

# When Life **HURTS**

THE STORY OF JOB

**Rational Responses to Theodicy & Evil:  
Looking Beyond Bildad & Zophar  
Job 8 & 11**

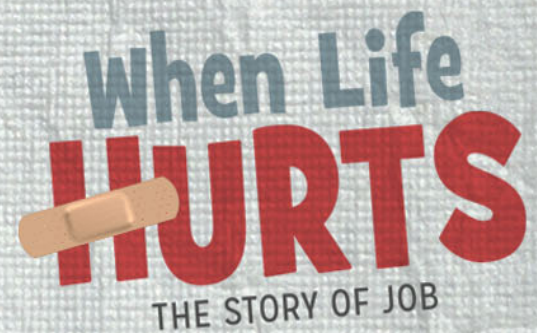


# Theodicy

comes from the Greek words  
(*theos*, God) and (*dike*, Justice).

# Theodicy

is a branch of theology that attempts  
to reconcile belief in God given the  
stark reality and existence of evil.



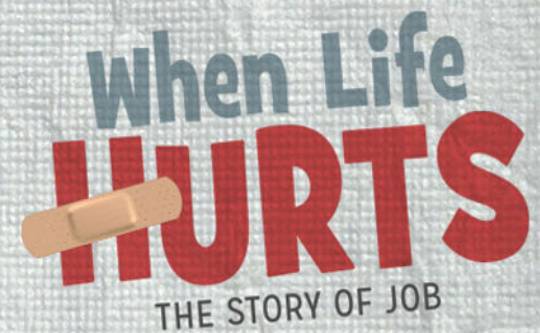
*“Wimpy worldviews make wimpy Christians. And wimpy Christians won’t survive the days ahead.”*

–John Piper

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# Theodicy of Bildad: Job 8:1-22

**Big Idea:**  
God never perverts justice.



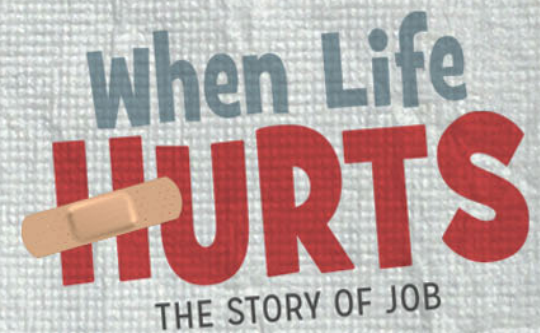
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**Key Verse – Job 8:3:**

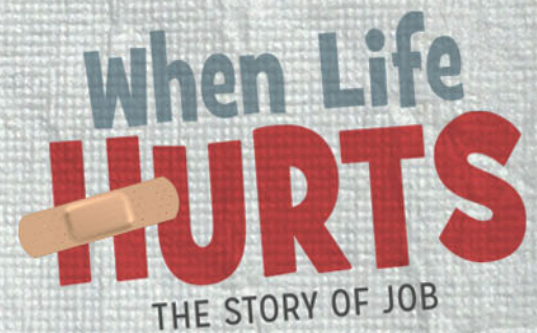
*Does God pervert justice?  
Or does the Almighty  
pervert the right?*



# Theodicy of Bildad: Job 8:1-22

Source is Traditional Wisdom:

“Job, understand that our forefathers  
had wisdom!”



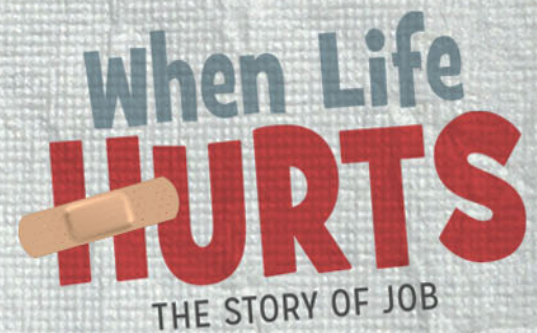
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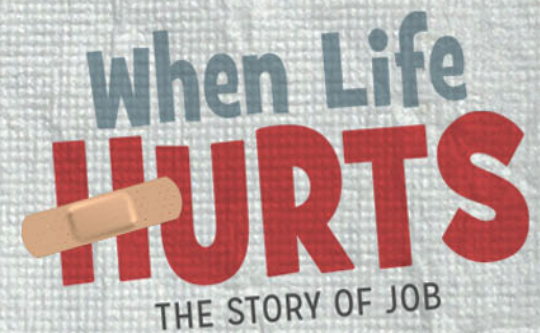
**Outcome of his Theodicy:**

**The wicked and godless always perish  
according to God’s immovable  
decrees.**



# Theodicy of Bildad: Job 8:1-22

**Problem:**  
total lack of compassion;  
innocent suffering



# Theodicy of Zophar: Job 11:1-20

## Big Idea:

The wisdom of God is unsearchable.

*“Can you find out the deep things of God?  
Can you find out the limit of the Almighty?  
It is higher than heaven—what can you do?  
Deeper than Sheol—what can you know?”  
(Job 11:7-8)*

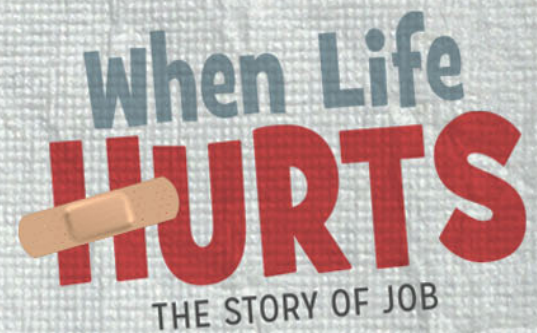


# Theodicy of Zophar: Job 11:1-20

## Outcome of his Theodicy:

Put sin and injustice out of your life  
so your great life can be restored.

*“...your life will be brighter than the  
noonday...” (See Job 11:13-17)*

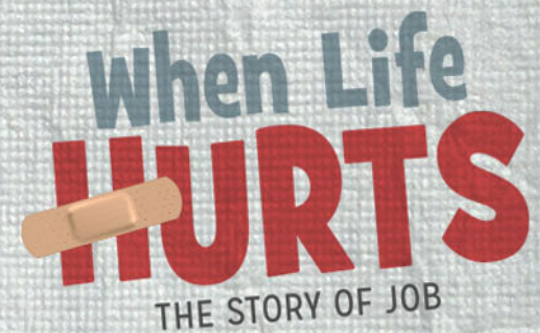


# Theodicy of Zophar: Job 11:1-20

## Problem:

1. His Theodicy is Tone-Deaf.

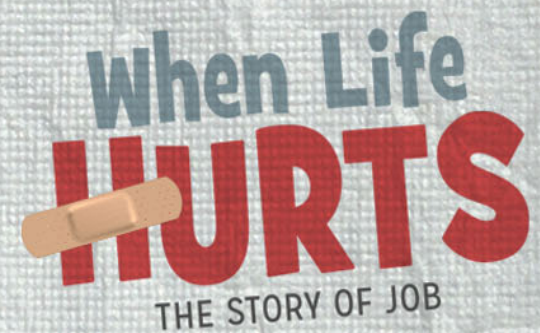
*“...know then that God exacts of you less than your guilt deserves” (Job 11:6b)*



# Theodicy of Zophar: Job 11:1-20

## Problem:

1. His Theodicy is Tone-Deaf.
2. His Theodicy Dismisses the Role of Lament in the Life of Faith.



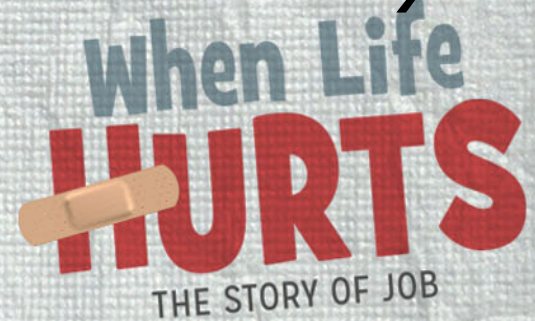
# FALSE STARTS for Theodicy: 2 Dead-ends for a Theology of Suffering and Evil

1. Diminish one of God's Attributes.

*God is Good. God is powerful.*

*Evil exists.*

*That's the conundrum of theodicy.*



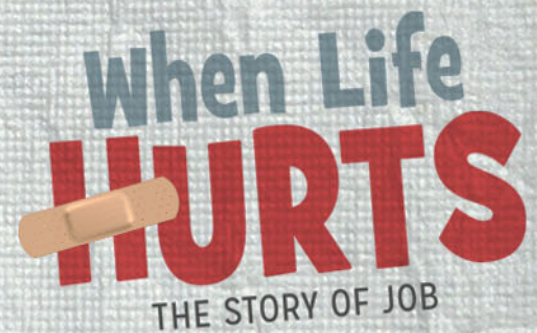
*“It is too difficult even for God to keep cruelty and chaos from claiming their innocent victims.”*

–Rabbi Harold Kushner



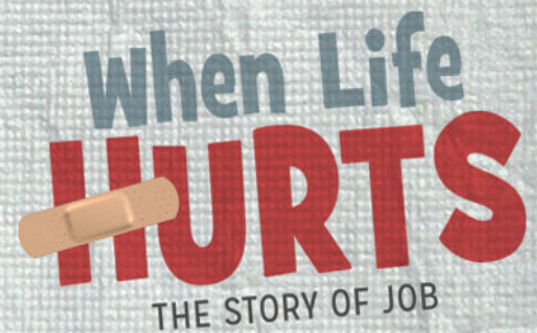
# **FALSE STARTS for Theodicy: 2 Dead-ends for a Theology of Suffering and Evil**

2. “Just stay close to God and nothing seriously bad will happen to you.”



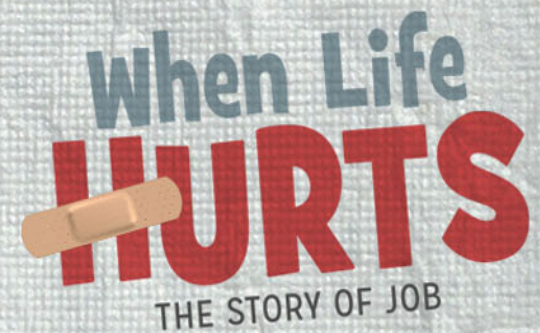
## 1 Peter 4:12

*Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.*



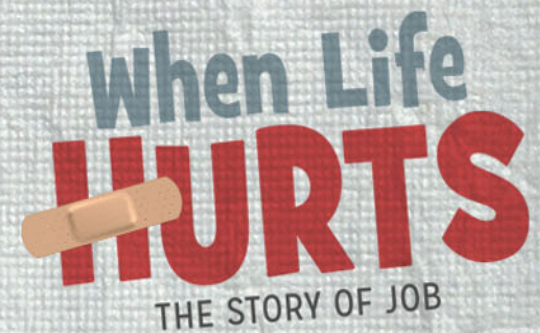
# Six Theodicies

1. Soul-Making Theodicy: God forms the soul to be like Christ through suffering



# Six Theodicies

1. Soul-Making Theodicy
2. Greater Good Theodicy: God is sufficiently wise and powerful to bring good out of evil.



# **In scripture, God uses evil to:**

- Test the faith of his servants because faith is more precious than gold (Job; 1 Peter 1:7; James 1:3)
- Discipline his beloved children (Heb. 12:7–11)
- Preserve many lives, even the descendants of Abraham (Gen. 50:20)
- Teach believers patience and perseverance so that our faith lacks nothing (James 1:3–4)
- Redirect our attention to things of ultimate importance (Psalm 37)
- Enable believers to comfort others with the comfort we receive from God (2 Cor. 1:3–7)

# **In scripture, God uses evil to:**

- Encourage them to bear powerful witness to the truth (Acts 7)
- Give them greater joy when suffering is replaced by glory (1 Peter 4:13)
- Judge the wicked, both in history (Deut. 25:15–68) and in the life to come (Matt. 27:41–46)
- Bring Reward to Persecuted Believers Who Endure (Matt 5:10–12)
- Display the Glorious Work of God (John 9; Exodus 9:16; Rom. 9:17)

# **Six Theodicies**

- 3. The Enigmatic Nature of Evil**  
**Theodicy:** The nature of evil resides in its enigmatic character & irrational quality.

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- 3. The Enigmatic Nature of Evil**  
**Theodicy:** The nature of evil resides in its enigmatic character & irrational reality.
- 4. The Existence of Morality**  
**Theodicy:** Where do you think morality and moral judgments come from?

# **Six Theodicies**

- 5. The Limits of Evil Theodicy:**  
Things are not the way it was supposed to be and not the way things will be.

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- 5. The Limits of Evil Theodicy:**  
Things are not the way it was supposed to be and not the way things will be.
- 6. The Theodicy of the Cross:** Jesus suffered evil so we might have life.