

Job: Fruitful Wrestling in the Puzzles of Life

- 'the steadfastness of Job...and the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.' (James 5:11)

Job opens our eyes to the mysterious mercy of God's saving purpose to lead us to mature manhood through *our steadfast perseverance*.

4 Keys to understanding the book of Job

we need to recognize, and not miss

1. The Steadfastness of God's Servant

- in both his suffering and his speech, as he struggles with God
1:1, 8; 2:3 in the light of 28:28; and 42:7,8
42:5b-6 'Now I have seen you. Therefore I *reject* (my previously inadequate knowledge) and am *comforted* upon dust and ashes'

2. The Silencing of God's Satan

- despite his savagery and his subtlety
 - ch 1-2: by Job's steadfast faith
 - ch3-37: in Job's satanic "comforters", who have no answers
 - throughout the book – in the dark shadows of evil

3. The Story of God's Sovereignty

- in all its vast scope and unsearchable secrets
Elihu - ? the beginning of answers. God is still speaking: listen!
The LORD – who uses *all* things, even terrible *evil* for good

4. The Shadows of God's Salvation

- both in its Shape and its Saviour
the hope in a mediator (9:32; 16:19) and a redeemer (19:25)
the shape of a suffering Servant

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