

Job



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Mikeal R. Hughes, D.Min., Th.D., Ph.D.
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- 10. What did the Lord say to Eliphaz and his two friends?

- 11. What are we to make of the fact that Elihu is not mentioned by God?

- 12. Is all suffering redemptive? please explain

- 13. What happened when Job prayed for his friends?

- 14. What did Job's family and friends do?

- 15. What part of this book has appealed to you the most? Please be specific.

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The Book of Job

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God is superior to man \ Job's prayer, later end

Lesson 13 - Job 41,42

JOB

41:1-34 God describes the leviathan and how he made him

42:1-6 Job acknowledges his lack of knowledge and understanding
\ Job repents

42:7-9 Job prays for his friends

42:10-17 The latter end of Job

1. What was the leviathan?
2. What point is God making with the leviathan? (41:9,11)
3. What is it about the leviathan that makes him unlike other animals?
4. Why is barbed irons and fishing spears of no use against the leviathan?
5. What does Job acknowledge about his previous speeches? (42:1-3)
6. The only ones who speak out against God are ignorant of what?
7. How had Job “seen” God with his eyes? (42:5)
8. How can Job’s experience, understanding, and commitment become ours?
9. After hearing and seeing God, what did Job do?

7. What is God's purpose for all these questions? (38:8-41)
8. How is the sea compared to an infant?
9. Controlled creation demands what one quality?
How does this relate to Job?
10. What is God's purpose for questions about the animals? (39:1-30; 40:1,2)
11. What is meant by the expression "I lay my hand upon my mouth"?
12. What was Job's answer? (40:3-5)
13. How did God view Job's words? (40:6-8)
14. What would Job have to do for his own right hand to save him? (40:9-14)
15. What was the behemoth?

Introduction

Why Read Job? What does the book of Job teach us? Why is this book important to Christians?

Who is Job?

Two possible literal meanings of the name of Job – 1. If the origin is Aramaic, it means "one who turns back (repents)" 2. If the origin is Hebrew, it means "the hated (persecuted) one." Both names describe Job at different points in this book.

Some have argued that Job was not an actual person, but that his story was written to make a point.

Important parallels – *Judges 17:1, I Samuel 1:1*

Important references – *Ezekiel 14:14-20, James 5:11*

Job is quoted by Paul in *I Corinthians 3:19*.

Interestingly enough, Job is not an Israelite.

He is from the land of Uz, which is not located in Israel. There is some debate today about its actual location. Most place it somewhere in Northern Arabia. If Job lived in the Patriarchal Era, he would have lived before God selected Abraham as the father of His people.

When did Job live?

It is difficult to pinpoint an exact date for the time of Job. It contains no references to contemporary events, and reflects a pre-Hebrew society about which historians know very little. It is safe to say Job lived in the Patriarchal Age (around the time of Abraham) because...A qesitah is mentioned as a unit of money, which suggests it is at least as early as Joshua (Joshua 24:32), if not as early as Genesis (Genesis 33:19) He is the head of a large family, and serves as their priest (making sacrifices) in the same way Abraham did. He offered the sacrifices himself, rather than a Levite (as would be done under the Mosaic Law). Some have even suggested that he lived longer than those in the Patriarchal Age.

When Was Job Written?

There are 5 main views for the authorship of Job – 1. Patriarchal Age, 2. During Solomon’s reign, 3. During Manasseh’s reign, 4. During Jeremiah’s lifetime, 5. During or after the exile.

View #1 – Since we have very little evidence of non-Israelite writings from that time period, this position is difficult to confirm or deny.

View #2 (Solomon’s reign) – 1. During Solomon’s era, leisure time was more prevalent and was focused on pondering deep problems in life. Some say there is a similarity between Job 28 and Proverbs 8. Many conservative scholars hold this position.

View #3 (Manasseh’s Reign) – This was a period of social injustice, and some feel that Job’s plight would have been specifically applicable to this time. Since there is no evidence that Job was designed to speak to this specific situation, this position is difficult to hold.

View #4 (Jeremiah’s time) – Some feel there are several similarities between Jeremiah and Job, and Uz is mentioned in Jeremiah 25:20. Once again, the evidence is not very strong.

View #5 (Exile) – This view is held by those who consider Job to be fictional or legendary – not a very strong argument.

When everything is considered, it is difficult to know the time of authorship with any certainty. Remember, God’s divine authorship is what gives Job authority, not human authorship. There are other books in the Bible with unknown authors. (Ex. Hebrews)

How Should We Read Job?

Job is included in the “wisdom literature” section of the Old Testament, and much of it is poetical. 3 types of Hebrew poetry – 1. Lyric – originally poetry set to music. (Psalms) 2. Didactic – shares observations on life. (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes) 3. Dramatic – Poetry in dialogue form (Job, Song of Solomon) Hebrew poetry is not built on rhyme, but on units of thought. It is written in lines. What we will see in Job - Metaphors, Repetition, Contrasts, Parallelism. Example of parallelism – Job 19:25. This type has a second line that builds on the idea stated in the first line.

God challenges Job \ Job’s penitent submission.

Lesson 12 - Job 38-40

JOB

38:1-15	God challenges Job and tells of His creation
38:16-38	God tells of man’s inability to probe the mystery of his creation
39:1-30	God describes man’s inability to probe the mysteries of the animals
40:1-5	Job humbly submits to God and will not speak further
40:6-24	God asserts his power over all creation and tells Job to take notice

1. When God breaks His silence and speaks to Job, at the same time He challenges the theological assumptions of Job’s three friends and Elihu. Explain how.
2. How had counsel been darkened?
3. Had Job been alienated from God? Prove your answer.
4. What did God tell Job to do? (38:3) Why?
5. What does God say about the foundations of the earth? (38:4-7)
6. What is meant by corner stone in verse 6?

10. What does Elihu say of God's justice? (34:19-23)
11. What does Elihu say of Job's speech? (34:35-37)
12. According to Elihu, what effect does sin or righteousness have on God? (35:1-10)
13. How does Elihu describe his words and knowledge (36:1-4)
14. In chapter 36, according to Elihu how does one know that God is with the righteous and is against the wicked?
15. How does Elihu view God's working through elements of weather? (37:1-14)

What is the book of Job?

Job can be described as a "theodicy." This word unites two concepts – "theos" which means God, and "dikeo" which means justice or righteousness. The term could be described as "God-justice." In other words, it answers the question – Is God a just God? How does Job do this for us in a way that is different than any other book? What makes Job relevant? Since it is not closely tied to one historical time period, it is easy to apply to the lives of all God's people. The fact that the conversations of Job's friends are recorded in poetic form, it is obvious that the book is meant as a teaching tool for the suffering.

Questions to Consider:

1. What is the basic problem in the book of Job?
2. How is righteousness defined?
3. Was Job a sinless man?
4. Is all suffering permitted by God or is some of it sent by God?
5. How is the book of Job of contemporary value?
6. Job is patient as well as full of complaint, How can this be harmonized?
7. Job has hope, what is it?

An Outline of Job

Theme: Righteous People Suffer Unjustly

- I. Prologue 1:1 - 2:10
 - A. Setting the scene (1:1-5)
 - B. The heavenly council (1:6-12)
 - C. The satan's trial (1:13-21) [22 narrator]
 - D. The stakes are raised (2:1-6)
 - E. The satan's second trial (2:7-10b) [10c narrator]
 - F. The three friends (transition to the dialogs; 2:11-13)
- II. Dialogs with "friends" 3:1 - 42:6
 - A. Job's opening soliloquy (3:1-26)
 - B. Dialogs with "friends" (4:1-27:23)
 1. First cycle (4:1-14:22)
 - a. Eliphaz speaks (4:1-5:27), Job responds (6:1-7:21)
 - b. Bildad speaks (8:1-22), Job responds (9:1-10:22)
 - c. Zophor speaks (11:1-20), Job responds (12:1-14:22)
 2. Second cycle (15:1-21:34)
 - a. Eliphaz speaks (15:1-35), Job responds (16:1-17:16)
 - b. Bildad speaks (18:1-21), Job responds (19:1-29)
 - c. Zophor speaks (20:1-29), Job responds (21:1-34)
 3. Third cycle (22:1-27:23)
 - a. Eliphaz speaks (22:1-30), Job responds (23:1-24:25)
 - b. Bildad speaks (25:1-6), Job responds (26:1-27:23)
- III. Monologues 28:1 - 37:24
 - A. The inaccessibility of Wisdom (28:1-28)
 - B. Job's concluding soliloquy (29:1-31:40)
 - C. The speeches of Elihu (32:1-37:24)
- IV. Dialog with God 38:1 - 42:6
 - A. God speaks (38:1-40:2), Job responds (40:3-5)
 - B. God speaks again (40:6-41:34), Job's second response (42:1-6)
- V. Epilogue 42:7-17

Elihu's anger at Job's justification of himself

Lesson 11 - Job 32-37

JOB

32:1-22	Elihu angered at Job because of self-justification
33:1-33	Elihu asserts that God uses pain to chastize wicked men
34:1-37	Elihu defines God's justice
35:1-16	Elihu continues to define God's justice
36:1-33	Elihu continues to describe God's justice and power
37:1-24	Elihu asks Job to consider the wondrous works of God

1. Why did Job's three friends cease to answer him?
2. Why was Elihu's wrath kindled against Job?
3. Why was Job's wrath kindled against his friends?
4. Why had Elihu not spoken until now?
5. Why was Elihu so eager to speak?
6. What had Elihu understood Job to say of himself? (33:8-11)
7. Did Elihu think Job was right?
8. According to Elihu what would Job have to do for God to deliver him? (33:23-30)
9. Of what did Elihu accuse Job of saying about God? (34:9)

6. What great contrast do we find in chapter 30?
7. Explain how Job's friends are like braying horses?
8. What couldn't Job understand? (30:25-26)
9. Is Job accusing God of unfair punishment? (31:3-14)
10. How are we the master of our own eyes?
11. How does God his friendship with God and vice versa?
12. How had Job treated the poor?

The fatherless?

The stranger?

13. How is adultery associated with fire?
14. Had Job ever coveted his wealth and possessions?
15. What final plea did Job make to God?

Job \ Satan's Requests \ Job's misery

Lesson 1 - Job 1, 2, 3

Job

1:1-5	Job and his background
1:6-12	Satan permitted to test Job
1:13-22	Job's wealth and children taken away \ Job's patience
2:1-6	Satan's second request granted
2:7-10	Job is afflicted physically \ Job's continued patience
2:11-13	Job's friends come to "comfort" him
3:1-10	Job curses the day of his birth
3:11-26	Job questions why he is alive and cries out in agony

1. Where was Job from?
What were his character qualities?
How many sons and daughters did he have?
Describe his prosperity:
2. Who are the "sons of God" in 1:6?
3. What does the word "Satan" mean?
Why did Satan think Job was so faithful to God?

What did God allow Satan to do?
4. In 1:13-19, what happened to Job's family and possessions in a brief period of time?
5. How did Job respond to this tragedy?

6. What was Satan's next attempt to turn Job from God?
7. How did Job's wife respond to his condition?
8. How did Job respond to his wife?
9. Who were Job's friends who came to comfort him?
How long did they stay with him without speaking a word?
Why?
10. Why would Job curse the day of his birth? Seems he had lived longer in prosperity than he had in suffering?
11. Cursing is used in at least two ways what are they?
12. What is Sheol?
13. How is death consider a great equalizer?
14. In chapter 3 verse 20 there seems to be an indirect charge against God, what is it?
15. How can death offer a welcomed relief?

Job's past life \ present suffering \ vindication.

Lesson 10 - Job 29-31

JOB

29:1-25 Job rehearses his earlier prosperity
 30:1-31 Job describes his present suffering
 31:1-40 Job vindicates himself

1. How does Job describe his life previous to his tragedies:
 Relationship with God?

 Family?

 Position in community?

 Reputation?

 Relationship to those less fortunate?

 Action toward the wicked?

 Respect?
2. How has his life changed since his suffering began:
 Respect?
3. What had his name become? (30:9)
4. Perceived relationship with God? (30:19-22)
5. "God will take care of you" seems to be the theme of Job's life - but just how will this be done? (cf. 10:14; 13:27; 14:16)

11. According to Job, what is the heritage of the wicked and the oppressors?
(27:13-23)
12. According to Job, where can wisdom not be found? (28:12-14)
13. What cannot purchase wisdom? (28:15-19)
14. Who understands the way of wisdom and knows its place?
15. As far as man is concerned, what is wisdom and understanding?

Eliphaz speaks \ Job's reply

Lesson 2 - Job 4-7

JOB

- 4:1-11 Eliphaz begins his speech \ God does not punish the righteous
- 4:12-21 (Eliphaz) The sinful man must perish
- 5:1-7 (Eliphaz) Punishment is the fruit of unrighteousness
- 5:8-27 Eliphaz begs Job to seek God
- 6:1-20 Job replies \ Why will God not let him die?
- 6:21-30 Job asks for evidence of his sins
- 7:1-6 Job argues against hope
- 7:7-21 Job prays to God

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1. What did Eliphaz say about Job helping others?
 2. What was Eliphaz implying in 4:6-9?
 3. What “secret thing” was seen by Eliphaz in a “vision?”
What was he trying to tell Job?
 4. What did Eliphaz say about:
 - a. The children of the foolish?

 - b. The harvest of the foolish?

Was he making reference to what had happened to Job?
 5. Does Eliphaz believe that God was chastening Job?
 6. How does Job describe his grief?

7. What request does Job make of God in 6:8-11?
8. What is meant by the question we find in verse 13?
9. How does Job describe his friends in 6:15-21?
10. In what ways and why has Job lost hope?
11. What was Job's perception as to how his friends looked upon him?
12. In 7:1-9; in what four ways does Job describe the passing of his days?
13. How does Job describe his "comfortless" condition?
14. How long did Job's affliction last?
15. Job wishes God would leave him alone, while David wanted the opposite - Psalm 33:18; 34:15. Why?

Bildad speaks \ Job's last reply to his friends

Lesson 9 - Job 25-28

JOB

25:1-6 Bildad says that no one is righteous before God
 26:1-14 Job knows the greatness and majesty of God
 27:1-6 Job asserts that he is speaking the truth
 27:7-23 Job detests the wicked
 28:1-28 Job ponders how and where true wisdom is acquired

1. Does Bildad believe in inherited sin? (25:1-6)
2. What is Bildad's thesis? What is wrong with this thesis?
3. In what way is man a worm?
4. What question had Bildad failed to answer?
5. How is it that the dead can not escape from God?
6. What does Job have to say about astronomy and gravity with centrifugal force? (26:7)
7. What are the "pillars of heaven"?
8. What is Rahab as used in verse 12?
9. In Job's estimation what portion of God's ways does creation tell?
10. What two things would Job not let go? (27:5,6)

11. How does pure religion as spoken of by James 1:26, 27 enter into a discussion concerning 24:3?
12. Why is much wickedness done under cover of the night?
13. Why do wicked people escape divine retribution?
14. Who is digging to get into a house? For what purpose?
15. How and when will the wicked be rewarded?

Bildad speaks \ Job replies

Lesson 3 - Job 8-10

JOB

- 8:1-22 Bildad calls Job a hypocrite and asks him to repent
 - 9:1-12 Job sees the proof of God's justice
 - 9:13-24 Job acknowledges himself a sinner
 - 9:25-35 Job's complaint against God
 - 10:1-13 Job continues his complaint
 - \ acknowledges God as creator and preserver
 - 10:14-22 Job is confused about God's treatment of righteous and wicked
-

1. Who was Bildad?
2. How did Bildad view the death of Job's children?
3. To Bildad, what was a sure sign of one's righteousness?
4. What did Bildad imply that Job had done? (8:13-22)
5. Why does Bildad say Job lost his children?
6. Who is accused of being a "bag of wind"?
7. How does this second response of Job differ from his first?

8. How does Job describe the greatness of God and the weakness of man? (9:1-14)
9. When a man goes to court with God what is the result?
10. Did Job believe he could justify himself before God? (9:15-21)
11. In what three ways does Job describe the swift passing of his days? (9:25-26)
12. With what spirit did Job begin chapter 10?
13. In verses 5-7 give two possible reasons for the suffering being brought upon Job.
14. In questioning God and God's purpose for Job's life what does Job admit in 10:15?
15. Because of his present condition what does Job wish about his birth?

Eliphaz's charge \ Job's reply

Lesson 8 - Job 22-24

JOB

23:1-17 Job would rather find God and be tried of Him

24:1-25 Job asserts that the punishment of the wicked is not always seen

1. What did Job think would be the outcome of his trial? (23:1-10)
Why?
2. Chapter 23 is completely devoted to what subject?
3. In chapter 23 verse 4 a courtroom scene is suggested, what is to be tried?
4. Who did Job think had made his heart soft and troubled him?
5. How does Job indicate that he loved the words of God?
6. What is the point of using the description for God as found in 23:13?
7. What kind of fear or terror is right and what kind is wrong?
8. What is the darkness spoken of in 23:17?
9. Do the wicked always get immediate punishment from God? (24:1-12)
10. Does God know or care about the present day oppression of the poor?

9. What had his friends failed to observe about many of the wicked? (21:7-16)
10. Why does Job want to know how often the wicked suffer?
11. How are all men alike?
12. What is Job's view of God's sovereignty in dealing with the wicked and the just? (21:17-26)
13. Did Job accept the accusations of his friends? (21:27-34)
14. The wicked are actually, at times, led to safety instead of wrath. Why?
15. What is the real difference among men?

Zophar speaks \ Job replies \ Job talks to God

Lesson 4 - Job 11-14

JOB

- 11:1-6 Zophar accuses Job of lying and hypocrisy
 - 11:7-12 Zophar argues for God's sovereignty and infinite qualities
 - 11:13-20 Zophar assures Job that God will restore him upon repentance
 - 12:1-12 Job denies Zophar's accusations
He argues that God is watching over all
 - 12:13-25 Job praises God's strength and providence
 - 13:1-12 Job resents his friends advise
 - 13:13-22 Job defends his own integrity
 - 13:23-28 Job asks for the number of his sins \ Why such severe punishment?
 - 14:1-22 Job speaks to God \ ponders the resurrection \ pain and mourning
-

1. Of what does Zophar accuse Job? (11:1-3)
2. How did Zophar view God's part in Job's calamities? (11:5,6)
3. What is one thing that Zophar tells Job he should be least glad for?
4. How did Zophar use the unsearchable nature of God to reprove Job?
5. How does Job compare himself to his friends? (12:1-3)
6. Job and his friends agreed on one thing what was it?

7. What are three themes of Job's longest speech given from 12:1-14:22?
8. How does Job use the wisdom of God against his counselors? (12:7-25)
9. Of what does Job accuse his friends in 13:4?
10. What is the play on words seen in verse 11?
11. What does Job ask his friends to make known unto him? (13:23)
12. How did Job view a man's days in 14:1-2?
13. How is man like the water of a sea, lake or river?
14. Did Job believe in the resurrection? (14:7-14)
15. Who is Job describing in 14:20-21?

Zophar speaks \ Job replies

Lesson 7 - Job 20-21

JOB

20:1-29 Zophar rehearses the misery and ruin that await the wicked
 21:1-6 Job pleads to speak without interruption
 21:7-16 He tells how the wicked often prosper in life
 21:17-26 Job acknowledges God's sovereignty in how he deals with the wicked and just
 21:27-34 Job concedes that his friends will not agree with him

1. Why does Zophar believe he has to answer? (20:1-3)
2. How does Zophar view Job's defense? (20:4, 5)
3. What has Job accused Zophar of?
4. How does Zophar accuse Job of sinning and dealing with his sin? (20:11-13, 19)
5. Zophar says Job had compassion for sin in what way?
6. How can there be anguish in the midst of luxury?
7. Does Job think his answer will be accepted by his friends? (21:1-3)
8. This speech of Job has some distinctive features. Name three of them?

9. What is the meaning of the phrase “build up their road against me”?
10. In what sense has God walled in Job?
11. What did Job think that God had done to him concerning:
 - a. Judgment
 - b. Glory
 - c. Hope
 - d. His brethren and friends
 - e. His servants, wife, and children
12. In your own words explain 19:20.
13. What does Job ask of his friends? (19:21,22)
14. Job’s friends could have had pity for him even if they felt he was guilty. Is this what Job needed?
15. Of what thing was Job sure? (19:25-27)

Eliphaz’s advice \ Job replies \ Job talks to God

Lesson 5 - Job 15-17

JOB

15:1-16	Eliphaz’s 2nd speech: Job condemns himself \ Job deludes himself \ Job is condemned before God
15:17-35	Eliphaz tells of the end of an evil man
16:1-22	Job charges his friends with unkindness \ alleges that God is angry with him \ his conscience is clear
17:1-16	Job appeals to God against the verdict of his friends

1. How does Eliphaz describe Job’s reasoning?
2. How is Eliphaz’s first speech different from this second speech?
3. What does Eliphaz have to say about the plight of the wicked man? (15:20-35)
 - a. His daily food?
 - b. How he deals with God?
 - c. His living conditions and substance?
4. In what way is Job supposed to have condemned himself?
5. Is Eliphaz accusing Job of being a wicked man?
6. How does Job describe his “comforters?” (16:1)
7. Job has four enemies who are they? Why call them enemies?

8. Have these friends helped Job's grief?
9. In 16:13 there is a graphic mixing of metaphors explain the figures used.
10. How does Job describe his physical appearance? (16:8, 15, 16)
11. Does Job maintain innocence? (16:17-22)
12. How does Job describe those who are around him? (17:1-4)
13. How does Job call the righteous and the innocent to his defense?
14. In verse 10 Job challenges his friends.
What is the purpose of this challenge?
15. Why does Job want to die?

Bildad's rebuke \ Job's reproof

Lesson 6 - Job 18, 19

JOB

18:1-21	Bildad reproves Job as egotistical and stubborn \ describes the misery and ruin of the wicked
19:1-12	Job reproves his friends \ acknowledges that God is behind his afflictions
19:13-24	Job feels deserted by men \ pleads for pity
19:25-29	Job's unshakeable confidence in his living Redeemer
20:1-29	Zophar rehearses the misery and ruin that await the wicked

1. Why is Bildad upset with Job?
2. How does Job become a paradigm of growth through suffering?
3. Job is constantly conscious of his innocence on what subject?
4. To what circumstance in Job's life does "the light of the wicked" have reference?
5. Who is responsible for what happens to the wicked man? (18:7, 8)
6. What does Bildad say about the confidence of the wicked man?
7. What does he say about the posterity of the wicked?
8. Why is Job upset with Bildad and his friends? (19:1-3)