

“Shall We Indeed Accept Good from God, and Not Adversity?”

THE QUESTION:

When Job was struck by devastating loss—his wealth, his health, and even his children—he turned to his grieving wife and said:

“Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?”

(Job 2:10, NKJV)

This raises a deep theological question:

Do times of trouble also come from God? Or does God only give us what is pleasant?

THE ANSWER:

Let’s read the full verse in Job 2:10 (NKJV):

“But he said to her, ‘You speak as one of the foolish women

speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?’ In all this Job did not sin with his lips.”

Job’s response shows a mature understanding of God’s sovereignty. He acknowledges that God is in control of all things, not just the good, but also the difficult. Importantly, Job did not accuse God of wrongdoing—he trusted that God had a purpose, even if he didn’t understand it at the time.

DOES GOD SEND EVIL?

It’s critical to understand that God is not the author of evil. Scripture affirms this:

“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.”

(James 1:13, NKJV)

God may permit adversity, suffering, or testing—but He does not

produce moral evil. Evil arises from the fallen world, human sin, and the activity of Satan. However, God sovereignly uses even painful circumstances for His redemptive purposes.

This is seen clearly in Joseph’s story:

“But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”
(Genesis 50:20, NKJV)

PURPOSE IN SUFFERING

Adversity is often God’s tool for transformation. What seems like loss may be preparation for greater gain. God’s refining work in us happens in trials:

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”

(James 1:2-3, NKJV)

Job’s story is a powerful example of this. Though he lost everything, God restored him with double:

“Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning...”

(Job 42:12, NKJV)

Job didn’t know it, but his suffering had a divine purpose. God was vindicating Job’s faith, exposing the schemes of Satan (Job 1:6-12), and preparing Job for a deeper understanding of God’s greatness (Job 38-42).

SEEING THE BIGGER PICTURE

Sometimes what appears to be “bad” is simply the process leading to something better:

- When Israel was surrounded by the Aramean army (2 Kings 6-7), the siege led to a miraculous deliverance and abundance.

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- When Samson faced a lion, God used it to bring him honey (Judges 14:8-9).
- A woman in labor pains endures momentary suffering, but rejoices in the birth of new life (John 16:21).

In all these examples, adversity was the doorway to breakthrough.

DEVELOPING GODLY CHARACTER

Seasons of testing are where godly character is formed:

- Patience (Romans 5:3-4)
- Humility (1 Peter 5:6)
- Endurance (Hebrews 12:7-11)
- Faith (1 Peter 1:6-7)

God uses these seasons to conform us to the image of Christ (Romans 8:28-29). What we often call “bad times” may actually be God’s way of making us more like Jesus.

GOD DOES NOT DESTROY HIS CHILDREN

Let’s be clear: God does not bring destruction to His children.

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“If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?... how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”
(Luke 11:11,13, NKJV)

God disciplines, yes (Hebrews 12:6), but never to destroy. His goal is always restoration and growth. He is a good Father—even when He allows hardship.

THE END OF JOB: A TESTIMONY OF GOD’S MERCY

James 5:11 (NKJV) sums it up perfectly:

“Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”

God’s goal was not to break Job, but to bless him—and through

his endurance, Job received a deeper revelation of God and greater blessings than he had before.

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

So when Job asked, “*Shall we accept good from God, and not adversity?*”—he wasn’t suggesting that God is the source of evil. He was affirming that God is sovereign over every season, including those of sorrow and pain.

As believers, we can rest in the truth that:

- God allows trials with a purpose.
- No pain is ever wasted.
- And the end of the story will reveal God’s goodness.

So trust Him—not just in the blessing, but also in the battle.

The Lord is good, and His mercy endures forever.
May He strengthen you in every season you’re in.

Would You Like to Receive Jesus?

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If you'd like help receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, we'd love to talk with you and pray for you.

Please reach out using the contact information below.

This decision is the most important step toward living a life of purpose, peace, and eternal hope.

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