

## Read Through the Bible

**Week 27:** July 5-July 10

**Readings:** Job 26 -42 and Acts 11 – 15

### Reflections by Kay Emery

The Book of Job asks the same question we ask today, “Why do the righteous suffer if God is a God of love?”

The story of Job is simple but understanding it is not. Job, a blameless worshiper of God, experiences a series of devastating tragedies. Three friends come to comfort him, but end up arguing that since God is good Job must have done something terrible to deserve his suffering.

This very situation answered a question I’ve had. What do we say to those who are going through a hard situation? I think Job’s 3 friends had the right idea for the first 7 days. They came to show him their love and support but said nothing. But then they began to try to explain to Job why God was causing him to suffer. Someone said “Job’s friends were silent for 7 days and later Job wished they had stayed that way. So I think a good approach is to weep with those who weep and mourn with those who mourn and keep my thoughts to myself unless lead by the Holy Spirit to share from God’s Word.

A fourth friend suggests that God may have another purpose for suffering than to punish. Then God Himself speaks to Job. The Lord gives no reason for what has happened to Job, but Job realizes that he must submit to God rather than question Him.

Job is a very difficult book to understand because it is full of poetry, wisdom sayings, proverbs, hymns, riddles and curses. But if I understood one thing it is that God is sovereign

and worthy of worship in whatever He chooses to do. His ways are not always understandable, but He can always be trusted.

Will you say with Job, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him”?

Acts 11-15

The Jewish Christians in Jerusalem couldn’t believe what Peter was endorsing....that gentiles were to be admitted into the grace of God by faith in Jesus Christ. Surely that wasn’t what Jesus intended when He said “You shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” But, yes, that is what Jesus meant. God has a wonderful plan for all mankind....for any who will believe on the name Jesus Christ.

Jesus said “go” but they weren’t rushing to obedience. But when persecution came they were forced to move out into other parts of the world and when they moved they took the gospel message with them.

Paul becomes the dominant leader for God called him to be His missionary. Every missionary needs those who will support them in prayer and the church in Antioch did just that.

Are you diligent to pray for those who are taking God’s word to the lost? Are you witnesses for Jesus Christ in Prescott, Prescott Valley, Phoenix and to the remotest parts of the world?