



Introduction

QUESTIONS FOR GOD

The story of Job is the story of us all. Job lost everything in one day... most of us experience our losses more slowly, over the span of a lifetime, until we find ourselves on the door of death, leaving everything behind. ...We lose our youthfulness. No amount of plastic surgery, cosmetics, good diet, or exercise routine can stop the process of growing older. We lose our dreams. Who has not lost dreams, dreams of a career or marriage or children for which we hoped? We experience loss in transitions in life. Each time we change jobs or move is a loss. ...Most of us, in one or more moments of our lives, experience catastrophic loss. Unexpectedly a family member dies. A friend or son commits suicide. A spouse has an affair. We find ourselves single again after a painful divorce or breakup. We are diagnosed with cancer. ...We experience infertility, miscarriages, broken friendships, mental illnesses, abuse in our childhoods. They are all losses. ...We all face many deaths in our lives. The choice is whether these deaths will be terminal or open us up to new possibilities and depths of transformation in Christ.

—Peter Scazzero

Life is full of questions. From the earliest time that we can think and speak, we start asking questions.

- We ask questions because we _____ information.
- We ask questions because we _____ for meaning.

LIFE IS _____.

We live in a sin-cursed world in bondage to corruption, indwelling a body subject to death, surrounded by people who are self-minded and struggling with sin just as we are.

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (2 Timothy 3:12)

*Man, who is born of woman,
Is short-lived and full of turmoil.
Like a flower he comes out and withers.
He also flees like a shadow and does not remain. (Job 14:1-2)*



We are closer to God when we are asking questions than when we think we have the answers.

—Rabbi Abraham Heschel

Tribulation. Greek, *thlipsis*, “pressure, oppression, affliction, burdens, anguish, distress.”

We were created to live with Him in a garden, and yet awake every morning in the desert of a fallen world. ...We grew up trying to control our tears and trying to help others control theirs, thinking in the midst of it all sometimes that we might even be able to control the pain. All our ulcers and neuroses unfold as an inescapable consequence. That single pathway through it all, the path of lament, became overgrown, lost, left off all our maps.

—Michael Card

Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.

—C. S. Lewis

GOD INVITES OUR _____.

The greatest men of faith in the Bible struggled with God and asked Him questions from the depths of their heart.

- Abraham (Genesis 15:2; 17:17; 18:23-32)
- Job (Job 3:1-26; 7:17-21)
- Moses (Exodus 5:22-23; Numbers 11:11-15)
- Jeremiah (Jeremiah 12:1; 14:8)
- Habakkuk (Habakkuk 1:2-3)
- David (Psalm 6:3; 10:1; 13:1-2; 22:1; 35:17; 108:11)

The Psalms are filled with questions for God. There are approximately _____ questions to God in the Psalms along with many other questions which reveal the hearts of the psalmists.

Psalms is the hymnbook of the Jewish nation. It is the largest book of the Bible, sitting at the center of the Word and reminding us that worship is to be at the heart of everything that we do.

Authors: 101 of the 150 psalms are ascribed to a certain author: 73 to David, 12 to Asaph, 11 to the sons of Korah, 2 to Solomon, and 1 each to Heman, Ethan, and Moses.

Date: The psalms were written between ~1400-500 BC.

Genre: The Psalms are part of the poetic writings of the Bible. Hebrew poetry is a “rhyme of thought.”

Types of Psalms: The Psalms are generally divided into four main types: hymns of praise, laments, wisdom, and thanksgiving. Many psalms are also “messianic,” pointing to the coming Messiah.

The psalms of lament comprise about _____ of all the psalms. They call us to acknowledge our emotions, express our deepest questions about God, and dive into greater intimacy with Him.

THE ULTIMATE ANSWER TO OUR QUESTIONS IS _____.

At some point, our questions end and _____ begins.

Ultimately, our biggest need is not more information but closer relationship with the God who created us and loves us.

I have been accustomed to call this book...“An Anatomy of all the Parts of the Soul;” for there is not an emotion of which any one can be conscious that is not here represented as in a mirror. Or rather, the Holy Spirit has here drawn to the life all the griefs, sorrows, fears, doubts, hopes, cares, perplexities, in short, all the distracting emotions with which the minds of men are wont to be agitated.

—John Calvin

The Psalms mirror the faith of Israel. In them we receive windows that enable us to look out on our brothers and sisters in the faith of more than twenty-five hundred years ago. The Psalms invite us to experience how God’s people in the past related to Him. —Willem VanGemeren

Our emotions reveal our deepest questions about God. They vocalize the inner working of our souls. Listen to and ponder your emotions in order to discern what your heart is doing with God and others. They are a voice that can tell us how we are dealing with a fallen, hurtful world. Emotions force open the stuck window of our soul, compelling us to face how we are facing life.

—Robert Kellemen

Over a third of the Psalms are laments—prayers in pain that lead to trust. These prayers of protest turn to God instead of being silent, tell God what is wrong instead of pretending, ask for his help instead of doubting his care, and lead to trust instead of hopeless despair. Lament is the biblical language for people who feel like God is distant. —Mike Vroegop