



Word Notes: Sunday 08/07/18

Clare Reed: Open Season - Job

Key Text: Job

- “Open Season” Is the hunting season. Have you had times in your life when it’s felt like it’s Open Season, and you are the one being hunted? How did that season in your life affect your faith?
- Read Job 1:1-2:10. Jot down a list of everything that goes wrong for Job.
- How does Job respond to what is happening to him? (see 1:20-22 and 2:9-10)

- Job has three friends who try to work out why things have gone so horribly wrong for him, and what he needs to do now.

Eliphaz (chapter 4) affirms that suffering is a consequence of sin and that nobody is perfect. He suggests that Job should be encouraged because he is basically a good man, and his suffering will therefore soon be over.

Bildad (Chapter 8) suggests that Job’s children died because they had sinned, and that Job should be encouraged because he himself is good and so will soon be restored.

Zophar (Chapter 11) insists that Job’s suffering must be a consequence of his own sin and therefore he must stop complaining and focus on changing his ways.

What do you make of these “answers”?

- Our instinct when things are going wrong is to question why and to try to work out what we need to do to put it right. The book of Job doesn’t actually answer those questions, but it does give us a picture of what it looks like to continue in faith through a time of suffering. Look up some of the following verses –what do they tell us about how Job is feeling?
Job 3:11-13; 6:2-4; 9:29-31; 13:15-16
- God responds to Job in Chapters 38-39. Read some excerpts from these chapters. How is God’s response different to responses made by Job’s friends earlier in the book? How does God’s response help Job?
- What do you think we can learn from the book of Job?