

# Book of Job

## Study BIBLE



## Introduction

Book No	18
Name	Job
Written By	Unknown
Testament	Old
Category	Wisdom
Date Written	Unknown
Place Written	Unknown
Audience	To the people of Israel
Purpose	To demonstrate God's sovereignty and the meaning of true faith. It addresses the question, "Why do the righteous suffer?"
History Covered	Unknown
Chapters	42
Verses	1070
Key Verse	And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause. (2:3)
Key People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Job</li> <li>❖ Eliphaz the Temanite</li> <li>❖ Bildad the Shuhite</li> <li>❖ Zophar the Naamathite</li> <li>❖ Elihu the Buzite</li> </ul>

Key Places	❖ Uz
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## Purpose of the Book

Job, the book, tells the story of Job, the man of God. It is a gripping drama of riches-to-rags-to-riches, a theological treatise about suffering and divine sovereignty and a picture of faith that endures. As you read Job, analyze your life and check your foundation. And may you be able to say that when all is gone but God, he is enough.

Job was a prosperous farmer living in the land of Uz. He had thousands of sheep, camels, and other livestock, a large family, and many servants. Suddenly, Satan the Accuser came before God claiming that Job was trusting God only because he was wealthy and everything was going well for him. And so the testing of Job's faith began. Satan was allowed to destroy Job's children, servants, livestock, herdsman, and home; but Job continued to trust in God. Next Satan attacked Job physically, covering him with painful sores. Job's wife told him to curse God and die (2:9), but Job suffered in silence.

Three of Job's friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, came to visit him. At first they silently grieved with Job. But when they began to talk about the reasons for Job's tragedies, they told him that sin had caused his suffering. They told him to confess his sins and turn back to God. But Job maintained his innocence.

Unable to convince Job of his sin, the three men fell silent (32:1). At this point, another voice—the young Elihu—entered the debate. Although his argument also failed to convince Job, it prepared the way for God to speak.

It should not be concluded that all the objections of Job's friends represent other than the view of God contemporary to their times. As the revelation of God's nature has unfolded through history and the Scriptures, we find that some of their views have been shown as incomplete. This, of course, does not make the text less than inspired, but gives us a Holy Spirit-inspired report of the incidents as they occurred.

Finally, God spoke out of a mighty storm. Confronted with the great power and majesty of God, Job fell in humble reverence before God—speechless. God rebuked Job's friends, and the drama ended with Job restored to happiness and wealth.

It is easy to think that we have all the answers. In reality, only God knows exactly why things happen as they do, and we must submit to him as our Sovereign. As you read this book, emulate Job and decide to trust God no matter what happens.

As we review the whirlwind address we come to three conclusions regarding Job's suffering:

- 1) Job was not meant to know the explanation of his sufferings. Some things about human suffering God cannot possibly explain to us at the time without destroying the very purpose they were designed to fulfill.
- 2) God is involved in human affairs: Job and his grief meant enough to God to cause Him to speak.
- 3) God's purpose also was to bring Job to the end of his own self-righteousness, self-vindication, and self-wisdom, so he could find his all in God.

The Book of Job teaches several lessons:

- 1) God is sovereign. We cannot understand His workings by rational thinking alone; faith must rest in God's love and our knowledge of Him. Sovereignty means that God is all-powerful; He knows all, He is everywhere present, and His decision is final (Jer. 4:8; Dan. 4:17). God is the author of all the power of the universe.
- 2) We understand ourselves and our lives in direct relationship to our understanding of the character and workings of God. When we understand that God's will toward us is good (John 10:10), that God cares and communicates His caring to His children—as He did to Job—this changes everything. Faith must have a resting place. When deep suffering threatens the foundations of faith, as was the case with Job, an assault on our faith can destroy us unless we are firmly rooted in these truths.
- 3) In times of tragedy we face the temptation of making God our adversary instead of our advocate. With Job of old, we can focus on declaring our innocence and questioning the justice of God, or we can bow in humility and wait for God to reveal Himself and His purposes to us.
- 4) The testing of our faith in God is an individual, personal testing. At times uncontrollable forces may come against us. Family, friends, and other sources of strength may be taken from us, leaving us seemingly alone in the battle. It is in this aloneness, however, that we must hear God's voice rather than the voice of others. We must trust Him to fill our voids and return us to victory.

Job was tested. With a life filled with prestige, possessions, and people, he was suddenly assaulted on every side, devastated, stripped down to his foundation. But his life was built on God, and he endured.

### Overview

- ❖ 18<sup>th</sup> book of the BIBLE, Old Testament and 1<sup>st</sup> among the 5 wisdom or poetic books
- ❖ Many believe the Book of Job to be the earliest book of the Bible.
- ❖ Job is set during the times of the patriarchs
- ❖ Factors to indicate a Patriarchal Age setting for Job:
  - Job lived about 140 years after the events of this book took place (42:14). Therefore, his life span must have been around 200 years. Abraham lives 175 years.
  - Job's wealth is measured in terms of livestock (1:3; 42:12) rather than silver and gold.
  - Like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Job is the priest of his family and offers sacrifices.
  - The social unit is the patriarchal clan.
  - Job uses the characteristic patriarchal name for God, "Shaddai" ("the Almighty").
- ❖ There is no reference to:
  - Israel
  - The exodus from Egypt
  - The Mosaic Law
  - The Tabernacle
- ❖ Job wrestles with the great question, WHY?
- ❖ The land of Uz (1:1) is adjacent to the land of Midian where Moses lived for some 40 years.
- ❖ The Book of Job deals with:
  - The question of the righteous having to suffer.
  - The sovereignty of God over creation.

### Hebrew Names of GOD used in Job

- ❖ EL
- ❖ EL-SHADDAI
- ❖ GAOL

## Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

There is no direct reference to Christ in the Book of Job; however, Job may be seen as a type of Christ. Job suffered greatly and was humbled and stripped of all he had, but in the end he was restored and became the intercessor for his friends. Christ emptied Himself, taking on Himself human form.

He suffered, was persecuted for a time by men and demons, seemed forsaken by God, and became an intercessor. A major difference between Christ and Job is that Christ chose to empty Himself, whereas Job's abasement came about through circumstances beyond his control. Further, Job identifies himself as "vile" (40:4); whereas Jesus is identified by Scripture as being totally without sin (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15).

The Book of James directs the reader's attention to the patience and endurance of Job. James states that, as God's intention toward Job was good, so our Lord's intention toward us is good (5:11). According to James, it is with Job-like patience and endurance that we are to await Christ's coming so that we receive the full unfolding of God's goodness to us.

## Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

Elihu, in his debate with Job, makes three significant statements about the role of the Holy Spirit in the relationship of people to God. In 32:8 he declares that a person's understanding is not due to his age or station in life, but rather is a result of the operation of the Spirit of God. The Spirit then is the Author of wisdom, endowing one with the capacity to know and making sense out of life for him. Thus knowledge and wisdom are the Spirit's gift to men.

The Spirit of God is also the Source of life itself (33:4). Apart from the direct influence of the Spirit, man as we know him would not have come into existence. From the original creation it was so, and continues to be so. Elihu states that his own existence witnesses to the life-giving power of the Spirit. The Spirit of God is the Spirit of life.

Because the Spirit gives life and wisdom to man, He is also essential to the very continuation of the human race. If God should turn His attention elsewhere, if He should withdraw His life-giving Spirit from this world, then human history would come to an end (34:14, 15). Elihu's point is that God is neither capricious nor selfish. Because He cares for man, He constantly sustains him by the abundant flow of His

Spirit. Thus the Holy Spirit in the Book of Job is the Creator and Sustainer of life, and He gives meaning and rationality to life.

## Mega Themes of Job

### SUFFERING

Through no fault of his own, Job lost his wealth, children, and health. Even his friends were convinced that Job had brought this suffering upon himself. For Job, the greatest trial was not the pain or the loss; it was not being able to understand why God allowed him to suffer.

Suffering can be, but is not always, a penalty for sin. In the same way, prosperity is not always a reward for being good. Those who love God are not exempt from trouble. Although we may not be able to understand fully the pain we experience, it can lead us to rediscover God.

### SATAN'S ATTACKS

Satan attempted to drive a wedge between Job and God by getting Job to believe that God's governing of the world was not just and good. Satan had to ask God for permission to take Job's wealth, children, and health away. Satan was limited to what God allowed.

We must learn to recognize but not fear Satan's attacks because Satan cannot exceed the limits that God sets. Don't let any experience drive a wedge between you and God. Although you can't control how Satan may attack, you can always choose how you will respond when it happens.

### GOD'S GOODNESS

God is all-wise and all-powerful. His will is perfect, yet he doesn't always act in ways that we understand. Job's suffering didn't make sense because everyone believed good people were supposed to prosper. When Job was at the point of despair, God spoke to him, showing him his great power and wisdom.

Although God is present everywhere, at times he may seem far away. This may cause us to feel alone and to doubt his care for us. We should serve God for who he is, not what we feel. He is never insensitive to our suffering. Because God is sufficient, we must hold on to him.

### PRIDE

Job's friends were certain that they were correct in their judgment of him. God rebuked

them for their pride and arrogance. Human wisdom is always partial and temporary, so undue pride in our own conclusions is sin.

We must be careful not to judge others who are suffering. We may be demonstrating the sin of pride. We must be cautious in maintaining the certainty of our own conclusions about how God treats us. When we congratulate ourselves for being right, we become proud.

### TRUSTING

God alone knew the purpose behind Job's suffering, and yet he never explained it to Job. In spite of this, Job never gave up on God—even in the midst of suffering. He never placed his hope in his experience, his wisdom, his friends, or his wealth. Job focused on God.

Job showed the kind of trust we are to have. When everything is stripped away, we are to recognize that God is all we ever really had. We should not demand that God explain everything. God gives us himself, but not all the details of his plans. We must remember that this life, with all its pain, is not our final destiny.

## Life Lessons in Job

Truth	Lesson
<p><b>Growing in Godliness</b></p> <p>The fruit of godliness will develop in our lives as we grow in our personal knowledge and understanding of God. Godly living turns from evil and seeks to understand God's perspective in every circumstance of life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Seek to walk before the Lord blamelessly, fearing God and rejecting evil.</li> <li>❖ Recognize that simply hearing about God is not enough. Intimacy and a personal encounter enable us to perceive and know Him for ourselves.</li> <li>❖ Pursue diligently an understanding of God's perspective when trying to apply truth to a given situation. Though Job's friends spoke truths, they wrongly applied them and falsely accused Job. They did not speak rightly about God nor did they understand His</li> </ul>

	<p>perspective; as a result, they provoked God's wrath.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Avoid resentment, unforgiveness and envy. Believe that they are self destructive attitudes</li> <li>❖ Embrace the LORD's correction. Consider it a blessing. Know that it evidences the LORD's love for you</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</b></p> <p>Dynamic devotion is cultivated within the rich soil of knowing, understanding, and trusting in the character and nature of God. The Book of Job does not answer the "why" question, but it does answer the "who" question. We may not understand why we go through trials and suffering; but by trusting in who God is, in His love, righteousness, and power, we can say with Job, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Remember that God knows you; He knows what you can handle and will not allow you to be tested beyond what you can endure (1 Cor. 10:13).</li> <li>❖ Rejoice that Jesus Christ is our Mediator and Advocate with the Father (1 Tim. 2:5; 1 John 2:1).</li> <li>❖ Put your trust in who God is based on who His Word has revealed Him to be.</li> <li>❖ Place your hope and trust in God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things; the loving, righteous, all-powerful, and just One.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pursuing Holiness</b></p> <p>As we begin to see and understand the holiness and purity of God, we begin to understand our own need for holiness and purity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Commit yourself to keeping your eyes pure. Be careful to look upon things that honor the Lord and are consistent with holiness.</li> <li>❖ Humble yourself before the Lord, just as Job did. He encountered God's majesty and holiness, and it left him deeply aware of his sin and inability to justify himself (see Is. 6:1-7; Rom. 5:18-21).</li> <li>❖ Commit yourself to moral purity. Keep your eyes, hands and body pure from sin</li> </ul>

### **The Walk of Faith**

Faith is the confidence of things not seen. Job's circumstances made it appear that either Job had sinned or God was unjust. Neither conclusion was accurate; and faith brought Job through his trials, enduring patiently to the end. He learned God's sustaining grace and experienced God's merciful restoration (see Heb. 11:1; James 5:10, 11).

- ❖ Believe God is for you, even in the midst of intense trials.
- ❖ Recognize there may be a satanic source involved in suffering and affliction; but also remember, "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4)!
- ❖ Do not be like Job's "friends." Do not assume that someone's illness or trial is a result of sin or judgment. Encourage the downcast; strengthen the weak; comfort the afflicted.
- ❖ Hold fast to Jesus, your Redeemer. Be comforted knowing He is able to redeem any circumstance (Rom. 8:28).
- ❖ Understand that honest struggle on faith's journey is more honoring to God than religious sounding talk or mere religious observance.
- ❖ Pray for those who misunderstand you. God restored all that Satan had taken when Job prayed for those who had falsely accused him.
- ❖ Forgiveness is a key to restoration (Matt. 5:44; Rom. 12:14).
- ❖ Know and understand that fear shows lack of faith in GOD and HIS promises
- ❖ Rely on the LORD's protection against verbal attacks and do not fear them
- ❖ Believe that GOD honors faith that is stronger than death

<p><b>Steps to knowing GOD and HIS ways</b></p> <p>Knowing that GOD has sovereign control as creator and sustainer of both the physical and spiritual universe must govern the way we think. GOD is intimately involved with our lives in a way that eludes our grasp. Any wisdom that leads to truth comes from HIM. The only way any man can know and understand GOD is by specific revelation. Understanding GOD's true nature will lead us to a hope in redemption and eternal life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Choose to trust GOD's absolute sovereignty in any adversity</li> <li>❖ Understand that while GOD may allow us to be tested HE sets strict limits on the tests</li> <li>❖ Believe that the LORD examines all your ways</li> <li>❖ Know that GOD's works are often unfathomable by the human mind</li> <li>❖ Know that our case is hopeless without CHRIST</li> <li>❖ Understand that GOD is the creator of all men</li> <li>❖ Understand that GOD is totally righteous in what HE renders to man and totally free from wrong doing</li> <li>❖ Know and understand GOD as creator and sustainer of the universe</li> <li>❖ Learn that HE not you determines what is right</li> </ul>
<p><b>Steps in developing humility</b></p> <p>The true knowledge of GOD leads to humility. Humility is not the self deprecation with which many of us are often acquainted. Rather it is the refusal to trust oneself for fulfilment of needs, looking instead to the LORD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Understand that man's own righteousness is a vain hope</li> <li>❖ Believe that only CHRIST's imputed righteousness can allow us to stand before GOD</li> <li>❖ Diligently avoid any form of self righteousness. Understand that it makes one unteachable and unshapable in GOD's hand</li> <li>❖ Humble yourself regularly in the presence of the LORD. do not be hasty to reply against GOD</li> </ul>

<p><b>Keys to wise living</b></p> <p>The wise person lives in view of what he knows to be true about GOD, the world and himself. His approach to GOD is humble and self effacing, refusing to accuse GOD of any wrong doing in adversities. Therefore the wise man is able to patiently embrace and endure suffering, knowing that GOD's loving hand will prevail beyond it. Also the wise man knows that although we are to seek to live righteously, our righteousness can not earn GOD's favour. Grace is a gift not a debt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Understand that to accuse GOD of any wrongdoing is the sin of blasphemy.</li> <li>❖ Refuse to question any of GOD's workings</li> <li>❖ Do not be surprised at trouble. Know and accept that it is part of human life which faith overcomes</li> <li>❖ Recognize the value of the wisdom of those older than you</li> <li>❖ Resolve yourself to the fact that GOD is the final word in all matters</li> <li>❖ Understand the transitory and trouble filled nature of human life</li> <li>❖ Understand that adversity is a fire by which GOD is seeking to purify your life</li> <li>❖ Discern whether present adversity, opposition or restraint is part of the LORD's discipline</li> <li>❖ Agree quickly with HIS correction and repent</li> </ul>
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### Praise Points in Job

- ❖ Faithful followers, who serve as good role models for us (1:1)
- ❖ His attention to those who know and obey him (2:3)
- ❖ Our advocate and redeemer (9:32-33; 16:19; 19:25)
- ❖ His wisdom, which he grants to those who trust him (28:23-28)
- ❖ His power, which is displayed in creation (38:4)
- ❖ His provision for all his creatures (38:39-41)
- ❖ Glimpses of himself, which humble us (42:5)
- ❖ His attentiveness to the prayers of his faithful servants (42:8-9)
- ❖ The favor he shows to those who love him (42:12-17).

## Worship Insights in Job

What does Job's story have to do with worship? Through Job we see that worship is always the proper response to God, even when we don't understand why things are as they are. Job started out as a faithful worshiper of the Lord, living righteously and offering sacrifices for his family. After his suffering begins, Job initially accepts it gracefully: "Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?" (2:10). But once his friends begin their arguments, the patient Job becomes quite impatient. In the end, however, we find a more mature Job worshipping God, silenced before the awesome majesty of his Creator. Through Job's experience, we see that genuine worship does not find its origin in habit, tradition, or in having all the right answers but in our proper vision of God.

- ❖ God is ultimately in charge of the universe, and there is nothing that happens that is beyond his control (1:12; 2:6; 9:1-10; 12:7-25; 26:5-14; 36:22-42:10).
- ❖ True worship flows out of a proper understanding of God (1:20-21; 2:10; 23:11-14).
- ❖ Though disaster may threaten us today, we can hold on to God's promise of eternal life (14:14; 19:25-27; 33:28-30).

## An Outline of Job

**I. Prologue: Job's Righteousness/God's Reward: [Job\\_1:1-5](#)**

**II. God's Risk/Job's Ruin: Job 1:6-2:13**

**A. Satan's Challenge: [Job\\_1:6-12](#)**

**B. Job Loses Fortune and Family: [Job\\_1:13-22](#)**

**C. Satan's Challenge Extended: [Job\\_2:1-6](#)**

**D. Job Loses Health and Home: [Job\\_2:7-10](#)**

**E. Job Loses Fame and Friends: [Job\\_2:11-13](#)**

**III. Job's Rebellion/His Friends' Reaction: Job 3:1-14:22**

**A. Job—A Cry for Mercy: [Job\\_3:1-26](#)**

**B. Eliphaz—The Reaction of Experience: Job 4:1-5:27**

**C. Job—A Cry for Justice: Job 6:1-7:21**

**D. Bildad—The Reaction of Tradition: [Job\\_8:1-22](#)**

**E. Job—A Cry for a Mediator: Job 9:1-10:22**

**F. Zophar—The Reaction of Common Sense: [Job\\_11:1-20](#)**

**G. Job—A Cry for God: Job 12:1-14:22**

**IV. His Friends' Rebuke/Job's Resolve: Job 15:1-21:34**

- A. Eliphaz—The Rebuke of Experience: [Job\\_15:1-35](#)
- B. Job—The Resolution of Will: Job 16:1-17:16
- C. Bildad—The Rebuke of Tradition: [Job\\_18:1-21](#)
- D. Job—The Resolution of Trust: [Job\\_19:1-29](#)
- E. Zophar—The Rebuke of Common Sense: [Job\\_20:1-29](#)
- F. Job—The Resolution of History: [Job\\_21:1-34](#)

**V. His Friends' Reproach/Job's Rebuttal: Job 22:1-27:23**

- A. Eliphaz—The Reproach of Experience: [Job\\_22:1-30](#)
- B. Job—The Rebuttal of Innocence: Job 23:1-24:25
- C. Bildad—The Reproach of Tradition: [Job\\_25:1-6](#)
- D. Job—The Rebuttal of Dilemma: Job 26:1-27:23

**VI. Job's Reflection/Review: Job 28:1-31:40**

- A. On the Source of Wisdom: [Job\\_28:1-28](#)
- B. On the Glory of the Past: [Job\\_29:1-25](#)
- C. On the Agony of the Present: [Job\\_30:1-31](#)
- D. On the Oath of Innocence: [Job\\_31:1-40](#)

**VII. Elihu's Remonstrance/Readiness: Job 32:1-37:24**

- A. On the Right to Speak: [Job\\_32:1-22](#)
- B. On the Discipline of Suffering: [Job\\_33:1-33](#)
- C. On the Price of Rebellion: [Job\\_34:1-37](#)
- D. On the Question of Motive: [Job\\_35:1-16](#)
- E. On the Purpose of Pain: [Job\\_36:1-23](#)
- F. On the Goodness of God: Job 36:24-37:24

**VIII. God's Revelation/Job's Repentance: Job 38:1-42:6**

- A. God—The Mystery of Creation: Job 38:1-39:30
- B. Job—Submitting in Silence: [Job\\_40:1-5](#)
- C. God—The Mystery of Grace: Job 40:6-41:34
- D. Job—Seeing through Suffering: [Job\\_42:1-6](#)

**IX. Epilogue: God's Redemption/Job's Restoration: [Job\\_42:7-17](#)**