

This desire is a **fantastic foreshadowing** of what Jesus Christ came to be and do. Job expresses a **prophetic** desire for the **Messiah**. In his misery, Job wishes he could speak with God and present his case.

Job earnestly desires an **intermediary**, an **umpire** (some translations use the word arbiter), **Who is qualified** to lay His hands on both God and Job.

Jesus Christ is that person! Yet, in what many believe to be the first Book of the Bible to be written, Job prophetically looks for Jesus! **Absolutely astonishing!**

*“And lo a **voice from heaven**, saying, This is **my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased.”*

(Matthew 3:17)

*“And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the **Son of man**.” (John 5:27)*

Jesus is the only one Who could be our mediator. Jesus is 100% God and 100% man at the same time. Jesus could (and does) lay His hand on His Father’s shoulder and upon ours. He then performs the duties of a glorious umpire!

Sadly, another similarity with an **umpire** is that umpires are either **loved** or **hated**. If you accept and approve of the umpire’s call

in baseball, you are pleased with the officiating. However, if you deny and reject the insight of the umpire, you will ridicule and despise him.

This reality is the same manner in which people respond to the call of Jesus.

“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.” (John 15:18)

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### **Conclusion: Suffering Can Be Used By God**

Some believe that suffering is not of God, but the Bible clarifies that God uses all things... including suffering. Hardships can reveal our **need for Jesus** (as seen in Job’s desire for a mediator.) Difficulties are capable of making us **better people** (as demonstrated by Job’s increased intimacy with God.) Tough times can be used to equip us to **help and comfort others**.

God uses everything for His glory, including suffering; therefore, ask the Father to guide us to trust Him in all circumstances.

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*“There is no **umpire** between us, Who may lay his hand upon us both.” (Job 9:33)*

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### **Job’s Suffering**

Regarding suffering amongst those that survived their maladies, it seems unlikely that anyone suffered more than Job. Consider the fact that Satan was permitted to do anything he wanted to Job except kill him.

During Satan’s first assault against Job, Job suffered the following:

- Loss of his servants, oxen, and donkeys (Job 1:14-15)
- Loss of his servants and sheep (Job 1:16)
- Loss of his servants and camels (Job 1:17)
- Loss of his sons and daughters (Job 1:18-19)

Satan’s second attack brought Job the following anguish:

*“And the Lord said to Satan, Behold, he is in*

# JOB'S UMPIRE

your hand; **only spare his life.**" (Job 2:6)

- Satan assails Job with the very worst thing he could do (short of killing Job)
- Job is smitten with horrible boils from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet (Job 2:7)
- He scrapes himself with broken pottery to try to obtain relief (Job 2:8)
- His wife advises Job to curse God and die (Job 2:9)
- Throughout Job – sleep deprivation – unpleasant friends – decaying flesh – etc.

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Job – The Best Of The Best

God brags about Job to Satan... **TWICE!**

*“And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is **none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?**” (Job 1:8)*

*“And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is **none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?** He still holds fast his **integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason.**” (Job 2:3)*

Observations:

- Job is the best person on earth
- Job is blameless
- Job is upright
- Job fears God
- Job turns away from evil
- Job holds onto his integrity
- Job is not guilty of anything to cause his suffering

According to God, Job is the best of the best!

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## Job – The Best Of The Best Got Better

By the end of the Book, Job is even better than he was at the beginning.

*“I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, **but now my eye sees you;**” (Job 42:5)*

Observations:

- Job used to know God by what he heard
- Now Job has seen God

Job moved from one level of intimacy with God (hearing) to a deeper level (seeing.)

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God’s Vindication – Go To Job

Job’s friends accused Job of being guilty of sin, which caused all of his troubles. But God chastises them, saying that **they did not speak the truth.**

“And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken

*these words unto Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My **wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath.** (8) Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant **Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept:** lest I deal with you after your **folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.** (9) So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the Lord commanded them: **the Lord also accepted Job.**” (Job 42:7-9)*

Observations:

- God’s anger was against the lies, and half-truths Job’s friends spoke regarding God
- They brutalized Job with their words, and God forced them to ask Job to intercede on their behalf
- Job’s three friends obeyed God
- God accepted Job’s intercession

Job’s friends did not speak accurately about God...but Job did!

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## Job’s Umpire

*“There is no **umpire** between us, Who may lay his hand upon us both.” (Job 9:33)*