

Four Responses to Suffering  
*The Story of Job*

**The Big Idea:**  
What we allow to shape our perspective (theology, people, circumstances) will impact our view of God when suffering happens.  
  
**Context and Background**

The Retribution Principle:  
*“A common belief that the righteous will prosper and the wicked will suffer.”*

**Job’s Loss and Response***“At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head.”* v20

Lament: *[def: to express one's deep grief about]*“Watch what you reach for when you are in pain.” Aaron Stern

**Job’s Wife’s Response**Job 2:9-10

**Job’s Friends’ Response**Job 2:13  
  
Job 3:1-5, 11-13, 24-26

Job 4 to Job 371. You can have good theology, but bad timing.  
2. You can have good theology, but a bad spirit.  
3. You can have good theology, but bad application of it. **JOB’S FRIENDS BAD THEOLOGY  
  
1. All suffering is the result of someone’s sin (chapter 4)  
  
  
2. If you just repent you won’t suffer (Ch 7:5-6)  
  
  
3. You get what you deserve  
  
  
4. The innocent don’t suffer**God’s grace is conditioned on his grace, not our merit. **God’s Response**Job 38: 1-13

**1. God is wholly other.**  
**2. God is the sustainer of the world.**  
**3. Trust God’s wisdom and creative ways; even when you can’t figure it out.**

**Job’s Response to God**  
  
*Job 42:1-6*