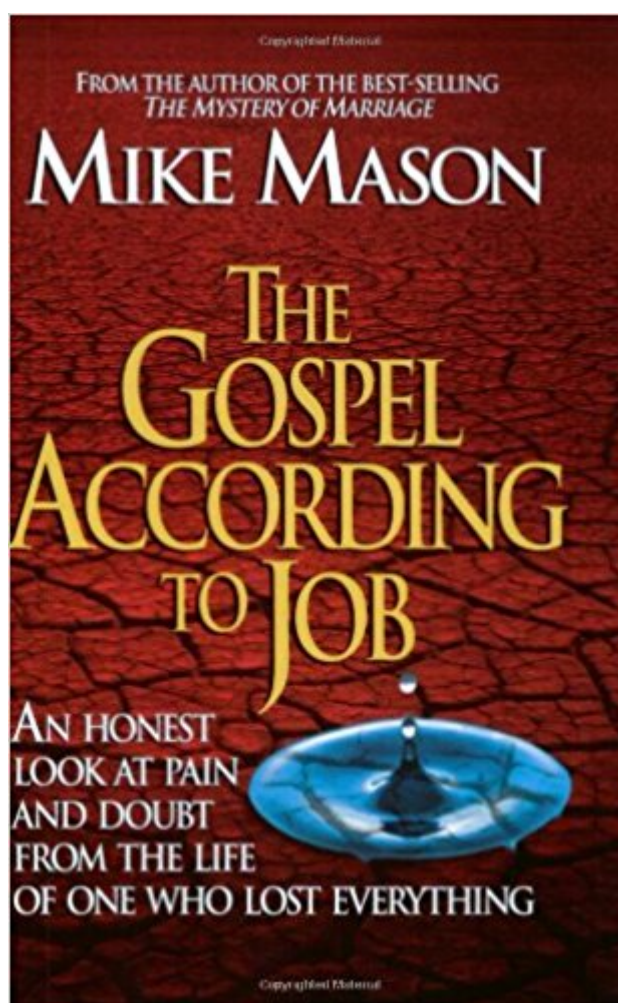


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# The Gospel According To Job: An Honest Look At Pain And Doubt From The Life Of One Who Lost Everything



## Synopsis

Anyone who has suffered knows that there is no such thing as "getting a grip on oneself" or "pulling oneself up by the bootstraps. The only bootstrap in the Christian life is the Cross," says Mason. "Sometimes laying hold of the cross can be comforting, but other times it is like picking up a snake." Job knew this firsthand. From him we learn that there are no easy answers to suffering. That the mark of true faith is not happiness, but rather, having one's deepest passions be engaged by the enormity of God. And through Job we learn the secret of the gospel: that "mercy is the permission to be human." The Lord never gave Job an explanation for all he had been through. His only answer was Himself. But as Job discovered, that was enough. The Gospel According to Job sensitively brings the reader to this realization, using a devotional commentary format that reminds them that it's all right to doubt, to be confused, to wonder— in short, to be completely human. But what will heal us and help us endure is a direct, transforming encounter with the living God.

## Book Information

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Crossway; 1 edition (1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 158134449X

ISBN-13: 978-1581344493

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 69 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #280,128 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #133 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Counseling](#) #207 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Counseling](#) #756 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Worship & Devotion > Meditations](#)

## Customer Reviews

MIKE MASON lives with his wife, Karen, in British Columbia, Canada. Mason received a BA with honors and an MA in English from the University of Manitoba. His other books include *The Mystery of Marriage*, *The Mystery of the Word*, and *The Furniture of Heaven*. He now writes full-time and divides his attention equally between fiction and devotional writing.

This book is unquestionably the most life-changing book I have ever read outside of the Bible. Far

from being perfect, Job is instead perhaps the most consistently honest, outspoken character in the Bible outside of Jesus, and I have come to realize that as I proceed slowly through this book. Two-page chapters make it not only unique, but in comparison to brief devotional readings, this book is so deep and so challenging. Just about all of my pre-conceived notions about God have taken somewhat of a beating outside of the knowledge that Jesus is Lord, but my awareness of Him and His great provision for us all has grown by leaps and bounds as a result of this book. Another result is that Job is now my favorite non-Jesus character in the Bible, perhaps because I see so much of myself in him, and can therefore relate to his struggles. Buy it, read it, pass it along. It is a hidden gem. And chalk up another five-star rating to add to Mason's already perfect 10. UPDATE: I am now almost finished reading this book through for the third time. I have never done that before with any book other than the Bible. I am also ordering another copy today for someone I just met who is struggling. For others who are facing struggles of their own, who are hurting and asking "Why?", this is the book to get or to give! UPDATE : Now, in 2017, I am reading through this wonderful book yet again. I have lost count of my number of readings, or of the number of copies I have given away. And Job continues to be my favorite character in the Bible outside of Jesus. The Book of Job has also now become my favorite book in all of the Old Testament, admittedly against some tough competition. The questions of when, where and how the information all came together in this fascinating account remain; insight into it all, though, offers encouragement and hope to all who struggle with ever-increasing burdens, attack, and loss in a nation and a world that seem to have lost their way.

This is simply the best commentary on Job ever written. Mason portrays religiosity as the villain, as shows how suffering is the key to understanding, not just the book of Job, but the very gospel itself. Mason's underlining concept is simply this: when you are forsaken by both God and man, then you find Christ in all His glorious beauty. Mason shows that being forsaken by God is the most crushing pain imaginable, and often our Christian brothers and sisters are often the culprits in trying to alleviate our suffering. The highest compliment you can give a teacher of Scripture is that they are a theologian of the cross. Mason shows how Job, by his pain, was one. "The cross," said Martin Luther, "is the safest of all places. Blessed in the man who understands this." Blessed are those who read this book and find their comfort under the beauty of Christ on the cross, the Ultimate Forsaken One.

It is one of the best books I have read in. Long time. I was not sure with it being about the book of

Job. But it is almost like a devotional. Each chapter only 2 to 3 pages. And you can read where ever you want. Right up front he talks about blame vs guilt in the simplest way I have ever heard. Then he challenges our deepest fears we will say yes God loves me, by what we hope is that He finds pleasure in us. He actually likes us. This book is about Job. But he weaves in the rest of the bible throughout the whole book. It is worth reading. It will change your life and relationship with God.

A study of Job is critical for understanding the Bible as a whole. Masons work is one of the best and the most helpful single work to accomplish the task. Even though there is an eventual end to the tests of faith in the Physical dimension, they probably started with Job. It shows there is an ongoing relationship with Satan and God that will surprise you.

The author obviously spent quite a bit of time thinking about this topic. He gleans some profound insights from the text, and draws connections to other portions of the Bible that allow his use of the word Gospel (the truth) to stand. I sense a Calvinist bent to his thinking, which does not quite jive with what I get from the Bible, but the beauty of humanity is that we can get to the destination on a variety of roads. If you don't let minor philosophical/theological disagreements get in the way, this book can be a powerful aid on your journey of spiritual growth.

I seldom review books, but I found this book so insightful, so meaningful, that I couldn't help recommending it to others. It's perhaps most useful for those experiencing suffering and distress, but thoughtful enough to make it a good anytime read. The author does an amazing job of breaking apart each verse thoughtfully, while honoring its integrity within the passage and book. The commentary is not really based so much from a first person perspective, as much as philosophical musing. I was always glad when I opened this book, which definitely didn't need to be read straight through to get value from it.

The all time best books to read if you want to survive suffering, pain, despair, pride are Mike Mason The Gospel According to Job. Peter Kreeft Making Sense out of Suffering and Paul Tournier Creative Suffering. But Mike's book goes to the only place suffering is ever faced with death, namely, the cross. Mike Mason has gone beyond anybody, ever. Your mind, heart and volition will be comforted and the lies during suffering that come to haunt you...will scream!! I have been reading this masterpiece since 2002 without being able to put it down. I have read all the books on suffering that are available and I want to save you time by telling you: Make Mike's book your new

never-ending friend.C.S.Lewis would love it as well as Chesterton.No Christian should live without reading it.SUFFERING IS THE ROAD TO MEET JESUS...and Mike Mason will walk with you during the pain...

I bought this book out of desperation to find some answers to suffering. From the get-go, Mike unleashes wisdom and insight on Job I've never seen before. I appreciate his perspective on how we should view our suffering and view God in light of our suffering. Thank you, Mike.

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