

THE RETRIBUTION DOGMA | QUID PRO QUO (3) JOB 11:1-6

Thoughts:

- People suffer
- All people suffer → the common burden

- Most people suffer alone → the lonely burden

- People suffer in so many ways

- Few, if any, suffer like Job

- Most people **believe** their suffering is the worst → worse than Job's

- Most people don't know why they are suffering / they suffer
 Few know, more should know but very few actually know.
- Most people **do know** why other people suffer

We are going to look at an **expanded triangle!**

Justice	Beyond justice Justice ⁺⁺⁺ Justice and beyond	No justice
Formulaic	Personal	Impersonal
Mechanical	Heavenly father	Mechanical - but simply in nature
Retribution dogma	Retribution ⁺⁺⁺ A highly, expanded retribution dogma	No retribution dogma

How do we expand the triangle (ideas of the triangle)?

1. God is just **but much more than just!**

Exodus 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: **Exodus 20:5** Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me; **Exodus 20:6** And shewing mercy unto thousands (*generation*) of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, **that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:**

Exodus 34:5 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

Exodus 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, **The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Exodus 34:7** Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

Justice & judgment? Yes

Merciful, gracious, longsuffering, abundant in goodness and truth? Yes, much, much, much more

Nehemiah 9:17 And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: **but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.** **Nehemiah 9:18** Yea, when they had made them a molten calf, and said, This is thy God that brought thee up out of Egypt, and had wrought great provocations; **Nehemiah 9:19** Yet thou in **thy manifold mercies** forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to shew them light, and the way wherein they should go.

Nehemiah 9:27 Therefore thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed them: and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and according to **thy manifold mercies** thou gavest them saviours, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies. **Nehemiah 9:28** But after they had rest, they did evil again before thee: therefore leftest thou them in the hand of their enemies, so that they had the dominion over them: yet when they returned, and cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and many times didst thou deliver them according to **thy mercies;**

Nehemiah 9:31 Nevertheless for **thy great mercies' sake** thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou art a gracious and merciful God. **Nehemiah 9:32** Now therefore, **our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who keepest covenant and mercy,** let not all the trouble seem little before thee, that hath come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all thy people, since the time of the kings of Assyria unto this day. **Nehemiah 9:33** Howbeit **thou art just in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly:**

Psalms 103:8 **The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.** **Psalms 103:9** He will **not** always chide: **Neither** will he keep his anger for ever. **Psalms 103:10** He hath **not** dealt with us after our sins; **Nor** rewarded us according to our iniquities. **Psalms 103:11** **For** as the heaven is high above the earth, **So great** is his mercy toward them that fear him. **Psalms 103:12** **As far as** the east is from the west, **So far** hath he removed our transgressions from us. **Psalms 103:13** **Like as** a father pitieth his children, **So** the LORD pitieth them that fear him. **Psalms 103:14** **For** he knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.

Joel 2:13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, And turn unto the LORD your God: **For he is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness, And repenteth him of the evil.** **Joel 2:14** Who knoweth if he will return and repent, And leave a blessing behind him; Even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?

Jonah 4:1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry. **Jonah 4:2** **And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.**

Nahum 1:2 God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; The LORD revengeth, and is furious; The LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, And he reserveth wrath for his enemies. **Nahum 1:3** The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, And will not at all acquit the wicked: The LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds are the dust of his feet.

Acts 13:38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: **Acts 13:39** And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

2. The Retribution Dogma is true as long as it includes large amounts of grace, mercy, forgiveness, the future and Christ!

Romans 15:13 Now **the God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, **that ye may abound in hope,** through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; **2 Corinthians 4:18** While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Revelation 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. **Revelation 15:4** Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Revelation 16:4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. **Revelation 16:5** And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. **Revelation 16:6** For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. **Revelation 16:7** And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. **Revelation 19:12** His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. **Revelation 19:13** And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. **Revelation 19:14** And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. **Revelation 19:15** And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. **Revelation 19:16** And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Grace: giving us what we don't deserve

Mercy: not giving us what we deserve

Forgiveness: removing what we most assuredly deserve

Hope: breathing room!

3. Job – was it sin?

Why did Job suffer?

Job 2:8 And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.

Job was suffering.

Suffering is only caused by sin.

Job's sin was and is not obvious.

Let the search begin!

Let the gossip begin!

1. It's just sin → simply sin

Job 4:7 Remember, I pray thee, **who ever perished, being innocent? Or where were the righteous cut off? Job 4:8** Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, And sow wickedness, reap the same.

2. It is long-term sin

Job 5:3 I have seen the foolish taking root: **But suddenly** I cursed his habitation. **Job 5:4** His children are far from safety, And they are crushed in the gate, neither is there any to deliver them. **Job 5:5** Whose harvest the hungry eateth up, And taketh it even out of the thorns, And the robber swalloweth up their substance.

3. It might be your children's sin!

Job 8:1 Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said, **Job 8:2** How long wilt thou speak these things? And how long shall the words of thy mouth be like a strong wind? **Job 8:3** Doth God pervert judgment? **Or doth the Almighty pervert justice? Job 8:4** **If thy children have sinned against him, And he have cast them away for their transgression; Job 8:5** **If thou wouldst seek unto God betimes, And make thy supplication to the Almighty; Job 8:6** **If thou wert pure and upright; Surely now he would awake for thee, And make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous. Job 8:7** Though thy beginning was small, Yet thy latter end should greatly increase.

4. It is probably your sin – catching up with you!

Job 8:8 For inquire, I pray thee, of the former age, And prepare thyself to the search of their fathers: **Job 8:9** (For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, Because our days upon earth are a shadow:) **Job 8:10** Shall not they teach thee, and tell thee, And utter words out of their heart? **Job 8:11** Can the rush grow up without mire? Can the flag grow without water? **Job 8:12** Whilst it is yet in his greenness, and not cut down, It withereth before any other herb. **Job 8:13** So are the paths of all that forget God; And the hypocrite's hope shall perish: **Job 8:14** Whose hope shall be cut off, And whose trust shall be a spider's web. **Job 8:15** He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: He shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure. **Job 8:20** Behold, God will not cast away a perfect

man, **Neither will he help the evil doers: Job 8:21** Till he fill thy mouth with laughing, And thy lips with rejoicing. **Job 8:22** They that hate thee shall be clothed with shame; And the dwelling place of the wicked shall come to nought.

5. Sin for which you haven't suffered as much as you deserve.

Job 11:6 And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom, That they are double to that which is! **Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth.**

Job 11:10 If he cut off, and shut up, or gather together, Then who can hinder him? **Job 11:11** For he knoweth vain men: He seeth wickedness also; will he not then consider it? **Job 11:12** For vain man would be wise, Though man be born like a wild ass's colt. **Job 11:13** **If** thou prepare thine heart, **And** stretch out thine hands toward him; **Job 11:14** **If** iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away, **And** let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles. **Job 11:15** For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; Yea, thou shalt be stedfast, and shalt not fear: **Job 11:16** **Because thou shalt forget thy misery, And remember it as waters that pass away: Job 11:17** And thine age shall be clearer than the noonday; Thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning. **Job 11:18** And thou shalt be secure, because there is hope; Yea, thou shalt dig about thee, and thou shalt take thy rest in safety. **Job 11:19** Also thou shalt lie down, and none shall make thee afraid; Yea, many shall make suit unto thee. **Job 11:20** But the eyes of the wicked shall fail, And they shall not escape, And their hope shall be as the giving up of the ghost.

6. Enter God and Scripture!

Job 1:1 THERE was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was **Job**; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

Job 1:8 And the **LORD** said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Job 2:3 And the **LORD** said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil...?

Job 1:22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Job 2:3 And the **LORD** said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

Job 42:7 And it was so, that after the **LORD** had spoken these words unto Job, the **LORD** said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: **for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath.**

Conclusions from the text:

- Not sin before the suffering → author | editor
- Not sin before Satan → God
- Not sin after the suffering → author | editor
- Not sin before Satan again → God
- Not sin after the suffering again → author | editor
- Not sin at the very end → God

The innocence of Job is a given – without it:

- There is no problem
- There is no book of Job
- There is no memory | record of Job

7. It has to be sin – what else could it be?

Now “we” just start making things up!

- Lack of faith
- Presence of arrogance (more like desperation!)
- Sin of fear

Job 3:25 For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, And that which I was afraid of is come unto me. **Job 3:26** I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; Yet trouble came.

- Lack of patience

James 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

8. It is ultimately sin → original sin

However:

**Job 1:12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand.
So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.**

Job 2:6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.