











Origins of Suffering

The Great Tragedy

In Genesis Chapter 3:1-12 we witness the fall of humanity

Until this event man knew no suffering

However, at the point humanity sinned they died

***Then the eyes of both of them were opened,
and they realized they were naked***

Genesis 3:7



The Results of Sin

The ground was cursed

The marriage relationship between man and woman was cursed

The process of rearing and raising offspring was cursed

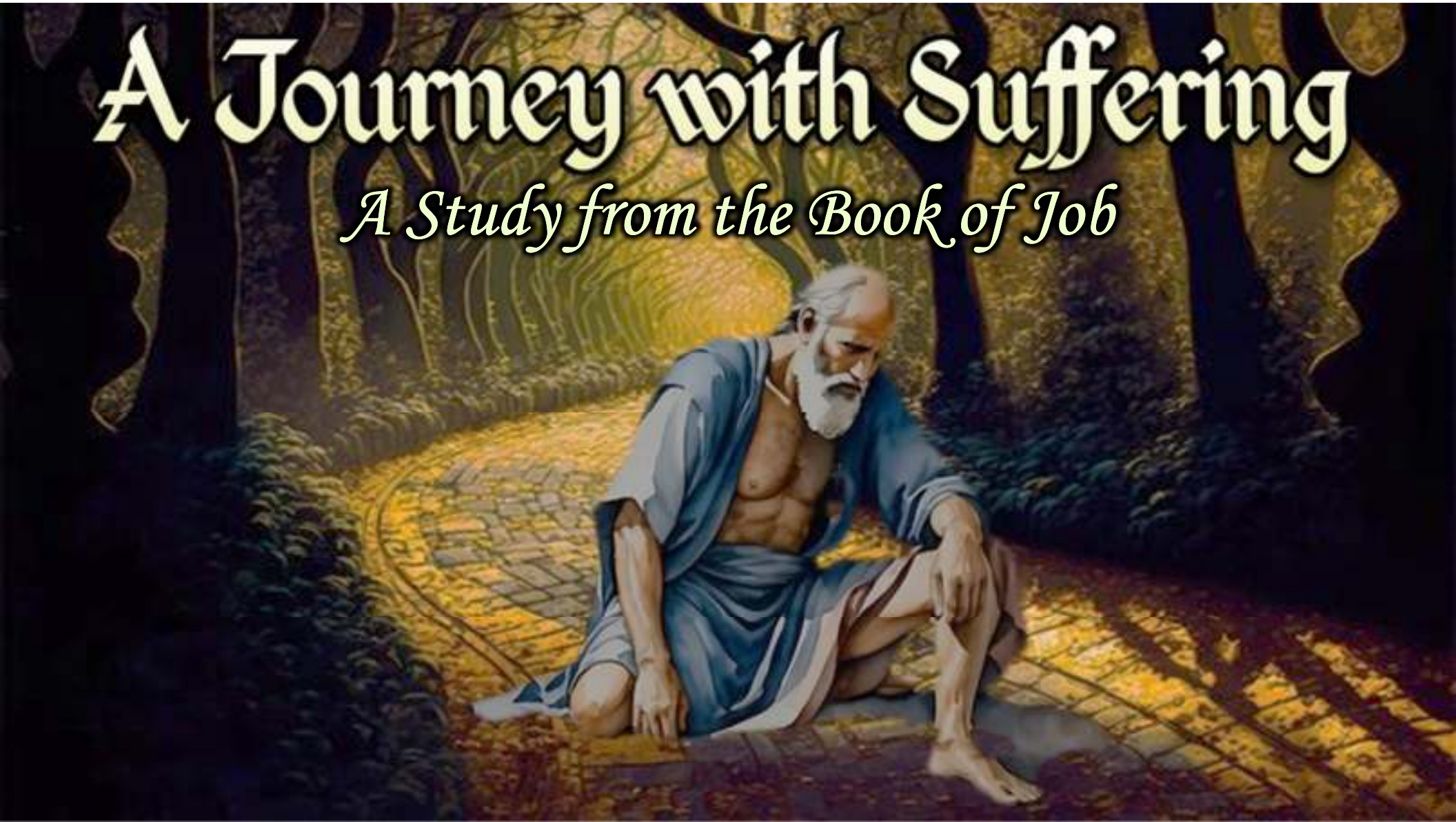
Forgiveness was born (*Genesis 3:15*)

Sacrifice was introduced (*Genesis 3:21*)



A Journey with Suffering

A Study from the Book of Job



The Reality of Sin

And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” So, the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

Genesis 3:22-23



The Reality of Sin

The righteous perish, and no one takes it to heart; the devout are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death.

Isaiah 57:1-2



The Characters of Job

Job is me, humanity

Job's Wife is the natural reaction to suffering; Anger, frustration, demanding and emotional

Job's friends are man's attempt to explain suffering sympathetic but also judgmental

God is God and Satan is Satan

Who is Elihu? (*Job 32-37*)



The Character of Elihu

He is not one of Job's "friends." The story is clear there are three friends

Not seen him as just another friend (**Job 32:5**)

He is a physical character with human origin

He is young

So Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite said: "I am young in years, and you are old; that is why I was fearful, not daring to tell you what I know."

Job 32:6



The Character of Elihu

While he is never mentioned or acknowledged he heard the entire conversation (**Job 32:2-3**)

But Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, became very angry with Job for justifying himself rather than God. He was also angry with the three friends, because they had found no way to refute Job, and yet had condemned him.

What he heard from Job and the three men angered him

For some reason, this guy seems to know an awful lot about Job and the person of God



The Character of Elihu

For I am full of words, and the spirit within me compels me; inside I am like bottled-up wine, like new wineskins ready to burst.

Job 32:18-19

**In the story Elihu is the voice of God
before God arrives on the scene**

**If you want to connect him directly to
the person of Jesus you can but don't
over think it**



The Character of Elihu

The better connection is a John the Baptist style portrayal of the Holy Spirit that testifies to humanity about God

The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Job 33:4

Much of what Elihu says mirrors what God will say to Job

What I want to do is give you his three main points and conclusion



The Message of Elihu

Point 1: Elihu condemns man's wisdom but not man's response!

I gave you my full attention. But not one of you has proved Job wrong; none of you has answered his arguments. Do not say, 'We have found wisdom; let God, not a man, refute him.'

Job 32:12-13



The Message of Elihu

Point 2: Job while your sin did not cause your suffering; do not forget you are a sinner and thus subject to suffering

“But you have said in my hearing— I heard the very words — ‘I am pure, I have done no wrong; I am clean and free from sin. Yet God has found fault with me;

Job 33:8-10



The Message of Elihu

Point 3: God is God he is merciful but also just

It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice. Who appointed him over the earth? Who put him in charge of the whole world? If it were his intention and he withdrew his spirit and breath, all humanity would perish together and mankind would return to the dust.

Job 34:12-15



The Message of Elihu

The Summation to Elihu's Message (**Job 37:14-24**)

When Job was dealing with human logic there was back and forth discussion

Job justified, defended and even exalted himself

Elihu's now desired responses; Listen and consider

Shut Up & Listen!



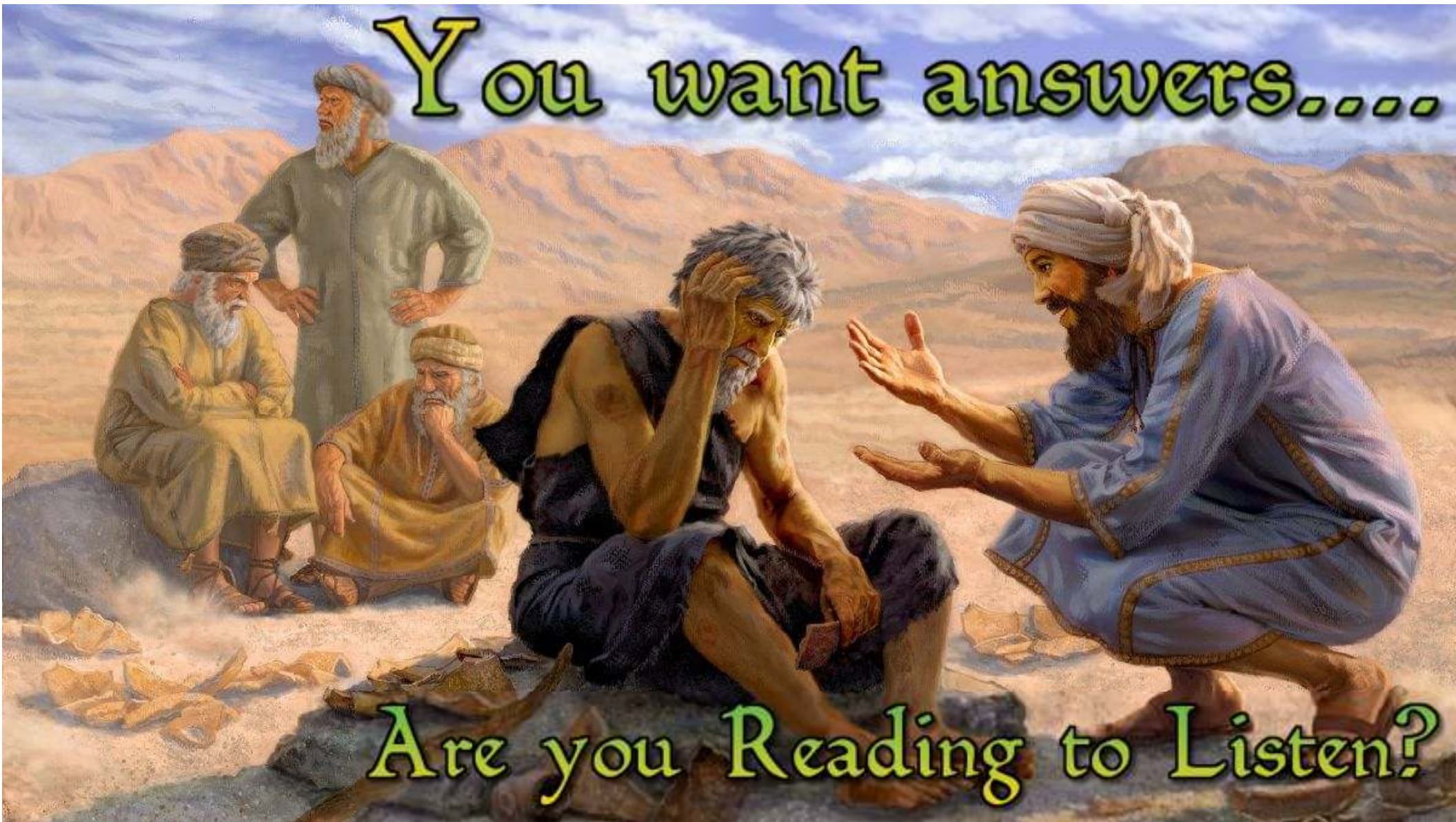
God Shows Up!

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.

Job 42:3



You want answers....



Are you Reading to Listen?