

What Are We To Do When Suffering Hits us?

1. Read the Book of Job, which teaches us a) that it is permissible to argue with God, and b) God's loving wisdom is mysterious beyond anything that we can imagine. This book struggles with the question of the suffering of the innocent. Does it find an answer? That is for you to decide.
2. How does it begin? (1:1-5); Satan's dare: 1:6-12)
3. How does it continue? Job loses patience and curses the day he was born (3:3-4), and almost curses God (13; 16:11-12, 19:6, 11) as his wife urges (2:9!)
4. How does it end? Prose "they all lived happily ever afterwards", which many people find offensive. But 42:7 vindicates Job against the friends. Who has the best arguments?
5. Traditional proverbial wisdom 4:7; 8:8); three incomplete cycles of speeches presenting the traditional view.
6. The wisdom of God (11:7)
7. In response Job demands evidence: (6:22-24).
8. Hymn of praise to Wisdom (28, esp. 28:12-20); does it deal with the argument?
9. The contrasts in Job's life: 29:4-10 → 30:1, 9-10
10. The appearance of God: humans cannot understand God. Some wonderful passages: 38:4-10; 39:19-25; 40:15-24 (Behemoth); and Leviathan (40:33-41:26)
11. Job admits that God is utterly beyond him (40:4-5; 42:2-4)

Conclusion: 42:10-16 how satisfactory is this ending?