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## Why now? Why me?

God,  
I've always trusted You.  
You're the one  
who gets me through  
Everything I have to do.

But this?

I need to know  
that You are there.  
I need to know  
that You still care.  
This problem has me  
in despair.

## Why now? Why me?



# PAINFUL PRAYERS

<sup>1</sup>Pronounced Uhz, a large territory east of the Jordan River.

**J**ob was a wealthy and righteous man who lived in the land of Uz.<sup>1</sup> God blessed everything in Job's life. Satan thought Job was righteous because God protected him. So Satan asked God's permission to bring trouble into Job's life. In one day, Job's life changed completely. All his blessings seemed to end. The Sabeans<sup>2</sup> and Chaldeans<sup>2</sup> took his animals and killed the servants. A sudden wind caused the death of all of his children.

**Read Job 23:10-11.**

**What does God know about Job?  
Why do you think Job kept trusting God?**

<sup>2</sup>Two groups called Sabeans (suh-BEE-unz) and Chaldeans (kal-DEE-unz) took Job's animals and killed his servants.



Things turned worse for Job. Painful sores broke out on his body. Job sat in ashes and cried out to God. He couldn't understand why God allowed such trouble in his life.



**Job 40:1-4; 42:1-6**

*The LORD said to Job: "Will the one who contends*

*with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!" Then Job answered the LORD: "I am unworthy—how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth."*

**How did the Lord respond to Job's questions? How did Job answer the Lord?**

God wanted Job to know that He was in control, no matter what happened.





Then Job replied to the LORD: "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know."

#### How did Job reply to the Lord?

"You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' My ears had heard of you but now my eyes

have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."<sup>3</sup>

**What did Job say about God? How did Job feel about himself? Do you think it was easy for Job to praise God in spite of everything that had happened? Why or why not?**

God blessed Job again. He gave him more children and twice as many riches as before. Job lived 140 years.

<sup>3</sup>Sitting on ashes and sprinkling ashes on the body were ways to show sadness.



# Listening In on Private Prayers



WE'RE LOOKING IN ON THE LIVES OF FAMOUS BIBLE PEOPLE TO SEE HOW THEY TALKED TO GOD DURING SOME HARD TIMES. WE'LL LISTEN IN ON HOW HONEST THEY ARE WITH GOD. LET'S SWITCH NOW TO OUR ROVING REPORTERS IN THE WILDERNESS . . .



Yes, this is Thirsty Miller reporting from the camp of Abraham. We have a microphone secretly placed near his tent. We have questioned him on his belief that he will be fathering a great nation; he's 99 years old and doesn't even have one son! Let's listen in . . . **Read Genesis 17:17 to find out what Abraham said to God.**



This is Rachael Reporter in Bethany. There is sadness in the home of Mary and Martha today. Their brother Lazarus died this week. They had hoped their friend Jesus would have somehow prevented the death, but He was out of town. However, He just returned. Mary is talking to Him. Let's listen in . . . **Read John 11:32 to find out what Mary said to Jesus.**



Don Geon here, reporting from a prison in Egypt. We're outside Joseph's cell. This poor guy has had a tough life! His own brothers sold him into slavery, and now he's in this miserable jail for something he didn't even do. He keeps talking about trusting his God. I wonder what he is thinking now! **Read Genesis 39:20-23 to find out what Joseph believed while he was in prison.**



WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE ALL THESE BELIEVERS ARE ABLE TO BE HONEST WITH GOD AND STILL RESPECT AND WORSHIP HIM! THEY MUST ALL TAKE THE WORDS OF PSALM 62:8 SERIOUSLY!

## KEY VERSE

"Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge." Psalm 62:8