

The Book of Job

Introduction & Background:

James 5:10 Brothers and sisters, as **an example of patience in the face of suffering**, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. **You have heard of Job's perseverance** and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. NIV

Ezekiel 14:14 even if these three men, Noah, Daniel and **Job**, were in it, they could save only themselves by **their righteousness**, declares the Sovereign LORD....**20** as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, even if Noah, Daniel and **Job** were in it, they could save neither son nor daughter. They would save only themselves by **their righteousness**. NIV

Job Traditional Author: Unknown, perhaps Moses.

Approximate Time of Writing: Unknown, but the events probably took place between 2000 – 1500 B.C. (See Genesis 36)

General Content: Historical Narrative and Poetry. As the first of the Poetic Books, Job gives humanity its first clear look of the Lord's sovereignty concerning the affairs of mankind. It portrays a decent man who is unjustly attacked by the devil and ultimately defended and venerated by God. The primary message of this book seems to be that there is a lot we don't know about God and what goes on behind the scenes. It addresses the question of why good people suffer, but it does not explain the reasons for it. It promotes trust in the righteousness of God.

Many scholars believe that Job may be the oldest book of the Bible. It portrays Job with a "Patriarchal" lifestyle similar to Abraham's and because there is no mention of Judaism, the Patriarchs or Israel's history, it points to an earlier time.

Key Verses:

Job 1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. KJV

Job 1:22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly. KJV

Job 2:9 His wife asked, "Why do you still trust God? Why don't you curse him and die?" CEV

Job 2:10 Job replied, "Don't talk like a fool! If we accept blessings from God, we must accept trouble as well." In all that happened, Job never once said anything against God. CEV

Chapter 1 A look behind the veil that separates Heaven and Earth

- v. 1 - 3 Job is introduced.
- v. 5 Job's Repentance for his own children.
- v. 6 - 11 Satan accuses Job before God. (See Zech 3:1-4)
- v. 12 The Lord permits Satan to test Job.
- v. 13 - 20 Job's first round of tragedy and his initial response.

Job 1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. **22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.** KJV

Chapter 2 The Second View from Heaven.

- v. 1 Satan and the "sons of God" again come to present themselves to God.
- v. 2 - 3 The Lord questions Satan and comments on Job's response.
- v. 4 - 6 Satan again accuses Job and gets permission to test him further.

Job 2:9 his wife.."Why do you still trust God? Why don't you curse him and die?" CEV

Job 2:10 Job replied, "Don't talk like a fool! If we accept blessings from God, we must accept trouble as well." **In all that happened, Job never once said anything against God.** CEV

- v. 11 - 13 Job's three friends honorably come to commiserate with him.

Chapter 3 Job's laments

- v. 1 - 3, 11 Job regrets having ever been born.
- v. 25 The very thing Job feared has come upon him.

Note: We are never told Job's "fear" caused God's approval for his testing.

Chapter 4 -5 Eliphaz responds to Job with a universal idea.

Job 4:8 In my experience, **only those who plant seeds of evil harvest trouble,** 9 and then they are swept away by the angry breath of God. CEV

Chapter 6 -7 Job responds to Eliphaz the Temanite.

Chapter 8 Bildad the Shuhite responds to Job

Job 8:5 So why don't you turn to him 6 and start living right? Then he will decide to rescue and restore you to your place of honor. 7 Your future will be brighter by far than your past. CEV

Chapter 9 - 10 Job replies.

- v. 9 Mentions 3 constellations.
- v. 33 Says there is not yet a mediator between God and man. (1 Timothy 2:5)

Chapter 11 Zophar the Naamathite responds to Job.

v. 3 - 6 Accuses Job of being a liar and sinner.

Job 11:4 You claim to be innocent and argue that your beliefs are acceptable to God. 5 But I wish he would speak 6 and let you know that wisdom has many different sides. You would then discover that **God has punished you less than you deserve.** CEV

Job 11:13 Surrender your heart to God, turn to him in prayer, 14 and give up your sins — even those you do in secret. 15 Then you won't be ashamed; you will be confident and fearless. 16 Your troubles will go away like water beneath a bridge, 17 and your darkest night will be brighter than noon. You will rest safe and secure, filled with hope and emptied of worry. 19 You will sleep without fear and be greatly respected. 20 But those who are evil will go blind and lose their way. Their only escape is death! CEV

Chapter 12 - 14 Job responds to his 3 “Friends”

Job 12:2 No doubt but ye are the people, and wisdom shall die with you. KJV

Job 12:1 Job said to his friends: 2 **You think you are so great, with all the answers.** 3 But I know as much as you do, and so does everyone else. 4 I have always lived right, and God answered my prayers; **now friends make fun of me.** 5 **It's easy to condemn those who are suffering, when you have no troubles.** CEV

Job 13:15 **Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:** but I will maintain mine own ways before him. 16 **He also shall be my salvation:** for an hypocrite shall not come before him. KJV

Chapter 15 Eliphaz responds to Job again.

Chapter 16 - 17 Job responds to his “friends” again.

Chapter 18 Bildad replies to Job.

Chapter 19 Job makes his greatest declaration of his continued faith.

Job 19:23 Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were **printed in a book!** 24 That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever! 25 **For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:** 26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, **yet in my flesh shall I see God:** 27 **Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.** KJV

Chapter 20 Zophar rebuts.

Chapter 21 Job poses timeless questions about the human condition.

Chapter 22 Eliphaz responds to Job again.

Chapter 23 -24 Job responds to his “friends” again.

Chapter 25 Bildad responds to Job again.

Chapter 26 - 31 Job responds to his “friends” again.

Chapter 32 - 37 A new man named Elihu joins the discussion.

33:14-18 God speaks in dreams. (see NIV)

37:23 On God’s ways.

Chapter 38 - 41 The Lord Responds

38:1 - 3 Yahweh begins to respond from a whirlwind.

Job 38:1 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, 2 Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? 3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. 4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding. KJV

38:4-11 Description of Earth’s early History.

38:31-32 Constellations mentioned again.

Job 40:2 Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? He that reproveth God, let him answer it. 3 Then Job answered the Lord, and said, 4 Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee?

40:15-24 Sounds like Description of a dinosaur.

41:1-41 Fire-breathing Leviathan.

Chapter 42 Job’s Reply to God and the Conclusion.

Job 42:5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. 6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes. KJV

42:7 - 8 The Lord rebukes Job’s 3 Friends.

42:10 - 17 Job prayed for his friends and the Lord restored him.