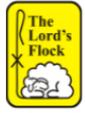


Finding the Answers

(Part 1)

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

Does God get tired of our questions? We are free to ask questions about our faith and our prayers (Jas. 4:2). One of the most difficult questions provokes us (Ps. 107:1): Is God good? God is always good. However, there might be people who do not think so because of unfortunate circumstances. Jesus himself asks questions and wants to find answers, “who do people say I am?” (Mt 15). If we expect to get closer to God, we should not be afraid to ask God. In the same way, God asks questions to let people search their own hearts.

1. Many people in the Bible questioned God:

- 1.1. Moses: “What have I done that you put the burden of all these people on me?” (Num.11:11).
- 1.2. Mary: “How can this be?” (Lk 1:45).
- 1.3. Saul: “Who are you, Lord?”

2. Job was upright, God-fearing, and yet faced multiple unbearable problems (Job 1-8, 17-17):

- 2.1. His problems were very personal. In quick succession, he lost his treasures, his life’s work, his children, his wife, and his health. Yet, he remained in reverence and awe of God.
- 2.2. Most of us have sympathy for people who have the same problem/s as Job. Our question is why are we suffering despite turning our lives to Jesus (Eph.1:7). So, we should be sincere of heart, steadfast, and patient (Si. 2:2-9). When we feel desperate, “God will make a way for us where there seems to be no way” (Isa.43:19).

3. Job inquired God. Job asked God numerous perennial questions. He lamented his sufferings (Job 3:11).

- 3.1. Hardship is a natural part of human existence (Job 5:7). Man is born into trouble.
- 3.2. Why do the wicked live (Job 21:7; Job 21:17)?

4. Why does God allow His followers to suffer?

- 3.1 “If you want to be my disciple, follow my footsteps” (Mt.16:24).
- 3.2 SIN separates us from God (Rom. 6:23). No one is good except God who is the standard of goodness.
- 3.3 God is patient; He is giving us time to repent and change, so no one will perish. Habakkuk doubted God although he knew God is merciful and faithful (Hab 1:1-11).
- 3.4 He is also the God of justice. He cannot tolerate evil. God responded: “Write the vision; then wait; the vision will surely happen” (Hab. 2:2-3).
- 3.5 God allows trials to strengthen our character and perfect us (1 Pet. 5:10; 1 Cor. 1:4).

4. God challenged Job.

- 4.1 Where were you when the original vision was handed? (Job 38:4; Job 38:12). God challenged Job’s limited knowledge compared to God’s infinite wisdom.
- 4.2 Similarly, our human knowledge is limited. We just need to trust God’s plan and purpose.

5. Job acknowledged God’s supreme wisdom (Job 42:3).

- He recognized God’s
- 5.1 sufficiency.
 - 5.2 sovereignty.
 - 5.3 superiority.

Conclusion: We will all be tested by fire. When we are besieged with questions, let us remember the goodness of God. God has a plan, (Rom. 8:28) purpose (Eph. 2:10), and power (Lk. 1:37).

Reflection: What is your first response when trouble comes your way?

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