

Good Grief — Having a Small God Leads to Big Problems

Andy Deane · 3/17/2024 · Job 38-42

Some seem to believe that God is only slightly smarter than them and only slightly bigger than them. This gives the illusion that we can fully understand God's plans, and maybe even control Him. Many spiritual problems (doubt, apathy, unhappiness, insecurity) come from a view of God that is too small. Today we'll see how wise and powerful God is, and how that is a good thing for us to remember while we're suffering.

The majesty of God can remove any doubt that we have about the wisdom of God to allow suffering.

- God doesn't answer Job, instead He questions Job's capacity as a human to even try and question God.
 - Where you around when I shaped the earth? (38:4)
 - What were you doing when I put the constellations together?" (38:31)
 - Where do storms come from and can you predict when they are coming? (38:34)
 - Where were you when I created the dinosaur? (Job 40:15–24; 41:1–4)
- If you can't fathom all the mystery behind natural things, are you really in place to understand eternal things?
- "A god small enough to be understood is not big enough to worship" (Evelyn Underhill)
- To understand infinite justice, you need infinite perspective.
- Job wanted answers God gave him His presence, and it was enough.

The suffering of God can remove any doubt that we have about the goodness of God to allow suffering.

- Jesus, *was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain...* (Isaiah 53:3)
- That Jesus went to the cross proves God's goodness to save us, even if it means His own suffering.

Our future joy is revealed to us now to help us endure suffering!

- James 5:11, *You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.*
- We will all have our own "post-suffering" moment in the future:
 - *Blessed...latter part of...life more than...former part..* (Job 42:12)
 - *After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years...* (Job 42:16)
- In this scene we're given a glimpse of what eternity will be like, when God restores all we've lost & gives us joy.

What do we really need in our suffering?

- "Our grief reminds us that this world is broken. We are in need of a Savior. One who will repair all the jagged, painful pieces of life." (Kristyn Perez, Gospel Hope in Grief & Loss)
- We think we need explanations so we can understand our suffering. We are like Job and his friends—we think, "God if you would just explain it all to me I'd be satisfied", but what we really need is a revelation of a God who is big enough to work out all our suffering for good.

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- Text PLAYLIST to (951)425-4425 for songs our worship pastor put together for those in a season of suffering.
 - Text BETTERDAYS to (951)425-4425 to learn about our Mental Health Conference in August.