

JOB

A MAN OF HEROIC ENDURANCE

STUDY NINETEEN

Finally . . . Justice Rolls Down

Job 42:5–10

Those who made Job's life even more miserable hear from the Lord about that. Our faithful God rewards the righteous and He also disciplines the unrighteous.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

THE wheels of justice began to roll on October 24, 2002. For three terrorizing weeks during that month, the “Beltway Snipers” coldheartedly hunted down individuals and haunted entire communities in the “DMV” area (District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia).

Two perpetrators, one 41 years old, the other 17 years of age, methodically mowed down innocent victims, killing 10 and wounding 3. In cowardly fashion they used a high-powered rifle, firing through a small hole in the trunk of their car, allowing them to remain hidden from view. They had created a murderous, mobile sniper's den. Widespread panic gripped the region, leading to changes in daily routines.

They were arrested and their nefarious and sinister plot was revealed. But not before the public was incensed over the senseless rampage, and a nation clamored for justice to roll down on the guilty. It soon did.

Justice creates both satisfaction and relief. We love it when right is rewarded and wrong is punished. No one is better at balancing the scales of justice than our God who is all-knowing and just. He ultimately brings all wrongdoers to account.

In the passage for this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study, divine justice finally rolls down when God restores Job and rebukes Job's offenders. God's just character shines like the morning sun after a long, dark night. The man undeserving of so much pain, suffering, and confusion witnesses God's righteous verdict handed down from heaven. Job is vindicated at last.



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SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES
BIBLE STUDIES

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PREPARE YOUR HEART

The prophet Isaiah later captured God's heart toward those who wait for Him.

*Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you;
therefore he will rise up to show you compassion.
For the LORD is a God of justice.
Blessed are all who wait for him! (Isaiah 30:18 NIV)*

As you open the Word, share with the Lord your longing for justice. Ask the Lord to grant you a patient heart as you wait for Him to right the wrongs in your life.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

After the Lord spoke to Job from the whirlwind a second time in Job 40:6–41:34, Job waved the flag of surrender, retracted his words, and repented (Job 42:6). He had gained a full appreciation of God's profound and mysterious ways. "I had only heard about you before," Job said in awe, "but now I have seen you with my own eyes" (42:5).

His confession in 42:2–6 revealed four golden nuggets of wisdom refined in the crucible of his suffering, which we gleaned in our previous study:

1. *God's purpose will unfold, and no one can hinder it.* "I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you" (42:2).
2. *God's plan is incredible, and no one can fully comprehend it.* "I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me" (42:3).
3. *God's Word is reliable, and we are wise to heed its truth.* "You said, 'Listen and I will speak!'" (42:4).
4. *God's way is best, and we must not resist it.* "I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance" (42:6).

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Job saw these truths, but his friends hadn't. They still sat there, with frowning brows and folded arms, *waiting for the Lord to strike Job and vindicate them!* But when the Lord heard Job's heart and witnessed his openness and teachability, His grace and mercy overflowed as He opened a floodgate of justice toward Job and his friends. They were all in for a surprise.



Observation: “My Wrath Is Kindled”

The Lord had spoken to Job from the whirlwind. Now, a whirlwind of judgment veered toward Job's three critical friends. As pleased as God was with what He heard from Job's lips and perceived in Job's heart, He was displeased with Job's friends. Let's carefully *observe* God's words of rebuke to them, as well as His words of restoration for Job.¹ Read [Job 42:7–10](#).

Rebuke Administered—Job 42:7

Whom did the Lord address by name on behalf of Job's three friends? Why do you think He did so?

What reason did God give for His burning anger toward the three? How was God's verdict an *indirect* judgment of their critical words toward Job?

God's justice will come. If not now, later. If not later, in eternity. God will make it right. His fairness is part of His veracity. God, who has patiently allowed this experiment with Job to run its course, has now come to terms with it, with His servant and has now dealt with it with these friends. Satan is gone, again proven wrong. And the Lord is still enthroned above us. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Restoration Applied—Job 42:8–9

At the same time God’s justice kindled His wrath, God’s grace was making a way for restoration. As justice rolled down from the Sovereign One, a refreshing river of mercy followed right behind. What offering did God require from them, according to Job 42:8? How did that compare with typical Old Testament offerings for sin?

To whom were they to bring their offering in 42:8? (Keep in mind, Job hadn’t been restored yet. He was still suffering intense pain.) What would Job do? After that, who would the Lord accept and what would He not do?

What honorable title for Job did the Lord use four times in 42:7–8? What does that title say about their relationship?

Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar did exactly as the Lord commanded them, and the Lord accepted Job’s intercession on their behalf.

Job Is Fully Restored—Job 42:10

The Lord’s mercy and grace extended beyond forgiving Job’s friends to fully restoring Job. What is the significance of the conjunction “when” in this verse?

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The full measure of Job’s restoration awaits our next study. What does this verse say the Lord did for Job? What can we assume the Lord did for Job (even though the verse doesn’t say it)?

*Job, broken in his own repentance, has his face lifted up on behalf of his friends.
His friends are restored because of God’s mercy and now grace on top of grace.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



Interpretation: Guilt, Wrath, Justice, Mercy

God’s anger burned against Job’s three friends. If the Lord, who cannot sin, demonstrates “kindled wrath,” surely godly anger has a place in the Christian life. The Lord Jesus expressed anger at the merchants and moneychangers at the temple who, as He said, were “turning my Father’s house into a marketplace” (John 2:16).

Based on the accounts of God’s wrath in Job and of Jesus’ anger in the Gospels, what principles should guide believers about what defines justifiable anger, and how that anger may be righteously expressed?

Twice in our short passage, the Lord said that His wrath was kindled, “because you have not spoken accurately about me” (Job 42:7–8). In what ways had Job’s three friends misrepresented the Lord, His character, and His Word? For teachers and communicators of God’s Word today, what does God’s charge against these men convey about accurately presenting truth? What timeless principles do you find?

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God instructed Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar to bring their sacrificial offering before Job, who then prayed to the Lord as a mediator on behalf of his friends. Job, the offended, receives the offering of the offenders. How is Job a picture and a preview of Jesus Christ? What are the parallels?

What a grand scene! What's happening? Sins are being washed away. That's the greatest moment. There's justice and there's mercy. Do you know what that represents for us? The cross. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Correlation: The Redemptive Justice of God

While Job's friends had misrepresented God by telling Job his suffering was God's judgment for sin, Job had made demands of God to vindicate him. In their own ways, each one had crossed the line of presumption. In His perfect timing, God delivered divine justice—by revealing Himself in majesty and power and by humbling them. Then, He showed divine mercy by offering a path to redemption and displayed divine grace by restoring Job. All of God's attributes work together in perfect harmony.

Read [Psalm 89:14](#). What image did the psalmist use to describe God? Which attributes accompany His justice?

The minor prophet Amos spoke about God's justice, condemning Israel's wealthy, religious hypocrites for their corruption and oppression of the poor. Read [Amos 5:21–24](#). What does God hate? What does He desire and command?

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The animal sacrifices God required in our passage anticipated the coming perfect sacrifice of Christ. What did Christ's death on the cross accomplish more than animal sacrifices, according to *Hebrews 10:1–2, 11–14*?

There's justice and there's mercy. You know what that represents for all of us? The cross. That's why the death of Christ is effective, because God's justice against sin is satisfied in the death of the Lamb. And God's mercy is revealed in the forgiveness of those who trust in the Lamb. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Application: Twin Truths to Remember

Pastor Chuck Swindoll offers two truths to apply from our passage concerning God's restoration and redemption in Job 42.

First, *forgiveness is worth asking for*. If something comes between you and your heavenly Father, confess it and seek restoration. God loves to hear the cries of His children. He takes delight in our humble confession. Seek Him. Tell Him. He'll never turn you away. Use the space below to bring your confession to the Lord.

Second, *justice is worth waiting for*. Has someone offended you? In what ways might you be waiting for the Lord to show His justice and make right the wrong in your life?

Be assured that when Christ returns, justice will roll down from heaven over all the world. On that day, the Lord will restore you fully and shower you with riches beyond measure—eternal blessings that will make all the hardships of this life a distant memory. As you close your time in the Word, express to the Lord in prayer your trust in Him to act on your behalf.

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A FINAL PRAYER

Father, thank You for Job's honesty and his vulnerability. Thank You for his humility and obedience. I'm somewhere in this story, Lord. No matter where I am, I know Your arms are around me. You care about the shame and the guilt that I've lived under long enough. I pray You'd help me come to terms with all these things. And as justice rolls down, may mercy follow quickly. You are faithful and You care and You're good all the time. I love You, Father. Amen.

ENDNOTE

1. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, "[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](#)"

For the 2026 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Marshall F. Davis in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 2002, 2026 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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