

JOB

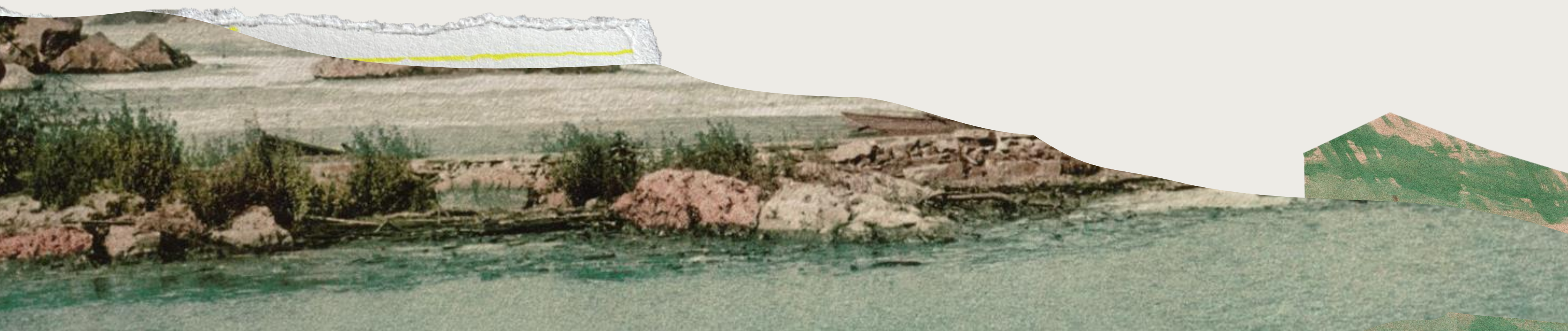


WHERE WE ARE

- God declared Job righteous and blameless, yet Satan challenged the motives behind his faithfulness.
- Job lost his wealth, servants, children, and health without knowing why any of it was happening.
- His friends came to comfort him, but soon began trying to explain his suffering.
- Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar have each argued in different ways that Job's suffering must be connected to sin.
- Last week, Zophar became the harshest voice yet, even suggesting Job deserved worse than he was receiving.
- Job answered that he already knows God is wise, powerful, and sovereign—his struggle is understanding why the God he knows has allowed what he is experiencing.

“IF ONLY I COULD SPEAK TO GOD”

Job 13-14



“I’VE HEARD
ENOUGH
FROM YOU”

13:1-12



“Look, I have seen all this with my own eyes
and heard it with my own ears, and now I understand.

2 I know as much as you do.

You are no better than I am.

3 As for me, I would speak directly to the Almighty.

I want to argue my case with God himself.

4 As for you, you smear me with lies.

As physicians, you are worthless quacks.

5 If only you could be silent!

That’s the wisest thing you could do.

6 Listen to my charge;
pay attention to my arguments.

“Are you defending God with lies?

Do you make your dishonest arguments for his sake?

8 Will you slant your testimony in his favor?

Will you argue God’s case for him?

9 What will happen when he finds out what you are doing?

Can you fool him as easily as you fool people?

10 No, you will be in trouble with him

if you secretly slant your testimony in his favor.

11 Doesn’t his majesty terrify you?

Doesn’t your fear of him overwhelm you?

12 Your platitudes are as valuable as ashes.
Your defense is as fragile as a clay pot.”

“I’VE HEARD ENOUGH FROM YOU”

- Hurting people don’t always need another explanation

- We can trust what God has revealed without pretending to know what He hasn’t

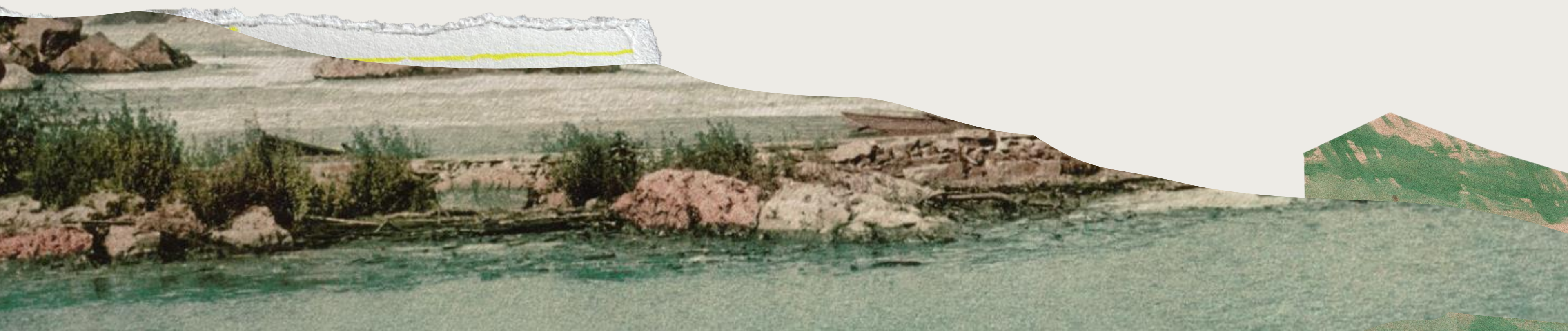
- Sometimes presence and humility minister better than answers.

SOME SUFFERING IS TOO HEAVY FOR CLICHÉS



“LET ME TAKE MY
CASE TO GOD”

13:13–19



“Be silent now and leave me alone.

Let me speak, and I will face the consequences.

14 Why should I put myself in mortal danger[\[a\]](#)
and take my life in my own hands?

15 God might kill me, but I have no other hope.[\[b\]](#)

I am going to argue my case with him.

16 But this is what will save me—I am not godless.

If I were, I could not stand before him.

17 “Listen closely to what I am about to say.

Hear me out.

18 I have prepared my case;

I will be proved innocent.

19 Who can argue with me over this?

And if you prove me wrong, I will remain silent and die.”

“LET ME TAKE MY CASE TO GOD”

- Job doesn't understand God, but he still turns toward God
- Faith can keep seeking God even when confidence feels shaky
- Honest repentance means confessing real sin...not manufactured guilt

FAITH DOESN'T ALWAYS HAVE ANSWERS, BUT IT KNOWS WHERE TO TAKE THE QUESTIONS



“GOD, TELL ME
WHAT I’VE
DONE”

13:20–28



“O God, grant me these two things,
and then I will be able to face you.

21 Remove your heavy hand from me,
and don't terrify me with your awesome
presence.

22 Now summon me, and I will answer!
Or let me speak to you, and you reply.

23 Tell me, what have I done wrong?
Show me my rebellion and my sin.

24 Why do you turn away from me?
Why do you treat me as your enemy?

25 Would you terrify a leaf blown by the
wind?

Would you chase dry straw?

26“You write bitter accusations against
me

and bring up all the sins of my youth.

27 You put my feet in stocks.

You examine all my paths.

You trace all my footprints.

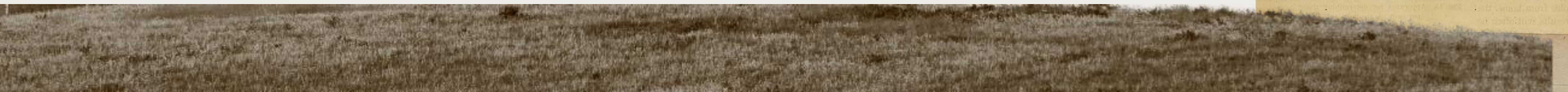
28 I waste away like rotting wood,
like a moth-eaten coat.”

“GOD, TELL ME WHAT I’VE DONE”



- Job wants God’s conviction, not his friends’ accusations
 - What we feel about God in suffering may not reflect what is actually true about God
 - Pain can make us search for explanations that simply aren’t there

OUR CIRCUMSTANCES ARE REAL, BUT THEY DON’T ALWAYS GIVE US THE COMPLETE PICTURE OF GOD’S HEART



“LIFE IS SHORT
AND FULL OF
TROUBLE”

14:1-6



“How frail is humanity!

How short is life, how full of trouble!

2 We blossom like a flower and then wither.

Like a passing shadow, we quickly disappear.

3 Must you keep an eye on such a frail creature
and demand an accounting from me?

4 Who can bring purity out of an impure person?

No one!

5 You have decided the length of our lives.

You know how many months we will live,
and we are not given a minute longer.

6 So leave us alone and let us rest!

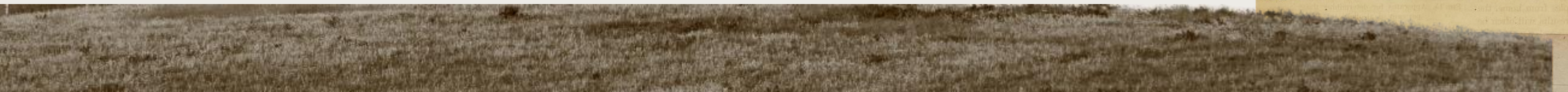
We are like hired hands, so let us finish our work in peace.”

“LIFE IS SHORT AND FULL OF TROUBLE”



- Human life is brief, fragile, and touched by trouble
 - Job's integrity never meant he believed himself to be sinless
- We cannot produce the purity we need from within ourselves

OUR FRAILTY REMINDS US HOW DEEPLY WE NEED
GOD



“A TREE HAS
HOPE...BUT
WHAT ABOUT
US?”



14:7-12

“Even a tree has more hope!

If it is cut down, it will sprout again
and grow new branches.

8 Though its roots have grown old in the earth
and its stump decays,

9 at the scent of water it will bud
and sprout again like a new seedling.

10 “But when people die, their strength is gone.
They breathe their last, and then where are they?

11 As water evaporates from a lake
and a river disappears in drought,

12 people are laid to rest and do not rise again.

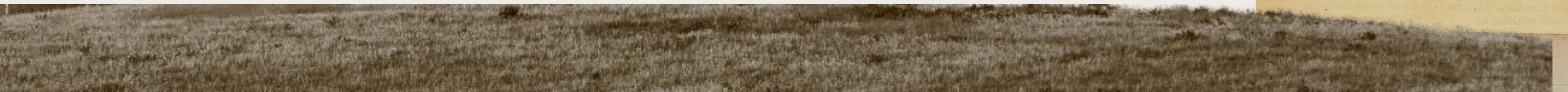
Until the heavens are no more, they will not wake up
nor be roused from their sleep.”

“A TREE HAS HOPE...BUT WHAT ABOUT US?”



- A cut-down tree can sprout again, giving Job an image of renewed life
 - Job sees death as frighteningly final from where he stands
 - Job's questions reveal a growing longing for hope beyond the grave

SOMETIMES HOPE BEGINS BEFORE WE HAVE THE ANSWER – WITH THE COURAGE TO ASK, “WHAT IF?”



“CAN THE
DEAD LIVE
AGAIN?”

14:13-17



“I wish you would hide me in the grave[\[a\]](#)
and forget me there until your anger has
passed.

But mark your calendar to think of me again!

14 Can the dead live again?

If so, this would give me hope through all my
years of struggle,

and I would eagerly await the release of death.

15 You would call and I would answer,
and you would yearn for me, your handiwork.

16 For then you would guard my steps,
instead of watching for my sins.

17 My sins would be sealed in a pouch,
and you would cover my guilt.”

“CAN THE DEAD LIVE AGAIN?”

- Job longs for God to remember him and restore their relationship
 - Job cannot yet see resurrection clearly, but he begins to hope for something beyond death
 - What Job longs for in the darkness is ultimately revealed in Christ

WHAT JOB COULD ONLY HOPE FOR, THE EMPTY TOMB
ULTIMATELY CONFIRMS



“YOU
DESTROY
OUR HOPE”

14:18-22



“But instead, as mountains fall and crumble
and as rocks fall from a cliff,

19 as water wears away the stones
and floods wash away the soil,
so you destroy people’s hope.

20 You always overpower them, and they pass
from the scene.

You disfigure them in death and send them away.

21 They never know if their children grow up in
honor

or sink to insignificance.

22 They suffer painfully;
their life is full of trouble.”

“YOU DESTROY OUR HOPE”

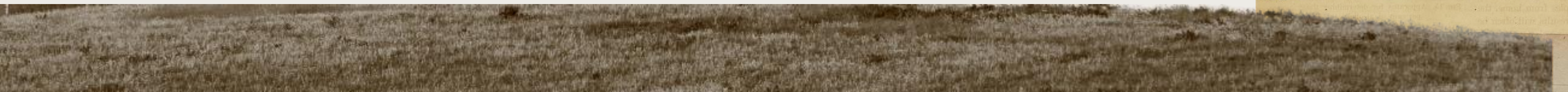
- Job's hope and despair exist side by side

- Grief rarely moves in a straight line

- Struggling to feel hopeful does not mean faith has disappeared



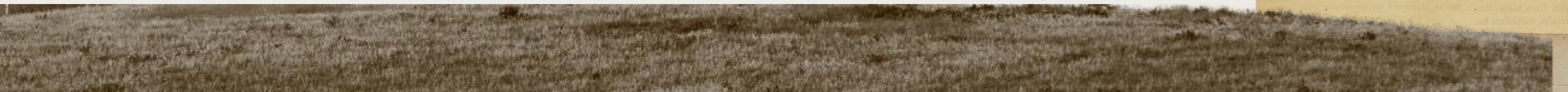
FAITH CAN STILL BE PRESENT EVEN WHEN
HOPE FEELS WORN AWAY



BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER



- Job rejects his friends' easy explanations and chooses to take his questions directly to God.
- He asks God to show him what he has done and struggles to reconcile God's character with his circumstances.
- As Job considers how short and fragile life is, his questions turn toward death and whether there could possibly be hope beyond it.
- For a moment, Job imagines God remembering him, calling him, and restoring what seems lost.
- His hope quickly gives way to despair again—but Job never stops reaching toward God.



DISCUSSION & REFLECTION



1. Throughout chapter 13, Job is frustrated and confused with God, but he still wants to speak directly to God. What does that teach us about the difference between questioning God and walking away from God?
2. Have you ever experienced something difficult that caused you to immediately wonder, “What did I do?” Why can it be dangerous to assume that suffering always means God is punishing us?
3. Why do you think suffering and grief often cause us to think more seriously about eternity?
4. Knowing what we know through Jesus that Job could not yet see, how does the resurrection change the way Christians can face suffering, loss, and even death?

