

Job 6.1-7, Part 2—Seeing Christ in Job’s Experiences

The perennial question driving the narrative of Job is this: Why is God treating Job this way? The answer is found in the coming of Christ.

The Messianic message of the OT

- I. Remember how Christ summarized the OT, Lk 24.25-27, 44-47
 - A. Christ reproved the disciples of foolishness and unbelief because their own Scriptures prophesied that the Saviour would enter His glory through the straits of suffering, vv. 25, 46
- II. This was not clearly prophesied in proof-texts, but it was very much woven into the fabric of Israel’s history via types and shadows.
 - A. Consider the story of Joseph
 - B. Consider the story of David
 - C. Consider the experiences of David in the psalms
 - D. There’s a “messianic trajectory” running throughout the OT, a trajectory that teaches the Messiah will reach the heights of His glory through the depths of suffering. This is what Jesus is thinking of when He says, “Thus it is written.”

The Messianic message in Job

- I. This messianic trajectory is seen in Job more clearly than in any other OT narrative.
 - A. Job is introduced to us as more pious and prosperous than any other man on earth, 1.1, 3, 8, 10. He’s raised up without equal.
 - B. But then, all at once, with no explanation at all, Job is cast down to lower depths of suffering and humiliation than any man had ever experienced before. His entire world came crashing down in a single moment. He had nothing left to lose but his life and wondered why he was still alive.
 - C. His friends see his sufferings and say he’s guilty of sin—although God already told us that he’s not, 1.1, 8; 2.3. Job also knows he’s not being punished for sin, so he maintains his innocence—although he doesn’t have an answer for his sufferings either.
 - D. By the end of the book, the Lord rebukes the friends, owns Job as His servant, and gave him twice as much as he had before.
- II. In this sense, there’s nothing ordinary about Job’s story. It’s a story of humiliation and exaltation in the extreme. None was higher, none was cast lower, and yet he was lifted higher still.

Seeing Christ in Job’s Suffering

- I. Thus, Job’s sufferings are a small, finite window into the infinite, inscrutable sufferings of the Son of God.
 - A. Job didn’t suffer as an atoning Substitute for sinners, as Christ did. And Job didn’t suffer the unmixed wrath of God as Christ did. But there are parallels which serve to foreshadow Christ’s suffering as our atoning Lamb. Consider:
 1. Job’s friends were oblivious to his real suffering, Lk 12.50

2. Job cries out in exasperation, 6.2-4; Mk 14.37
3. Job is troubled by God’s arrows, 6.4; Mk 14.34
4. Job refuses to take the counsel of his friends, 6.7; Mt 16.22; cp. Mk 15.29-32
5. Job appeals to his friends, asking for their help, 6.28-30; Mt 26.38
6. Job began higher than any man, 1.3, 8; Jn 1.1-3
7. Job lost every sign of his former glory, Job 2.7-8, 12-13; Phil 2.6-7
8. Job’s friends were miserable comforters, 16.2; Mt 10.4; 26.56
9. Job was mocked by all who knew him, 30.9; Mk 15.20
10. Job suffered all alone, Mt 26.56
11. Job was cast lower than any man in suffering, 2.13; Phil 2.8
12. Job suffered as the wicked do, though innocent, 9.15; 2Cor 5.21
13. Job was accused of sin, though he had none, Gal 3.13
14. Job’s greatest woe was that he’d lost all sense of God’s favor and felt like he was being treated like an enemy, 13.24; Mk 15.34
15. Job cried to God, 10.18-22; 13.15; Heb 5.7; Mt 26.39
16. Job learned obedience and submission to God through suffering, Heb 5.8
17. After his suffering was finished, Job was exalted higher than any man ever was, 42.10, 12; Phil 2.9-11

- II. This teaches us two things:
 - A. Ultimately, the cross of Jesus is the answer to Job’s suffering, the answer to all his cries of “Why?”
 - B. If Job’s complaints ever seem to overstep the bounds of faithful submission, remember that he’s only a type of Christ, and not His equal.

How should you respond?

- I. When you read of how greatly Job was humbled, think of how great your Saviour’s humiliation was when God became man, Jn 1.14
- II. When you contemplate the extremity of Job’s anguish, be humbled by the great anguish of Christ for you, Lam 1.12; Isa 53.3
- III. When you’re confronted with the cries of Job’s pain and agony, recall the cries of your Saviour when He endured your hell, Mt 27.46
- IV. When you hear Job speak of the arrows, horrors, and terrors of the Almighty, be thankful that Christ bore the unbearable wrath of God for you, Rom 5.9; 1Th 1.9-10
- V. When you see in this faint picture what Christ suffered for your sakes, stop and consider the kind of life you should live in response; consider what you owe Him who paid out so much in suffering to purchase your freedom, 1Cor 6.19-20; 1Pet 1.18-19
- VI. When Job’s great suffering leads you to think of Christ’s greater suffering, ask yourself, “Can you not endure a little suffering for Him who suffered so much for you?” Never forget that the claim of the love of God in Christ is upon you. So live accordingly.