

“Tomorrow, if all literature was to be destroyed and it was left to me to retain one work only, I should save Job... It is perhaps the greatest masterpiece of the human mind.” —Victor Hugo

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Job—“The greatest poem whether of ancient or modern literature.” —Lord Alfred Tennyson

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“I call this book, apart from all theories about it, one of the greatest things ever written. Our first, oldest statement of the never-ending problem of

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man’s destiny and God’s ways with him in the earth. There is nothing written, I think, of equal literary merit.” —Thomas Carlyle

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SURROUNDED

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And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” —Job 1:21

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⁴Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵But stretch out Your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse You to Your face."

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⁶And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life." ⁷So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores

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from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes. —[Job 2:4-8 ESV](#)

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"Will a person serve God for nothing—if there are no blessings attached or no payoff? I have to confess to you that the devil has asked a very legitimate question.

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It's a question that all of us must face and somehow try to answer. Why do you serve God? Why do you go to church on Sunday? Why do you tithe?" —[Dr. Ron Dunn, When Heaven is Silent](#)

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I. We are Created for His Glory

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²³Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,

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²⁴but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love,

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justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”
—Jeremiah 9:23-24 ESV

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“Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were,

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with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you. This is the way you can waste your life and lose your soul.” —J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

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2. We are Protected by God's Character

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²⁵For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last He will stand upon the earth.
²⁶And after my skin has been thus destroyed,

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yet in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me! —Job 19:25-27 ESV

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3. We are Comforted by God's Control

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SOVEREIGN
The LORD has established His throne in the heavens,
and His kingdom rules over all. —Psalm 103:19 ESV

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“People treat God's sovereignty as a matter of controversy,
but in Scripture it is a matter of worship... to know that
nothing happens in God's world apart from God's will

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may frighten the godless but it stabilizes the saints.”
—J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

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“The secret of faith that is ready for emergencies is the quiet, practical dependence upon God day by day which makes Him real to the believing heart.” —Hudson Taylor

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4. We are Surrounded by God's Compassion

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²¹But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: ²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

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²⁴“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in Him.” ²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. —Lamentations 3:21-25 ESV

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