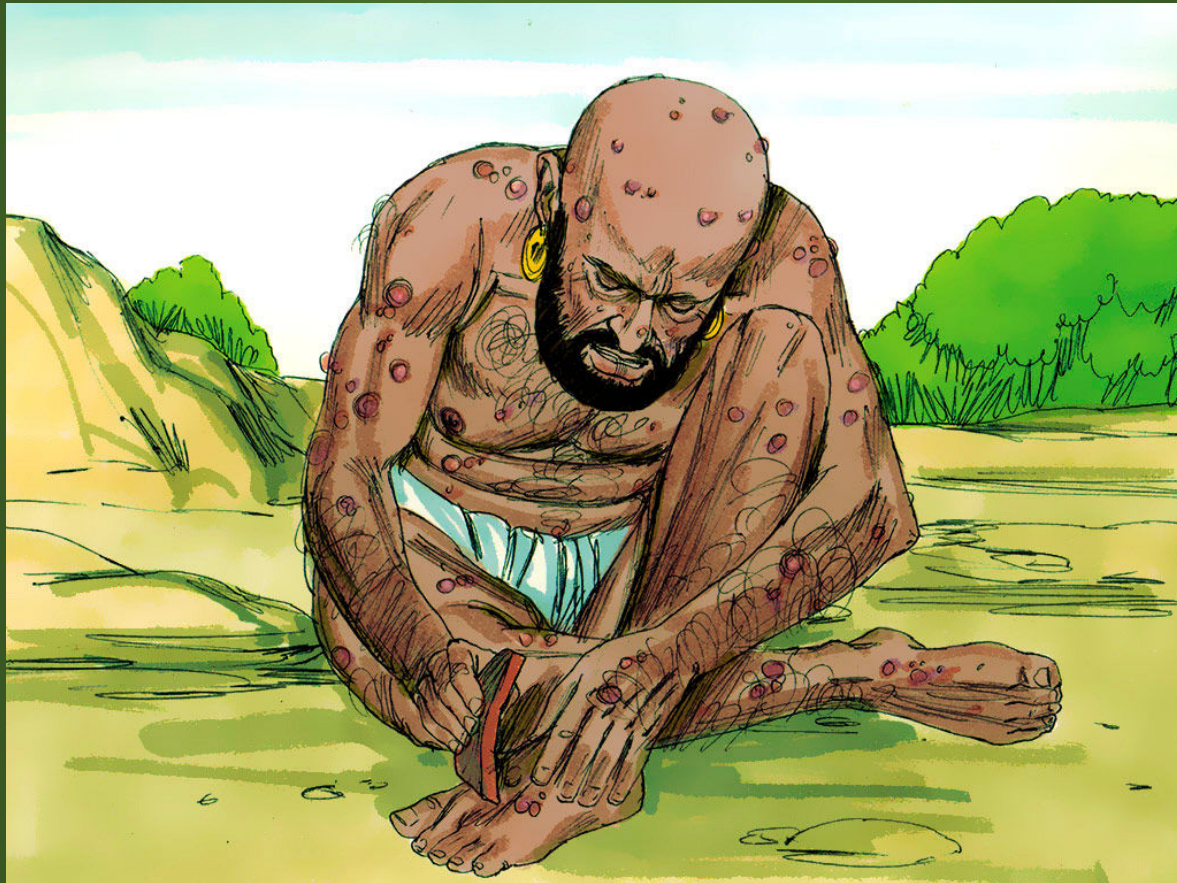


# The Job Paradox

Why is there suffering in the world?



# The Job Paradox

What is a paradox?

*“Come now, let us reason together,”* says the Lord.  
Isaiah 1:18

There are no contradictions in the universe.

# The Job Paradox

## Abraham's mini paradox.

1. God said that Isaac would have many descendants.
2. Isaac has no children yet.
3. God said kill Isaac now.
4. Therefore God will raise Isaac from the dead.

*“Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.”*

Hebrews 11:19

# The Job Paradox

Why is there suffering in the world?

“The total amount of suffering per year in the natural world is beyond all decent contemplation. ... In a universe of electrons and selfish genes, blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get lucky, and others not, and you won't find any meaning or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pitiless indifference.”

Richard Dawkins

# The Job Paradox

Why is there suffering in the world?

1. If God is all-good, He would destroy evil.
2. If God is all-powerful, He could destroy evil.
3. But evil is not yet destroyed.
4. Therefore no such God exists.

# The Job Paradox

Why is there suffering in the world?

1. An all-good God must have a good purpose for everything.
2. But some suffering has no good purpose.**that we know of.**
- 
3. Therefore there is not an all-good God.

# The Job Paradox

## Possible purposes for suffering

1. Allowing genuine free will requires allowing suffering.
2. Pain protects us.
3. Suffering draws us to God.
4. Suffering takes away dependence on other things (idols).
5. Suffering develops character.
6. We are in the birth-pains of the new world.

# The Job Paradox

Why is there suffering in the world?

*“For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.”*

Romans 8:22

*“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”*

Romans 8:18



# The Job Paradox

Why is there suffering in the world?

*“For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.  
And after my skin has been thus destroyed,  
yet in my flesh I shall see God,  
whom I shall see for myself,  
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.  
My heart faints within me!”*

Job 19: 25-17

# The Job Paradox

## Lessons from Job

1. God is in control.
2. Suffering is real.
3. Not all suffering is deserved.
4. God is with you even if it doesn't feel like it.
5. God doesn't always explain why.
6. Being honest with God helps.
7. Reflecting on God's awesomeness helps.
8. You can still praise God in the suffering.

# The Job Paradox

You can still worship God in the suffering

*Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshipped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."*

**Job 1:20-21**