

*Peter, the accident, the hospital, singing and praying. Peter with the Lord.*

And, since, I have had many questions... mostly from my own daughters... Why? Why Peter?

These are questions without answers... for now.

Not that there are not answers. There are. We just don't know them... yet.

Someday we will... though the answers may not be easy to understand. Even in heaven we do not gain omniscience.

Maybe you and I will get to take a class together there called "Why Peter Auch died." Maybe Peter will teach it.

In any case, we are left with the questions now... but it is OK to have questions and not answers.

This is the very definition of faith.

I don't know why... but God knows... and I know the one who knows. If He knows why, that is enough.

There is someone in the Bible who had questions, unanswered questions just like these.

## 1. "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away." Job 1-2

### 2. Job begins by talking to God. Job 3

And, he doesn't begin very well. But, what can one expect following such tragedy.

He says he should never have been born. Job 3:1-4

One of our family favorite movies is "It's a wonderful life." So, we know Job is wrong.

But, you can understand his reaction. He's feeling sorry for himself.

*Mary's prayer, "Lord, help us not feel sorry for ourselves."*

But, the really important thing here is that Job begins by talking to God... asking questions. Asking, "Why?"

It is a good place to start, as long as you really expect answers, which we discover, Job really does.

Then his friends begin to speak and their arguments essentially fall along these lines:

God is just and everything He does is right. So, don't accuse God of doing something wrong.

If this has happened to you it must be because you have done something wrong.

His friends are wrong... oh, they get many things right. All of what they say is true.

But they are wrong in their application... their reasoning does not fit Job's situation. Parts of it do... but not all of it.

Which is commonplace among believers in God trying to figure out what He is doing.

And, they are incomplete in their information... for, we, the reader, actually know why this has all happened to Job.

It is because Satan wanted to find fault with him. It happened because of His obedience to God.

And, that is certainly a curious thought that does not fit nicely into how we think.

So, finally they are forced to simply close their mouths and be quiet.

By the end of Job, God Himself deals with Job's complaints and Job only can sit quietly and listen.

But, along the way, as Job is dealing with their discouragement, he stumbles into some amazing truth.

### 3. Job recognizes his need. Job 6ff

**Job 6:1-3** He realizes that his grief is causing him to question God.

**Job 6:24-25** He realizes that he needs to hear from God.

**Job 7:11** He's not going to quit asking God questions.

**Job 9:1-12** He knows that God is altogether right and we have no standing before Him.

Job says he still wants to die. He still pleads his case. He's not giving up on God. Job never does that.

He continues to agonize before God. He continues to argue with his friends.

### 4. Job then asks his most important question. Job 14:1-14

**Job 14:1-13** He's struggling with the inescapable, inevitable fact of human mortality. We all die anyway. So just kill me now.

Then the question. **Job 14:14** "If a man dies, will he live again?"

*As I was driving back to Jon's house in SF, he asked me this question, "What's happened to Peter?"*

*It is such a good question... "Where is he now and what is this stuff about a resurrection body?"*

But, Job finds no answer to his question... until he responds to his next friends accusation.

### 5. Job clings to the most important truth. Job 19:23-27

**Job 19:23-24** He wants his complaint recorded forever. He wants an answer from God.

And, God is going to give him one. It is one that he already knows.

At the very end of the book in ch. 40ff... God is in control. He does what He sees is best.

But, here in chapter 19 we find Job clinging to another truth as important and life changing.

It is the answer to the question of chapter 14. "If a man dies, will he live again?"

There is an important lesson in this... sometimes the question that we keep asking is not the most important question.

Job was asking "Why?" The better question was this, "If a man dies, will he live again?"

He answers the question himself. **Job. 19:25-27b**

Death seems so final... but it is not and now, after Jesus Christ has died and risen, we know that it is not.

Gospel -- Our Redeemer lives! Someday, We will see Him standing on the earth. We will have bodies like His.

Think about it... it changes the "Why?" into a "Wow." We will see Him. Peter will see Him.

It makes all this death stuff fairly temporary... in light of eternity and our Redeemer.

It might not feel like that today... but today does not have the final word. Our Redeemer does. Amen.