

## Conclusion

Job is the one to bring up this question, and it was essentially his claim when he was lost. How could God allow *him* to suffer? *Him*, who was so righteous? Where he had gone wrong? His wife gave him a first possibility; that it was a sign that Job's time was come, but Job dismissed this as an unfaithful idea, and her view is disregarded for her lack of faith in God. Job's friends come to try to help him, but they focus too much on God's fury and punitive nature, which misrepresents God. Job complains in vain and becomes increasingly assertive, and a young Elihu answers with a young and temperate heart that it's humility that Job lacks. God is almighty and omniscient while Job is mortal and insignificant, a fact that the latter seems to forget. God echoes Elihu's thought, and Job is humbled and suffers no more.

The lack of faith in God, as with Job's wife, or the misjudgment of God's intentions, as with Eliphaz and Bildad and Zophar, or an undeserved arrogance, as with Job, lead to the "unrighteousness" that justifies God's punishment. It is not that only simple "righteousness" that exempts a person from suffering; according to the Book of Job, it is a mix of faith and fear (of God's Almightyness). Elihu exemplifies the perfect believer in God, one who will never suffer because he believes in God and believes that every blip is part of a greater godly plan. Job's lack of faith in God and his humility, as well as his friends' incorrect interpretations of God, were righted when God appeared before them and spoke with them, and thus they all lived freely and peacefully for the rest of their long and idyllic lives.

Satan also plays a role in this question. Satan was the instigator of Job's suffering, pressuring God into letting him do evil on Job. God only allowed the righteous Job to endure the pain (but not death) as a test of faith, to show that Job would still not curse God despite the circumstances. Thus, God may let injustice reign on righteous individuals, but only for the good cause of testing faith.

Therefore, **God allows the righteous to suffer only as brief tests of faith, and only if they believe in Him and His greatness.**