

## BEHEMOTH & LEVIATHAN vs ALMIGHTY GOD

### I. [Job 40:1-24](#) [Job 41:1-34](#) [Job 42:1-6](#)

A. Last week we mined some gold nuggets from Lamentations and considered the sufferings of Jeremiah, *the weeping prophet*. Today I thought we'd do the same from the book of Job. Some of us have known people who endured multiple afflictions. So Tough to witness! Whether in our past, presently, or somewhere down the road, the things we glean from Job will prove helpful to us and likewise for others.

B. In Job we learn about God. We also learn about the devil and his subjected place before God. We learn the term "*friends*" is a relative term. And we learn about ourselves and the right posture to have before Almighty God.

C. Job is the Bible's poster child for suffering. After Satan gains God's permission, he instigates the loss of Job's children, most of his servants, livestock & crops--all in a single day. (Somehow Job holds up.) After the devil gains more approval, he afflicts Job's body with painful boils. (Physical pain on top of emotional pain. Job's response? "*Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him!*") Then to add insult to injury, Job's friends show up and blame him for all his woes. Even Job's wife tells her husband to "*Curse God and die!*" (Not a Proverbs 31 woman!) Job suffers in every way imaginable. He's perplexed. He vents. God then puts Job in his place. While God's rebuke begins in Chapters 38 & 39, Chapters 40 & 41 are our focus today.

D. [Job 40:1-24](#) (ESV) Job's being taken to the woodshed by God for a beastly scolding...

1) **V1-5:** **1** And the LORD said to Job: **2** "Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it." **3** Then Job answered the LORD and said: **4** "Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer You? I lay my hand on my mouth. **5** I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further." (Job puts his hand over his mouth. He takes the right posture.)

2) **V6-8:** **6** Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: **7** "Dress for action like a man; (**Gird up your loins Job. Take what's coming like a man!**) I will question you, and you make it known to Me. **8** Will you even put Me in the wrong? Will you condemn Me that you may be in the right? (People do this after every tragedy. They light up social media, casting blame upon a blameless God! They pompously put themselves in the place of God. "**How dare You God let this happen?!**") The term for this is *arrogance!*)

3) **V9-14:** **9** Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like His? **10** "Adorn yourself with majesty and dignity; clothe yourself with glory and splendor. **11** Pour out the overflowings of your anger, and look on everyone who is proud and abase him. **12** Look on everyone who is proud and bring him low and tread down the wicked where they stand. **13** Hide them all in the dust together; bind their faces in the world below. **14** Then will I also acknowledge to you that your own right hand can save you. (**I do all this Job; can you?**)

**4) V15: 15** "Behold, *Behemoth*, which I made as I made you; he eats grass like an ox. (Behemoth in Hebrew: "**Beast par excellence.**" Hippo? Rhino? Mastodon? Brontosaurus? Perhaps the mightiest of God's land creatures in Job's day.)

**5) V16-24: 16** Behold, his strength in his loins, and his power in the muscles of his belly. **17** He makes his tail stiff like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are knit together. **18** His bones are tubes of bronze, his limbs like bars of iron. **19** "He is the first of the works of God; let Him who made him bring near His sword! **20** For the mountains yield food for him where all the wild beasts play. **21** Under the lotus plants he lies, in the shelter of the reeds and in the marsh. **22** For his shade the lotus trees cover him; the willows of the brook surround him. **23** Behold, if the river is turbulent he is not frightened; he is confident though Jordan rushes against his mouth. **24** Can one take him by his eyes, or pierce his nose with a snare? **(God uses a mighty land creature, one He has made and cares for, one that mankind rightly fears, to show how He's far more mighty.)**

**E. Job 41:1-34 (ESV) God now shifts to His mightiest sea creature to keep with His beastly scold...**

**1) V1: 1** "Can you draw out *Leviathan* with a fishhook or press down his tongue with a cord? (Leviathan: **A sea monster. Stronger and more terrifying than a behemoth?**)

**2) V2-9: 2** Can you put a rope in his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? **3** Will he make many pleas to you? Will he speak to you soft words? **4** Will he make a covenant with you to take him for your servant forever? **5** Will you play with him as with a bird, or will you put him on a leash for your girls? **6** Will traders bargain over him? Will they divide him up among the merchants? **7** Can you fill his skin with harpoons or his head with fishing spears? **8** Lay your hands on him; remember the battle--you will not do it again! **9** Behold, the hope of a man is false; he is laid low even at the sight of him. **(So Job, do you know any fierce fisherman that can snag one of these monsters which My hand has fashioned? Nope you don't!)**

**3) V10-11: 10** No one is so fierce that he dares to stir him up. Who then is he who can stand before Me? **11** Who has first given to Me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine. **(But God's not through with His lecture...)**

**4) V12-17: (Back to the sea monster:) 12** "I will not keep silence concerning his limbs, or his mighty strength, or his goodly frame. **13** Who can strip off his outer garment? Who would come near him with a bridle? **14** Who can open the doors of his face? Around his teeth is terror. **15** His back is made of rows of shields, shut up closely as with a seal. **16** One is so near to another that no air can come between them. **17** They are joined one to another; they clasp each other and cannot be separated. **(What is this beast? Some kind of prehistoric croc or shark creature?! Watch the description get even more fierce!)**

**5) V18-21: 18** His sneezings flash forth light, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the dawn. **19** Out of his mouth go flaming torches; sparks of fire leap forth. **20** Out of his nostrils comes forth smoke, as from a boiling pot and burning rushes. **21** His breath kindles coals, and a flame comes forth from his mouth. **(Could this be some kind of dragon creature?!)**

**6) V22-26: 22** In his neck abides strength, and terror dances before him. **23** The folds of his flesh stick together, firmly cast on him and immovable. **24** His heart is hard as a

stone, hard as the lower millstone. **25** When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid; at the crashing they are beside themselves. **26** Though the sword reaches him, it does not avail, nor the spear, the dart, or the javelin. **(This sea monster sounds invincible and yet it's a creature that God has made by the word of His mouth.)**

**7) V27-34: 27** He counts iron as straw, and bronze as rotten wood. **28** The arrow cannot make him flee; for him, sling stones are turned to stubble. **29** Clubs are counted as stubble; he laughs at the rattle of javelins. **30** His underparts are like sharp potsherds; he spreads himself like a threshing sledge on the mire. **31** He makes the deep boil like a pot; he makes the sea like a pot of ointment. **32** Behind him he leaves a shining wake; one would think the deep to be white-haired. **33** On earth there is not his like, a creature without fear. **34** He sees everything that is high; he is king over all the sons of pride.” **(And there sits Job.)**

**8) Listen how the Amplified translates V34: 34** “He looks on everything that is high [without terror]; He is monarch over all the sons of pride. And now, Job, who are you who does not dare to disturb the beast, yet who dares resist Me, the beast’s creator? Everything under the heavens is Mine; therefore, who can have a claim against God?” **(‘Job--this is just a little sea creature I've made but it's no match for My Omnipotence!’ ‘And by the way, I like your hand over your mouth!’)**

**F. Some of you are hunters and fisherman. Ever run across a behemoth in the woods or a leviathan on Buckeye Lake? Fiction here? Too many bones have been excavated to rule out such creatures. Dinosaurs are all the rage these days with children. We know in their time dinosaurs ruled the air, land, and sea. And yet they're merely among the countless creatures our Creator God has fashioned with His voice and hands. Shall we go on to galaxies and atoms, supernovas and DNA? Eternity past and eternity unending? (Maybe read 38 & 39 for God's full rebuke.) So how did Job respond?**

**G. Job 42:1-6 (ESV) gives the answer: 1** Then Job answered the LORD and said: **2** “I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. **3** ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. **(‘I'm sorry God; I should've never said what I said!’)** **4** ‘Hear, and I will speak; I will question You, and you make it known to me.’ **(‘You were right God; I was wrong!’)** **5** I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You; **6** therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” **(Repentance is a beautiful thing?! A gift from God! To have a change of mind and direction; to turn from sin to forgiveness; from darkness to light; from death to life! This is repentance!)**

**H. So how does God's love and suffering in our world coexist? C.S. Lewis wrote:** “The problem of reconciling human suffering with the existence of a God who loves, is only insoluble **(without solution--impossible to solve)** so long as we attach a trivial meaning to the word, love.” **(But remember, God used suffering to demonstrate His love...)**

**J. John 3:16-17 (ESV) 16** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. **Romans 5:8 (NIV) 8** But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV) 4** But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it

is by grace you have been saved. **1 John 4:9-10 (EXP) 9** This is how God showed [revealed] His love to us: He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we could have life through Him. **10** This is what real love is: It is not our love for God; it is God's love for us. He sent His Son to die in our place to take away our sins as the atoning sacrifice/propitiation for our sins.

**K. Job famously said: "The LORD giveth and the LORD taketh away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." (Job 1:21) How about this: The LORD giveth His Son and the LORD taketh away our sin. Blessed be the name of the LORD!**

**L. These last verses I just read are not only for us but for others. Perhaps for those suffering, grieving, hopeless, and lost. 1 Cor. 13 indicates God's true love is not a noisy gong or clanging cymbal. Job's friends were all that; may we do better!**

**M. In the midst of the trials of our loved ones and neighbors, and with some (howbeit limited) understanding of God's sovereignty and love, what should we as followers of Jesus do for those suffering? Pray of course. (This should be our first resort and never our last.) Likewise: Be present. Your quiet presence may indeed soothe some pain. Share words of consolation. Asking God to give us words is good but we need to offer them with great sensitivity, humility, and love. Weak cliches, tired phrases, and pious drivel aren't helpful. When EMTs are called to treat lacerations they typically don't show up with salt to pour on the wounds. Be a blessing without being a burden. Be careful asking too many questions. Give counsel sparingly. (Are you the one to be giving it in this situation?) Serve practically. (Provide food. Fetch things. Be available.) Know when to come and when to go. (Are you helping matters or making them worse? Is the venue getting too crowded?) Finally, keep on with the prayers you began with in the first place...**

**\* Job 42:10-11 in the Amplified takes us all home: 10 The LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. **11** Then all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before came to him, and they ate bread with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him over all the distressing adversities that the LORD had brought on him. And each one gave him a piece of money, and each a ring of gold.**

**\* Close with Prayer...**

## **Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff**

### **Job 40:1-24 (ESV)**

**1** And the LORD said to Job: **2** "Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it." **3** Then Job answered the LORD and said: **4** "Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer You? I lay my hand on my mouth. **5** I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further." **6** Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: **7** "Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to Me. **8** Will you even put Me in the wrong? Will you condemn Me that you may be in the right? **9** Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like His? **10** "Adorn yourself with majesty and dignity;

clothe yourself with glory and splendor. **11** Pour out the overflowings of your anger, and look on everyone who is proud and abase him. **12** Look on everyone who is proud and bring him low and tread down the wicked where they stand. **13** Hide them all in the dust together; bind their faces in the world below. **14** Then will I also acknowledge to you that your own right hand can save you. **15** “Behold, Behemoth, which I made as I made you; he eats grass like an ox. **16** Behold, his strength in his loins, and his power in the muscles of his belly. **17** He makes his tail stiff like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are knit together. **18** His bones are tubes of bronze, his limbs like bars of iron. **19** “He is the first of the works of God; let Him who made him bring near His sword! **20** For the mountains yield food for him where all the wild beasts play. **21** Under the lotus plants he lies, in the shelter of the reeds and in the marsh. **22** For his shade the lotus trees cover him; the willows of the brook surround him. **23** Behold, if the river is turbulent he is not frightened; he is confident though Jordan rushes against his mouth. **24** Can one take him by his eyes, or pierce his nose with a snare?

### **Job 41:1-34 (ESV)**

**1** “Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook or press down his tongue with a cord? **2** Can you put a rope in his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? **3** Will he make many pleas to you? Will he speak to you soft words? **4** Will he make a covenant with you to take him for your servant forever? **5** Will you play with him as with a bird, or will you put him on a leash for your girls? **6** Will traders bargain over him? Will they divide him up among the merchants? **7** Can you fill his skin with harpoons or his head with fishing spears? **8** Lay your hands on him; remember the battle--you will not do it again! **9** Behold, the hope of a man is false; he is laid low even at the sight of him. **10** No one is so fierce that he dares to stir him up. Who then is he who can stand before Me? **11** Who has first given to Me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine. **12** “I will not keep silence concerning his limbs, or his mighty strength, or his goodly frame. **13** Who can strip off his outer garment? Who would come near him with a bridle? **14** Who can open the doors of his face? Around his teeth is terror. **15** His back is made of rows of shields, shut up closely as with a seal. **16** One is so near to another that no air can come between them. **17** They are joined one to another; they clasp each other and cannot be separated. **18** His sneezings flash forth light, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the dawn. **19** Out of his mouth go flaming torches; sparks of fire leap forth. **20** Out of his nostrils comes forth smoke, as from a boiling pot and burning rushes. **21** His breath kindles coals, and a flame comes forth from his mouth. **22** In his neck abides strength, and terror dances before him. **23** The folds of his flesh stick together, firmly cast on him and immovable. **24** His heart is hard as a stone, hard as the lower millstone. **25** When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid; at the crashing they are beside themselves. **26** Though the sword reaches him, it does not avail, nor the spear, the dart, or the javelin. **27** He counts iron as straw, and bronze as rotten wood. **28** The arrow cannot make him flee; for him, sling stones are turned to stubble. **29** Clubs are counted as stubble; he laughs at the rattle of javelins. **30** His underparts are like sharp potsherds; he spreads himself like a threshing sledge on the mire. **31** He makes the deep boil like a pot; he makes the sea like a pot of ointment. **32** Behind him he leaves a shining wake; one would think the deep to be white-haired.

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### **Job 42:1-6 (ESV)**

**1** Then Job answered the LORD and said: **2** “I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. **3** ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. **4** ‘Hear, and I will speak; I will question You, and you make it known to me.’ **5** I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You; **6** therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

### **John 3:16-17 (ESV)**

**16** For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

### **Romans 5:8 (NIV)**

**8** But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### **Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV)**

**4** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.

### **1 John 4:9-10 (EXB)**

**9** This is how God showed [revealed] His love to us: He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we could have life through Him. **10** This is what real love is: It is not our love for God; it is God’s love for us. He sent His Son to die in our place to take away our sins as the atoning sacrifice/propitiation for our sins.

### **Job 42:10-11 (AMP)**

**10** The LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. **11** Then all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before came to him, and they ate bread with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him over all the [distressing] adversities that the LORD had brought on him. And each one gave him a piece of money, and each a ring of gold.

### **Quote by C. S. Lewis**

"The problem of reconciling human suffering with the existence of a God who loves, is only insoluble so long as we attach a trivial meaning to the word 'love.'"

## **Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff**

**You Will Suffer - John Piper**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--JiiuJNvt4>

## **Aging Peacefully - Melissa Edgington (Your Mom Has A Blog)**

<https://yourmomhasablog.com/2024/01/14/aging-peacefully/>

### **Job 38:1-41 (ESV)**

**1** Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: **2** “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? **3** Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to Me. **4** “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. **5** Who determined its measurements--surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? **6** On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, **7** when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? **8** “Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, **9** when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, **10** and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, **11** and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed’? **12** “Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, **13** that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? **14** It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. **15** From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken. **16** “Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? **17** Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? **18** Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this. **19** “Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, **20** that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home? **21** You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great! **22** “Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail, **23** which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? **24** What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth? **25** “Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain and a way for the thunderbolt, **26** to bring rain on a land where no man is, on the desert in which there is no man, **27** to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground sprout with grass? **28** “Has the rain a father, or who has begotten the drops of dew? **29** From whose womb did the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the frost of heaven? **30** The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. **31** “Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion? **32** Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children? **33** Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth? **34** “Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that a flood of waters may cover you? **35** Can you send forth lightnings, that they may go and say to you, ‘Here we are’? **36** Who has put wisdom in the inward parts or given understanding to the mind? **37** Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, **38** when the dust runs into a mass and the clods stick fast together? **39** “Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, **40** when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in their thicket? **41** Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God for help, and wander about for lack of food?

### **Job 39:1-30 (ESV)**

**1** “Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the does? **2** Can you number the months that they fulfill, and do you know the time when they give birth, **3** when they crouch, bring forth their offspring, and are delivered of their young? **4** Their young ones become strong; they grow up in the open; they go out and do not return to them. **5** “Who has let the wild donkey go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift donkey, **6** to whom I have given the arid plain for his home and the salt land for his dwelling place? **7** He scorns the tumult of the city; he hears not the shouts of the driver. **8** He ranges the mountains as his pasture, and he searches after every green thing. **9** “Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will he spend the night at your manger? **10** Can you bind him in the furrow with ropes, or will he harrow the valleys after you? **11** Will you depend on him because his strength is great, and will you leave to him your labor? **12** Do you have faith in him that he will return your grain and gather it to your threshing floor? **13** “The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, but are they the pinions and plumage of love? **14** For she leaves her eggs to the earth and lets them be warmed on the ground, **15** forgetting that a foot may crush them and that the wild beast may trample them. **16** She deals cruelly with her young, as if they were not hers; though her labor be in vain, yet she has no fear, **17** because God has made her forget wisdom and given her no share in understanding. **18** When she rouses herself to flee, she laughs at the horse and his rider. **19** “Do you give the horse his might? Do you clothe his neck with a mane? **20** Do you make him leap like the locust? His majestic snorting is terrifying. **21** He paws in the valley and exults in his strength; he goes out to meet the weapons. **22** He laughs at fear and is not dismayed; he does not turn back from the sword. **23** Upon him rattle the quiver, the flashing spear, and the javelin. **24** With fierceness and rage he swallows the ground; he cannot stand still at the sound of the trumpet. **25** When the trumpet sounds, he says ‘Aha!’ He smells the battle from afar, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting. **26** “Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars and spreads his wings toward the south? **27** Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes his nest on high? **28** On the rock he dwells and makes his home, on the rocky crag and stronghold. **29** From there he spies out the prey; his eyes behold it from far away. **30** His young ones suck up blood, and where the slain are, there is he.”

### **Psalms 115:1-8 (NIV)**

**1** Not to us, LORD, not to us but to Your name be the glory, because of Your love and faithfulness. **2** Why do the nations say, “Where is their God?” **3** Our God is in heaven; He does whatever pleases Him. **4** But their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands. **5** They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see. **6** They have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but cannot smell. **7** They have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but cannot walk, nor can they utter a sound with their throats. **8** Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.

### **Psalms 135:5-6 (NIV)**

**5** I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. **6** The LORD does whatever pleases Him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.



### **Isaiah 6:1-4 (ESV)**

**1** In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of His robe filled the temple. **2** Above Him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **3** And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" **4** And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of Him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. **5** And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

### **Isaiah 40:12-18 (NASB)**

**12** Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and measured the heavens with a span, and calculated the dust of the earth with a measure, and weighed the mountains in a balance and the hills in a pair of scales? **13** Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has informed Him? **14** With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge, and informed Him of the way of understanding? **15** Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust. **16** Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, nor its animals enough for a burnt offering. **17** All the nations are as nothing before Him, they are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless. **18** To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him?

### **Isaiah 40:21-26 (NIV)**

**21** Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? **22** He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. **23** He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. **24** No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than He blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. **25** To whom will you compare Me? Or who is My equal?" says the Holy One. **26** Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

### **Isaiah 43:10-13 (ESV)**

**10** "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after Me. **11** I, I am the LORD, and besides Me there is no Savior. **12** I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "and I am God. **13** Also henceforth I am He; there is none who can deliver from My hand; I work, and who can turn it back?"

### **Isaiah 45:5-7 (ESV)**

5 I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides Me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know Me, 6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides Me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. 7 I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things.

#### **Daniel 4:34-37 (NIV)**

34 At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified Him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; His kingdom endures from generation to generation. 35 All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back His hand or say to Him: "What have You done?" 36 At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything He does is right and all His ways are just. And those who walk in pride He is able to humble.

#### **Quote by Philip Yancey**

"Who would complain if God allowed one hour of suffering in an entire lifetime of comfort? Why complain about a lifetime that includes suffering when that lifetime is a mere hour of eternity?"

#### **Quote by Karen Bosch**

"As we cry to God, He hears, and dares us to look at things from His perspective."

#### **Quote by David W. Dyke**

"Job didn't get an answer to his questions. He had to accept the fact that a relationship with the One who knows the answers is better than the answers themselves."

#### **Quote by F. B. Meyer**

"Earthly prosperity is no sign of the special love of heaven; nor are sorrow and care any mark of God's disfavor, but the reverse. God's love is robust and true and eager--not for our own comfort, but for our lasting blessedness."

#### **Prayer by George Matheson**

"Teach me, dear God, the glory of my cross; teach me the value of my "thorn." Show me that I have climbed to Thee by the path of pain. Show me that my tears have made my rainbow."

#### **Mr. Beaver on Aslan-From *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe***

"He'll be coming and going. One day you'll see him and another you won't. He doesn't like being tied down - and of course he has other countries to attend to. It's quite all right. He'll often drop in. Only you mustn't press him. He's wild, you know. Not like a

tame lion." "Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy. "Safe?" said Mr Beaver; "don't you hear what Mrs Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

- C.S. Lewis, *The Lion The Witch, and The Wardrobe* in *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

### **Poem by J. J. Lynch**

Say not, my soul, "From whence  
Can God relieve my care?"  
Remember that Omnipotence  
Hath servants everywhere.

His help is always sure,  
His methods seldom guessed;  
Delay will make our pleasure pure;  
Surprise will give it zest.

His wisdom is sublime,  
His heart profoundly kind;  
God never is before His time,  
And never is behind.

Hast thou assumed a load  
Which none will bear with thee?  
And art thou bearing it for God,  
And shall He fail to see?

Be comforted at heart,  
Thou art not left alone;  
Now thou the Lord's companion art-  
Soon thou shalt share His throne.

- *Alliance Witness*, January 1, 1986, p.9.

### **What Do You Say To A Suffering Friend? - Tim Keller Q & A at MIT**

**Q:** Twelve days ago on February 14th, my best friend was diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer. What do I say to him and his wife that can be helpful?

**TK:** I really think there are so many ways to approach that person. Ah, if they ask you for something, if you have faith in the cross and the resurrection, and they ask you- talk to me about how you would handle this, talk to me about your faith, fine... Otherwise, listen... I can remember, there's a man named Joe Bayly, he's long gone now, he was a Christian author. (B. a. y. l. y.) And he--over the years--he lost three sons, who died; one in infancy, one through an accident when he was in his twenties, I forget how the other one... And he wrote a book after losing three children called, The View From A Hearse. And it was basically meditations on what it is like to lose your sons.

And there's one story that... *(boy--if you really want to get practical--I've given you enough philosophical answers--let me give you a practical one)* He, on one page, tells this story- when he was at the funeral of one of his sons, a man came to him and sat down. *(I wish I had the quote with me but I'll try to remember it.)* And the man sat down and told him that God had a plan for this, and told him that God would give him strength, and told him that *'all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purposes.'*--Romans 8:28. And Joe Bayly said, *'He talked and talked and talked and I couldn't wait for him to leave.'* And then he said, *'After he left, another man came and sat down beside him...and he didn't say anything unless I said something. And he spoke when I spoke to him. He was quiet when I was quiet. He didn't rant. He didn't lecture. He didn't try to give me any answers. And then he prayed with me. He just prayed for me. And he said, I hated to see him go.'*

So the first guy came in with all his Christian answers and he couldn't wait to see him leave. The second guy came in with nothing, except his presence, and he hated to see him go. And yet, you know what, that is very Christlike--why? Because God didn't sit up in heaven and send us an essay on the meaning of suffering. *(You know, floating it down and we go out and get it...)* He came Himself, without an answer, but with power. Because now I know God loves me, now I know He's with me. In a sense that second guy was being more Christlike than the first guy. That second guy was being more *(you might say)* Gospel-like than the first guy.

So if you're really looking... What I would do is, I would just be there for this person. I would speak when spoken to. I would do everything... and by the way, when the death comes, don't drop that person for at least a year--go by and see them all the time... Pray with them and for them--they will almost always take that... And if they say to you, *'I want to talk--tell me how do you handle these things, what is your faith, what is your belief about that?'* Then if you want to, if they ask you, then you can say something. Otherwise, you know, be more like Jesus--be there but don't bring the answers.