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## The Sovereign in Suffering

### INTRODUCTION

The book of Job is a window into the sufferings of a righteous man. It can be considered one of the darker books of the Bible, but that is precisely the reason why the doctrines of grace shine so brightly through it. In this lecture, Dr. Lawson focuses on the doctrines of the sovereignty of God and total depravity in the book of Job to shine a light on why the grace of God is absolutely necessary to save sinners.

### LEARNING GOALS

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to:

- Locate the doctrine of the sovereignty of God in the book of Job
- Locate the doctrine of total depravity in the book of Job

### KEY IDEAS

- God is sovereign over our suffering.
- God determines and numbers the days of our existence in perfect wisdom.
- Man cannot stand justified before a righteous and holy God by his own efforts.
- Man's moral dilemma runs deeper than his external actions to his identity as a sinner.

### REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

*What Do You Think?*

Take a moment to answer the following questions. They will prepare you for the lecture.

- Have you ever suffered to such an extent that you questioned the existence or goodness of God?

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- Have you ever lost a loved one? What did you feel? Was your understanding of who God is a comfort to you?

### *Scripture Reading*

*Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face."*

—Job 1:6–11

- What is God's estimation of Job? Is there any indication that Satan acknowledges the sovereignty of God in this passage?

### *During the Video*

Answer the following questions while you watch the video. They will guide you through the lecture.

#### *God's Total Sovereignty*

*0:00–7:51*

- What did Satan believe was the only reason Job feared God?
- How was Satan proved wrong about Job's fear of God after Job lost his children?
- What did Job say about God after he had humbled himself at the end of the book that demonstrates the doctrine of God's sovereignty?

#### *Man's Total Inability*

*7:51–25:53*

- What do Eliphaz's and Bildad's rhetorical questions teach us?

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- “Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean thing?” How did Job answer this question?
  - At what point does a man become unrighteous?

#### After the Video

Answer the following questions after you have finished the lecture. They will help you identify and summarize the major points.

- What three examples did Dr. Lawson use to demonstrate God’s sovereignty in the book of Job?
- What does studying the doctrine of total depravity help us see the necessity of?
- What is our fundamental problem with sin? Is it the actual sins that we commit?

#### PRAYER

Commit what you have learned from God’s Word in this lesson to prayer.

- Praise God for His power and command over the devil, the flesh, and the world.
- Confess any instances when you have used God’s sovereignty as a license for sin.
- Thank God for not leaving you under the power of sin and Satan.
- Ask God to produce in you the genuine fruits of heartfelt repentance and faith.