

# Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

## Week 21: Dealing With Adversity - Answer Guide

*Below is the answer guide for this week's lesson. By no means are the answers complete or the only possible responses to each question. They are a guide to fully understanding the intent of the questions posed.*

1. Here are a couple examples:

Sumerians: Dialogue Between a Man and His God

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dialogue\\_between\\_a\\_Man\\_and\\_His\\_God](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dialogue_between_a_Man_and_His_God)

Babylonian: The Poem of the Righteous Sufferer

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludlul\\_bēl\\_nēmeqi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludlul_bēl_nēmeqi)

2. According to most Biblical scholars, the sons of God are angelic beings created by God that surround His throne and are part of His council. They are assigned specific tasks by God which they are seen carrying out throughout Scripture. Reference John 10:34-35 where Jesus refers to Psalm 82.

A good source to read on this subject is *The Unseen Realm* by Michael Heiser.

3. Humans living in the physical realm have a tendency to try and fix things or explain why things are broken without seeking divine wisdom. Their eyes are fixated on the natural (physical) and not the supernatural (spiritual). Job's friends believe that Job's condition is brought about because of Job's hidden, unconfessed, sins. (Job 5:17, 8:4, etc.) Compare what Jesus' disciples thought about this subject in John 9:2.

4. <https://psychcentral.com/blog/the-old-man-and-his-horse#3>

When bad things happen to people, especially non-believers, it is most certain they do not see the "big" picture or what is going on "behind the scenes." The same is true with God working in a believer's life (Reference Jeremiah 29:11 and Romans 8:28). We live in a physical, natural world effected by a spiritual world we rarely acknowledge. Our point of view is narrow whereas God's is panoramic.

5. Job claims to be innocent of unconfessed sin. It seems he's not sure why these horrible events have taken place in his life. Although he holds a high view of God, he still expresses remorse and self-pity. Eventually he will conclude that it was God's will that he suffers for His glory.

6. This may be the earliest depiction in Scripture of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, God who came to earth (vs 25). Job expresses confidence he will one day be redeemed. Job quotes, "after his skin is destroyed" (after he dies) he will be in the presence of God, a strong testimony of Job's faith in God.

7. Job seems unaware of the "charges" brought against him, just the consequences of those charges. The actual charges stem from a heavenly wager between Satan and God. There are flickering signs of hope when Job focuses more on the Causer (God) than on the causes of his turmoil.

The story of the man that was blind from birth found in John 9 has several similarities to Job. Like Job, the blind man (or his parents) was accused by outsiders of concealed sin which had led to his demise. As in Job, God's will was established so that His works would be displayed and His glory shown. Jesus ended up healing the man of his blindness, whereas God ended up blessing Job in abundance. The lesson in either of these cases is that regardless of our consequences we are commanded to live as vessels filled with the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's will for His glory. It is not about us, but about Jesus!

**8.** God’s providence, sovereignty and control mean that nothing on earth happens that has not been filtered through His hands. He is all-knowing and all-powerful. He allows evil to occur as part of His master plan of revealing His glory. Like Job, Paul states that our earthly battles are manifestations of the spiritual battle between God and the adversary. Living in the flesh certainly hinders us from acknowledging this fact. To be victorious in our walk, we must recognize the spiritual realm and use the weapons (Ephesians 6) at our disposal to be victorious. Notice the Word of God (the sword) is the only offensive weapon Paul mentions. Prayer is the most important component in dealing with suffering. Paul may well have been thinking of Job when he wrote Ephesians and Romans 8.

Again, it is recommended you read *The Unseen Realm* by Michael Heiser to get a better view of the spiritual realm.

**9.** Even when pressed to curse God, Job never wavered in his faith during his trial. He may have questioned God’s ways, not understanding what God was doing, but he always trusted in God.

As Christians, we know that God causes ALL things to work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). We live our lives continuously with our eyes on Christ! God allows things that we consider evil or bad in our lives so that His greater glory can be exposed to the world.

**10.** One life lesson to glean from Job is that there is a spiritual battle going on between the forces of darkness and the Spirit of Light. That battle often manifests itself in the physical realm in which we live.

Other lessons could be:

1. True faith never wavers; faith often alleviates pain. Hebrews 5:8 reveals we can learn obedience through our suffering.
2. We live for hope in the future that Jesus will return and take us to heaven with Him (John 14:1-6)
3. Persecution is inevitable, so always keep our eyes on Christ (Matthew 5:10)
4. Remember, God is sovereign and always in control (Ephesians 1:4-6)

**11.** The Hebrew meaning of the name Job is “hated.” This is an interesting name since Job 1:1 says that Job was “blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.” This name, therefore, may allude to the fact that Satan hated Job, God’s devoted servant. However, within the name may be a hidden message as shown below.

Hebrew Letter	(Alpha Numeric)	Meaning	Remarks
א Aleph	(1)	Ox, Father	Aleph & Bet act as two “bookends”
י Yod	(10)	Strong arm, accomplishes	
ו Waw	(6)	Man	
ב Bet	(2)	House	

Taken as a whole word, the aleph and bet at the beginning and end of Job’s name encompass the yod and waw as alphabet bookends. The yod and waw inside symbolize that God (Aleph) has strongarmed (Yod) man (Waw) and his household (Bet), which is what God seems to have done with Job.

## **Additional Questions:**

1. As stated above in questions 9 and 10, Christians must take the point of view that a spiritual battle rages in the spiritual realm between the forces of good and evil. Christians react to evil knowing that God has allowed it and He will get them through it. They should always seek His will and be faithful to live by faith knowing their hope is in Jesus. Evil is allowed in this world to bring about the glory of God. Throughout scripture Satan has tried to usurp the will of God only to discover that God's providence allowed his actions and the end result is to bring about God's glory.

2. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

