mediator, then he would understand. How can that help you today?

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Zophar argues that God is unfathomable (11:7-9). Is he right? Does that help?

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Thursday 15 October –Job 12-13

Job says he already knows what they're telling him. But what's the difference between him and them (13:3, 15, 18)?

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Read 13:20-23. What does that teach you about trusting God even in suffering?

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Friday 16 October – Job 14-15

Job can understand how a tree's 'suffering' can make sense (14:7). What does he need to know in order to make sense of man's suffering? (14:10, 12, 14)?

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What do you know better than Job, that helps you make sense of your suffering?

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Saturday 17 October – Job 16-17

Job now knows his friends can't help him. What does he long for (16:21)?

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Should we feel the same way as Job, when we suffer? Why, or why not?

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Monday 19 October – Job 18-19

Job's friends are no use to him. So why does he still have hope?

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How does this lesson comfort you when you are distressed?

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Tuesday 20 October – Job 20-21

How does Zophar and Job understand Job's future with God differently?

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Earlier, Job's friends said only the wicked suffer. Now they're saying that the wicked never prosper. Job disagrees in ch. 21. Do you ever struggle with this?

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Wednesday 21 October – Job 22-23

Eliphaz says Job must come to God. Why can't Job do this (23:3-7, 13-16)?

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Read 9:33-35 in the light of your answer. What does this add to our understanding of what Jesus was doing on the cross?

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Thursday 22 October – Job 24-25

In ch. 24, Job argues that the wicked do prosper. But what's his important caveat?

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How does Job's argument help you when you see the wicked prospering?

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Friday 23 October – Job 26-27

Job continues this reasoning in 27:13-22. What's the main point of these verses?

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What difference should these truths make in your life?

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Saturday 24 October – Job 28-29

Where does Job say wisdom comes from?

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Why do you think he says that?

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Monday 26 October – Job 30-31

Can you relate to what Job says in 30:26? In what ways?

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Job has a clear conscience in ch.31. Why is that of such great value to him?

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Tuesday 27 October – Job 32-33

Why is Elihu so desperate to speak?

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What's the difference between Elihu's message and that of Job's other friends?

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Wednesday 28 October – Job 34-35

Why is 36:16 so ironic?

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What does Elihu's long speech teach us about comforting our friends?

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Thursday 29 October – Job 36-37

Why does Elihu say Job's questioning of God is pointless (e.g. 37:23)?

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Can you think of people today who deal with suffering in the same way?

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Friday 30 October – Job 38-39

What's God's big message to Job in these two chapters?

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That message seems very similar to the message that Job's friends have brought (e.g. 37:5). But what is different about it?

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Saturday 31 October – Job 40:1-5, Psalm 19

Did God answer all of Job's questions? Was Job satisfied with God's answers?

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Psalm 19 was written centuries after Job lived. How might it have helped Job if he had been reminded of its truth?

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