



# The Gospel According to Job

*Mike Mason*

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Anyone who has suffered knows that there is no such thing as "getting a grip on oneself" or "pulling oneself up by the bootstraps. The only bootstrap in the Christian life is the Cross," says Mason. "Sometimes laying hold of the cross can be comforting, but other times it is like picking up a snake."

Job knew this firsthand. From him we learn that there are no easy answers to suffering. That the mark of true faith is not happiness, but rather, having one's deepest passions be engaged by the enormity of God. And through Job we learn the secret of the gospel: that "mercy is the permission to be human." The Lord never gave Job an explanation for all he had been through. His only answer was Himself. But as Job discovered, that was enough.

*The Gospel According to Job* sensitively brings the reader to this realization, using a devotional commentary format that reminds them that it's all right to doubt, to be confused, to wonder-in short, to be completely human. But what will heal us and help us endure is a direct, transforming encounter with the living God.

## **The Gospel According to Job Details**

Date : Published October 3rd 2002 by Crossway Books (first published 1993)

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Author : Mike Mason

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# **From Reader Review The Gospel According to Job for online ebook**

## **Roger Feenstra says**

In a great time of struggle in my life, I read this book. I was encouraged by nearly every page. The book is broken up into short devotionals--some of them reached out and grabbed me and from the Scripture I was comforted. We may tend to think that reading Job is a 'downer', but no, it is God's Word and it is profitable for us in our time of need.

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## **Larrycathysmile says**

### **New perspective**

New perspective to look at the book, why, what, how and what. It helps know what happened and how God allowed it happen. Encouraging especially for those who are going through trials. God does not change. How He dealt with Job and others will be something we can pray about as well.

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## **Laura says**

I've been reading this book slowly for months now as a devotional (I'm about halfway through it - it's worth a longer more intentional pace). I would highly recommend it, especially for anyone going through a particularly difficult time. It has tremendous insight into the book of Job and makes it relevant for your life today.

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## **Gabrielle says**

An open and honest look at Christianity and pain, through the life of Job. It takes some time to read, but in doing so it's easier to take in some of the valuable things that are in this book. Mike Mason doesn't skirt around some of the difficult questions and moments in life. The book doesn't have all the answers, but it isn't afraid to ask the questions. I learned a lot from reading it.

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## **Mary says**

Job, likely one of the oldest books in the Bible collection also deals with the oldest problems thinking people have with God. Mason, already a gifted writer (The Gift of Marriage) has tackled a life work with this one. I love the format: short and meaty chapters tracking key issues as Mason covers the epic thought by thought. I marked all through my copy and highly recommend.

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## **Philip says**

The book is neither a pure devotional book nor purely a commentary. It falls somewhere in between leaning towards devotional.

I could not read it as a devotional book because it was just too good. I read one mini chapter/devotional after the other.

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## **Lisa says**

Mason has set this book up as a devotional, and it makes a very good one, but it is so much more. I loved his insights into Job and the gospel and life. I found myself wanting to share certain devotionals (each one is two pages and discusses topically a point made in the Book of Job from start to end) with friends and family. I could not limit myself to one section a day, but would usually read about 3 each day, and sometimes go back and mull over ones that really made me think. I would definitely look for other books written by Mike Mason.

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## **RF says**

This book is so relevant when one is wrestling with why bad things happen to good people. Honest, intense, deep... a good companion book when you are feeling battered by questions without easy answers, or answers at all, sometimes!

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## **Monk says**

I had come across a new translation of Job, and I started browsing books on Job, which got me in the mood to read the book in the Bible, and I thought it would be nice to have an accompanying book that discusses Job from beginning to end, and this one by Mike Mason fit the bill, and it didn't disappoint. The commentary can be repetitious, but that may not be out of place in spiritual works, as one is not looking for a page-turner, but for food for the soul, and one may want some of the big, sublime thought to be ingested fully and slowly, and I know this book will be worth rereading when I am in the mood to linger and meditate on Christian thought.

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## **Adam says**

This book will make you see the Gospel of Christ in a whole new light. It took me about 2 years to get through, but was an awesome devotional and I learned things about Jesus and Job I probably never would have known.

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## **Wade says**

This is a very solid and also very extensive commentary on the book of Job. It goes passage by passage, but the passages are often small (often only a verse or two per chapter) and this is a pretty long book (450 pages). But, if you're looking to invest some time in Job, this is a great book.

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## **Vanessa says**

Excellent expository

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## **Keith says**

If pain is your game and discouragement is your mantra, you need to read this book. Written by somebody who's been there and as well as an evaluation about THE person who's been there, pain is personified, defined and comfortingly covered. Even if you think you know Job, read this and find out what you don't know about yourself in the midst of your suffering.

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## **wes Goertzen says**

this is really the best devotional/meditation readings i've ever come across. Also probably on my list of favorite books ever.

Mason's a good writer and a theologian. One doesn't always find the two mix. Also Job is one of the great undervalued books of the OT.

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## **Paul says**

Reading Mike Mason's book, The Gospel According to Job, along with the biblical book of Job has been quite an experience for me. When the book of Job came up again recently in the devotional calendar that I use, my reaction was, "Not again?! Didn't I read this during Lent?" But something told me that it was important to read it then. Mason's book was already sitting unread on my shelf so I decided to read through Job a chapter a day along with this book. I'm glad I did.

The Gospel According to Job is in a devotional reading format. Each chapter is only 2 pages long and there are about 3 - 5 chapters in the book for each chapter of Job. Mason presents the book of Job as a prototype of the Christian Gospel. He draws many interesting parallels between Job and the Gospel message; ways in which Job seems to anticipate the appearance of Jesus and the Gospel message to fill the gap in his own understanding of God's ways and the inadequacy of the theology of his "comforters."

Mason shows familiarity with good scholarship on Job. He understands the ancient origin of the book, issues with translation and other characteristics of the book that will assure the reader that he not just "shooting

from the hip" in his exegesis. At the same time, some of the comparisons he draws between the story of Job and that of Jesus in the Gospels will seem highly speculative. Yet he often acknowledges this and, in the process, makes some compelling points. The book is well written. Mason's writing is clear and concise. I try to be sparing in what I underline in a book so that what I think are the most salient points don't get lost in all the underlining. My copy of this book has underlining on nearly every page. It's not just what he says that is interesting, the way it is said so often makes his points so well.

Job is a book about unjustifiable suffering which comes upon many people in one form or another, to a greater or lesser degree, in their lifetimes. It is a practically universal condition which defies simple explanations in light of God's will, character, and intentions. Mason does not minimize suffering. The problem of suffering is ultimately, vexingly mysterious. Exploring the nature of it seems to only deepen the mystery of it. Yet Mason's exploration of it, in light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, shows some of its significance and meaning for the Christian life. This book mines the gold in the book of Job for the sincere follower of Jesus. It provides good lessons for the church to consider in its mission and character in view of human suffering both within and outside the congregation. There is some forceful commentary at times that would lead us to examine our true unworthiness in light of God's majesty and our great worth in light of God's love, mercy and grace. Spiritual growth involves learning to accept and embrace both of these conditions.

Mason gives many helpful insights into the book of Job. One of these is the on the nature of the righteousness of Job. We might think of righteousness and sinlessness as being one and the same. Not so. God points to Job as being "blameless" as well as righteous. Job admittedly not sinless (7:20-21) but repentance and a close relationship with God were second nature to him. He seeks the fruit of forgiveness, the assurance that God is with him. This is what sustains Job's insistence on the injustice of his suffering in the face of his friends' insistence to the contrary. He has faith that God will vindicate him, and has the temerity to seek an audience with God himself. Contrary to the aloof and detached character of God described by his friends, Job insists that God is approachable and, ultimately, just in his judgments. In the end, Job is vindicated, though not on his own terms. The humbling revelation that Job sees, especially in the description of Leviathan, seems to convince him that there is more going on in the world than that of which he was aware.

This book is best read slowly and prayerfully. It has the potential strengthen the heart as well as enlighten the mind. I highly recommend it.

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