

WOULD YOU DISCREDIT THE JUSTICE OF GOD?

(Job 40:6-14)

A crisis of faith in the midst of enormous suffering has shaken the core of Job's perspective of God. In the gravity of his affliction, he cannot accept any explanation for his pain and agony other than the charge that God is being unfair and unjust towards him (Job 19:6-11; 27:2; 30:20-23). It is this issue of God's justice that the LORD addresses in His second speech to Job (Job 40-41). In these chapters, God continues His divine interrogation of Job. In His series of questions, God teaches Job and all of us about a timeless lesson that will resolve our crisis of faith in our own seasons of trials: *No matter how severe our sufferings are, we must always trust in God's perfect justice and gracious love.* To further understand this lesson, let's consider two features of God's perfect justice.

1. God alone could _____ the proud and the wicked.

In voicing out his perceived unfair dealings of God with him, Job had gone too far. He called into question the justice of God and even condemned the LORD to prove that he was right (Job 40:6-8). Questioning the justice of God is essentially slandering the character of God. God's justice means that God always acts in accordance with what is right, good, holy and true. God governs the world and rules over our lives with uncompromising justice and perfect righteousness (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 97:1-2; 9:7-9; Revelation 15:3-4; Job 34:10; Romans 2:11).

In response to Job's complaint, God challenged Job to assume His divine role as the Supreme Judge of all the earth (Job 40:9-14). God dared Job to take over the reins of the universe and execute perfect and holy judgment to abase the proud and punish the wicked. Job was speechless. He knew that he didn't have the sovereign arm of God's power and thunderous voice of God's authority. If Job could not even deal with the pride and arrogance in his own heart, how much more could he address the sins of others, let alone, be the governing judge of all mankind. Only God could execute perfect and righteous judgment through the One He has appointed as the perfect Judge (Psalm 75:2-10; Acts 17:3). Upon the return of Christ, our Lord Jesus will gather all believers, bring the redeemed to eternal glory, avenge His people, punish all the wicked and put an end to injustice, pain, evil, death and sin (2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Revelation 20:7-15; 21:1-8).

2. God alone could satisfy His justice with His _____.

Job's sufferings point us to the Perfect Sufferer who is our Lord Jesus. The gravity, intensity and perplexity of Job's sufferings reach their climax at the suffering and death of Christ. On the Cross, our Lord Jesus who is perfectly righteous died the death of a condemned and judged sinner. Jesus's atoning death is the only way for proud and wicked sinners like us to be delivered from God's eternal judgment. This is the very heart of the gospel: God the Father lovingly and graciously sacrificed His own beloved Son Jesus who willingly offered Himself as our Substitute (1 Peter 3:18; Romans 5:8-11). In the person and work of our Lord Jesus, God's justice was completely satisfied by Christ's vicarious sacrifice on the Cross. God pours out His holy and just wrath on Jesus so that He could graciously grant us full acceptance, complete forgiveness, eternal life and everlasting joy. If you grasp the magnitude of God's great love for you in Christ, no suffering in this life could cause you to question and doubt the steadfast love of God. God's gracious love for us never changes even in the darkest seasons of sufferings.
