
has allowed this evil to happen to him. While he submits to God's sovereignty and accepts his fate, God makes no sense to him. How can He allow a righteous man to suffer punishment he doesn't deserve?

At first, Job wishes he were dead (3:11). Then he desires to argue with God (13:3). He doesn't deserve this punishment! But who can win an argument with Almighty God (9:2-3)? Eventually Job seeks an advocate—a "go'el" or kinsman who will defend his cause before his Maker. Finally, he admits that no one has the wisdom to understand God's ways, but he determines to fear Him anyway (ch. 28). He longs for the days when he enjoyed God's blessing (ch. 29), mourns his fate (ch. 30), and asserts that he doesn't deserve such suffering (ch. 31).

Next comes young Elihu, who wants to defend God (chs. 32-37). He would be safer defending a lion, but God uses this brash youth to suggest that He might be trying to teach Job something. Elihu introduces the idea that God's purpose in what He allows to happen in our lives goes beyond simple punishment and reward.

Finally, God speaks to Job out of a whirlwind (Job 38-41), and His awesome presence and unanswerable questions put Job to silence. The God who created the universe and superintends every detail of life on earth knows what He is doing and answers to no one. Job has no way to comprehend creation, much less the Creator Himself. Job admits that he has no basis for accusing God of injustice.

But Job is innocent of great sin, and God loves to bless His children. In the end (Job 42), God vindicates Job before his friends, who tried to confine their Maker within the limits of their limited human understanding. Then He gave back to Job twice as much as he had lost.

The only way to enjoy fellowship with God is trusting obedience (Romans 12:1-2). He willingly listens to our complaints and cares about our concerns, but the One who made us and sent a Redeemer to save us is under no obligation to explain His ways. No, all is not right with the world as it is, but one day it will be. Our God still reigns.

Prayer for ...

- **Northpoint:** Pray for a lasting legacy of service in God's kingdom, measured in souls who come to embrace Christ.
- **Local Outreach:** Pray for the Corona Walk for Life.
- **Missions:** Stefanos & Manon Mihalios (Reach Global): Greece

Need to pray with someone?

It is our privilege to pray for you personally. Share your prayer requests

- By email at prayer@northpointcorona.org
- By phone, at 951.734.1335
- On a Response Card in the pew during the worship service

Prayer Team members are available after every worship service.



prayer *life!*

Bible Reading Plan and Prayer Guide

(Year ONE) September 2019

I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last, He will take His stand on the earth. Whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes will see and not another.

—Job 19:25, 27

The Wisdom of God

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:9). All the narratives of Israel's history show the good that comes from reverent obedience to God and the ruin that disobedience brings. But like Israel, we live in a world beset by sin that bears scant resemblance to the holy, loving God who superintends it. How can a righteous God preside over a world where the good often suffer and the wicked prosper? The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, but not the end of it. That's where Job comes in.

As humans created in God's image, we understand the main principles of His justice, but not sufficiently to make sense of all His actions in this world. In fact, as sinful human beings, we are tempted to put God on trial and find Him wanting. And the adversary Satan does the same thing.

As the book of Job opens, Satan stands before God, challenging the way He deals with humanity (1:9-11; 2:4-5). He accuses God of rewarding people like Job to purchase their affection and get them to do what He wants. To the devil, God is not just but manipulative, arbitrarily blessing some to buy their allegiance. Job is not truly righteous. He only obeys God to stay on His good side and enjoy His blessings. God uses Job as "exhibit A" in the case for His justice (1:8; 2:3). In the end, though Job loses everything, he remains faithful, proving the accuser wrong (2:10). Notice also that Satan is under God's complete control (1:10, 12; 2:7). He wants to harm Job in any way he can, but he can do nothing God doesn't permit. Satan is on God's leash. Still, Job struggles with what God allows in his life.

Enter Job's friends. Job and his friends all share a simple understanding of God's justice. He punishes the wicked (4:7-8; 9:2) and rewards the righteous (5:17-22). The greater the sin, the greater the punishment. Job is suffering greatly, so God must be punishing him for a great sin. It's as simple as that. According to his friends, all Job has to do to regain God's blessing is repent from the great sin he committed (8:21-22). All three friends try three times to convince Job to repent so God will bless him (Job 4-25).

But Job knows he has been faithful to God and cannot comprehend why God

Reading and Prayer Schedule (Year ONE)

September 2019

Sunday: Church & Ministry	Monday: Home & Family	Tuesday: School or Job	Wednesday: Neighbors & Community	Thursday: Nation	Friday: World & Kingdom	Saturday: Praise for God's Blessings
<p><i>Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. –Jude 1:24-25</i></p>						
<p>1) Read: Romans 4 Pray for ... Marti Wiegman, Ministry Director for Women: May God's Spirit empower her ministry, to transform lives.</p>	<p>2) Read: Romans 5 Pray for ... Ask God to use you to influence your family to love and follow Jesus Christ as Lord through faith, especially those with the greatest need.</p>	<p>3) Read: Romans 6 Pray for ... The love and character of Christ to shine through you in every aspect of your life.</p>	<p>4) Read: Romans 7 Pray for ... <i>Corona-Norco Rescue Mission:</i> May the Gospel of Jesus Christ transform the lives of the homeless.</p>	<p>5) Read: Romans 8 Pray for ... A keen awareness of our utter dependence on God that drives us constantly to our knees before Him,</p>	<p>6) Read: Romans 9 Pray for ... Strength and growth in the Church in China. May it thrive, despite persecution & the lack of religious freedom.</p>	<p>7) Read: Romans 10 Give praise for ... The abundance, security, and freedom we enjoy in America. May we use them responsibly for His kingdom.</p>
<p>8) Read: Romans 11 Pray for ... Geoff Grant, Director of Worship, to cultivate complete devotion & obedience to Christ, so he can lead Northpoint to do the same.</p>	<p>9) Read: Romans 12 Pray for ... Pray beyond the "now." Ask God to fill the generations coming after you with faith, hope, & love through the Lord Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>10) Read: Romans 13 Pray for ... God to meet the needs of your colleagues. Ask Him to use their struggles to lead them to Him and to use you in the process.</p>	<p>11) Read: Romans 14 Pray for ... <i>Corona Life Services</i> to be used by God to redeem the lives of all who come in for help, along with their children.</p>	<p>12) Read: Romans 15 Pray for ... Husbands & wives in America to be faithful first to Christ, then to each other in life-long marriage & commitment to lead their families in His ways.</p>	<p>13) Read: Romans 16 Pray for ... A revival in the Church throughout the West, so Christ can once again set His defining mark on those long-standing but backslidden cultures.</p>	<p>14) Read: Job 1 Give thanks that ... Christ died on the cross for your sin. Praise Him that you are free from sin & the burden of being righteous in your own strength.</p>
<p>15) Read: Job 2 Pray for ... Bob Brown, Ministry Assistant Communications, to keep the flow of ministry smooth, effective, and harmonious with the mission of Christ.</p>	<p>16) Read: Job 3 Pray for ... God's blessings on your cousins & that they will rejoice in Jesus Christ as Savior & Lord.</p>	<p>17) Read: Job 4 Pray for ... God's peace, which passes all understanding, to be visible in all your actions & interactions at work.</p>	<p>18) Read: Job 5 Pray for ... God to spread His love through you to your neighbors, so they see Christ in you and turn to Him.</p>	<p>19) Read: Job 6 Pray for ... Revival to break out in the Church in the United States and spread throughout the entire world, proclaiming Christ above all things.</p>	<p>20) Read: Job 7 Pray for ... God to use the refugee crisis in Europe & the Middle East to lead many people to Jesus Christ as Savior & Lord.</p>	<p>21) Read: Job 8 Rejoice ... In the hope found in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Life eternal is yours in Him!</p>
<p>22) Read: Job 9 Pray for ... Michelle Balga, Ministry Assistant, Administration. Pray for God's grace to flow through her to others in all her interactions.</p>	<p>23) Read: Job 10 Pray for ... Your church family (friends and prospective friends at Northpoint) to grow in faith & develop Christ-like character.</p>	<p>24) Read: Job 11 Pray for ... The success of your workplace or the school you attend. Pray for God's abundant blessing & a clear awareness that all blessings flow from Him.</p>	<p>25) Read: Job 12 Pray for ... Northpoint Church to thrive and be an influence for Christ in Corona & beyond.</p>	<p>26) Read: Job 13 Pray for ... America to look to God alone for our good. May we embrace His truth & holiness exalting Christ & living His righteousness.</p>	<p>27) Read: Job 14 Pray for ... The peace of Jerusalem, during a time of continuing trouble & opposition. Ask God to lead His chosen people to honor their Messiah.</p>	<p>28) Read: Job 15 Rejoice ... The Lord reigns! He is working out His perfect will in all things and cares about your every need.</p>
<p>29) Read: Job 16 Pray for ... Northpoint to reach out more and more to our community and grow by adding the new believers to our body.</p>	<p>30) Read: Job 17 Pray for ... The Holy Spirit to fill you & your family anew, with a fresh love for Christ & for your others, so you can tell them of His love.</p>					