

Job 1-2

INTRODUCTION TO JOB PROLOGUE

Study Outline

Part 1: Introduction to Job & Prologue (1,2)

Part 2: Job's introductory Speech & cycle of speeches by three older friends (3-27)

Part 3: Poem about Wisdom & Job's Messiah (28, selected verses)

Part 4: Cycle of summation speeches by Job and his younger friend. (29-37)

Part 5: God's closing speech and Epilogue to book (38-42)

God's boast about Job

How was Job blameless?
Compare: Gen 6:9
His own view?: Job 12:4, 31:6
David considered himself blameless: Ps 51:1,2,7
What about us? Eph 1:4

Job 1:6-12

A Council In Heaven.

How literal a picture?
Compare: 1 Kings 2 (esp. 16ff), Zechariah 3, Revelation 12.

The first two chapters describe Job's suffering. The reader is given an inside look at events to which Job and his friends are unaware. These chapters lay the background for the speeches that follow.

Content of the book:

Brainstorm: From what we know about Job deduce when and where the events take place.

A brief summary outline of the whole book:

- Prologue (1-2)
- Dialogues (Cycles of Speeches) (3-31)
 - First Cycle of Speeches (3-14)
 - Second Cycle of Speeches (15-21)
 - Third Cycle of Speeches (22-31)
- Elihu's Speeches (32-37)
- The Lord's Speeches (38-42:6)
- Epilogue (42:7-17)

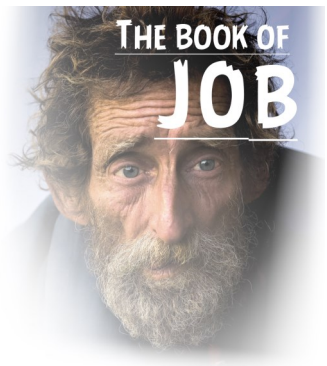
A Theme: The Mystery of the Suffering of the Righteous.

The Man: 1:1-5

Characterize Job.

A Council In Heaven: 1:6-12

What can we learn from Satan's challenge in 1:9-11?



Job 1-2

INTRODUCTION TO JOB PROLOGUE

Despite Satan's attacks we can draw comfort from this section:

Why would the Lord say to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?"

God is _____ in his grace.

Why would God allow Job to be tested if it might mean that Job curse him?

God _____ the _____ of our testing.

What comfort is there for us in our suffering as we read Job 1:12?

God _____ the events of Job.

1:12 (& 2:6) What do these verses tell us? How can you use this to help someone in great suffering?

Verse 8 (and 2:3): How is this information significant to the reader?

Job's Suffering

1:13-22 What is lost to Job?

Evaluate his response in 1:21!

2:13 Comment on the friends' response of silence. Good and commendable? Bad and because of fear? (6:21?) Evidence of sincere sympathy?

◆ For Next Week:

Read up to Job 27.

Evaluate Job's three older friends and their responses to Job and his suffering.

Job 1:6

Does Satan have access to God?

Compare: Revelation 12:10

2 Tim 3:16 exercise:

Form small groups. Role play: 1 person suffering; 1 person acting like Job's wife; the others use what is found in Job 1-2 to "encourage" the one suffering.



Job 3-27

JOB'S INTRODUCTORY SPEECH & CYCLE OF SPEECHES BY THREE FRIENDS

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Compare

Job's view of the grave with the rest of Scripture:

Job 3:13-19, Ecc 12:7,

Job 19:23-27; Ez 37:11-14; Ps16 & Acts 2:25-28, 1 Thes 4:13-16, Mat 21:31-32

Job's view of time of grace: Job 6:10, 1 Tim 6:12-14

How bad was his suffering?

physical 7:5, 19:20

emotional 6:16, 17:6, 19:17-19,

spiritual 10:3, 17:1

Learning how to deal with suffering and how not to deal with one who is suffering.

(Job 3) Summarize Job's Introductory Speech. Why is this often the attitude of those who are suffering greatly?

(Job 4-5) Summarize the first speech of Eliphaz. Read 5:17-18 What does he offer Job? Where does he look for the answers? (4:15-16, 5:27)

Job's friend wasn't the help he needed (6:21) What is Job's response to Eliphaz's charge? (6:28-30)

(Job 8) Summarize Bildad's first speech. Read 8:5-7 What does he offer Job? Where does he look for the answers? (8:8-10)

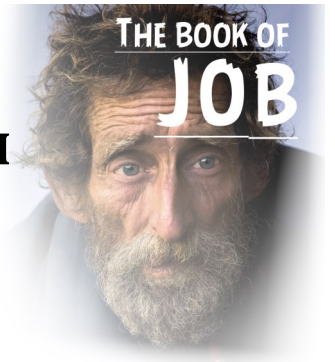
(Job 9-10) Read 9:2 What flaw does Job point out in Bildad's theology? (See also Psalm 14:1-3)

(Job 11) Summarize Zophar's first speech. Read 11:13-15 What does he offer Job? What can following this advice lead one to?

(Job 12-14) His response to his three friends. God's governance. His sovereignty. Job's desire to escape it (14:4,13)

(Job 15) Eliphaz's second round. His source of truth? (15:17-18) Evaluate his theology in 15:20.

(Job 16-17) (Note 16:19-21. This will be addressed in part 3 of our Study.) We've seen so far what NOT to do when dealing with a suffering person. Explain.



Job 3-27

**JOB'S INTRODUCTORY SPEECH
& CYCLE OF SPEECHES BY
THREE FRIENDS**

"My error remains my concern alone."

(Job 19:4)

In what sense is this correct?

When is this not the case?

Psalm 92:6-7

How does God's justice remain even when the wicked prosper?

Read and Discuss:

How does Psalm 91 differ from the theology of Job's friends? (example Job 11:13-19)

Look at Psalm 73.

What is the believer's solution for not despairing when he suffers and the wicked prosper?

What truth is found in Job 16:4-5 regarding the right way to deal with a person who is suffering? How do you think Job would encourage you to speak to a ...victim of divorce ... scared and pregnant teenager ?

(Job 18) Bildad's second speech. Read 18:5 How did Bildad now view Job due to his suffering?

(Job 19) 19:23-27, Job's great confession of the resurrection, will be looked at next week in part 3)

(Job 20) Zophar speech 2. Read 20:22ff. "A fire unfanned will consume him." Picture of this life or responding to what he thinks Job will have in the next life?

(Job 21) How can Job shoot down the speeches of his three friends as he does in 21:34? (see 21:7-15,23-25.)

(Job 22) Eliphaz round 3. Final speech. He still holds to his tit-for-tat theology. How bold is he in making charges against Job? (See 22:5-15)

(Job 23-24) Job's points out the reality of God's ways with wicked and righteous alike.

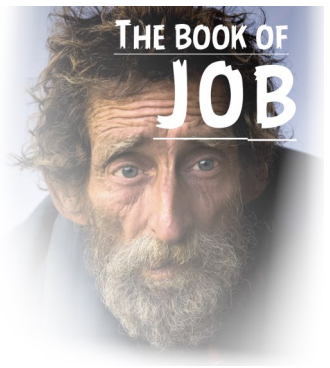
(Job 25) Bildad's speech 3, Final Speech.

(Job 26-27) Read 27:5-6 After all this how did Job view himself? (Compare this with his initial response in 6:29-30)

Recall the inside look given to us: 1:8 and 2:3. What progression of thought have we seen in the poetic dialogue of the 3 friends' 3 cycles of speeches with Job?

◆ For Next Week:
Revisit 14:13-17; 9:33-35; 16:19-21; Job 17:13-16, 19:23-27

Also Read Job 28 .What does Job need and confess regarding wisdom? His Messiah/Mediator?



Job 28 & selected verses

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Compare

Job 10:4-7 with Jesus sharing in our humanity

- John 1:14
- John 11:35,38

How would this truth about Jesus comfort Job or others that feel this same frustration?

- Heb 4:14-16

JOB'S POEM ABOUT WISDOM & SELECTED VERSES ON JOB'S SAVIOR GOD

Job reminds us where wisdom alone can be found

Job's confession of his God and mediator.

The search for wisdom

Read Job 28:1-11 What is Job describing? This sets the stage for what he says next.

Read Job 28:12-19 How does Job rightly conclude "Man does not comprehend its worth" (28:13) when speaking of wisdom?

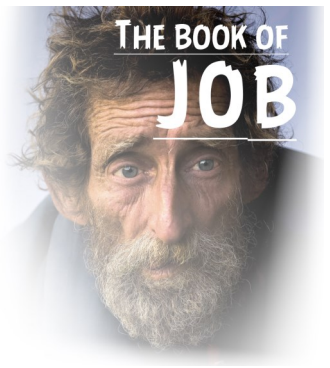
Read 28:20-28. By whom is wisdom found? How is it revealed to man?

The need for a Mediator

Job 7:17-21 What is Job's frustration. Who shares in this?

What does Eliphaz think Job lacks? (Job 5:1)

What does Job desire to have? (Job 9:32-25) .



Job 28 &
selected verses

JOB'S POEM ABOUT WISDOM & SELECTED VERSES ON JOB'S SAVIOR GOD

Compare

Job 10:9 & Psalm 103:8-14

Our Redeeming Mediator

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time." -1Tim 2:5

"..if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." -1 John 2:1

Redeemer

What comfort is there in this title for God?

- Ps 49:7,15
- Is 43:1

Fulfilled in Christ

Look at the start and end of Luke's gospel (1:68,24:21)

Job reminds us where wisdom alone can be found

Job's confession of his God and mediator.

Job's Savior-God

Read Job's plea. (Job 14:13-17) How and when does God do this for believers? (1 Thes 4:16-17)

Read Job 16:19-21 Compare this with the work of Christ. (See passages to the left)

Read Job's comments regarding his friend's advice: (Job 17:13-16) This rhetorical question sets the stage for a grand confession: Job 19:23-27

"Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever! I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another.

How my heart yearns within me!

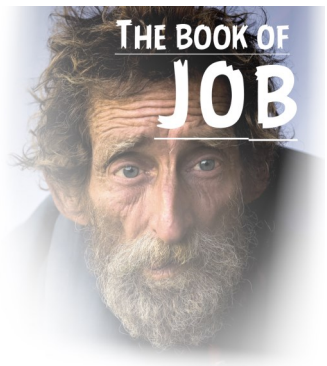
List some remarkable truths found in this confession:

Is this the way the Lord does things? Are we sure Job is speaking correctly? (cf Job 42:7)

◆ For Next Week:

Read up to Job 29-37.

Evaluate the speeches of Job's forth and younger friend and Job's responses.



Job 29-37

CYCLE OF SUMMATION SPEECHES BY JOB AND HIS YOUNGER FRIEND.

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*"How great is God
—beyond our
understanding! "*

-Job 36:26

*God is exalted in his
power. Who is a teacher
like him? Who has
prescribed his ways for
him, or said to him, 'You
have done wrong'?*

(Job 36:22-23)

Job gives his three friends a final refute and echoes his desire to have an accounting with God to prove himself innocent. He insists he did not sin.

The end of Job's final speech.

Job's hands: When Job served as a judge at the city gates what did he do (29:11-12) How did he help the poor (29:16-17)?

Job's heart: How had Job kept even his heart clean? (Job 31:1,9 , 31:24-28)

Job's attitude toward others: What kind of employer had he been? Job 31:13-15

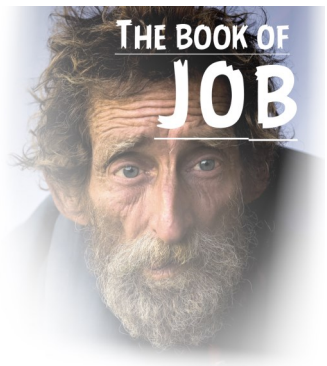
Recall the conclusion that all three of Job's older friends had made. Why did they say Job suffered? (See chapter 22 for most specific charges against Job)

What picture of God does their conclusion give?

We can trace their thinking this way:

"Suffering is punishment for sin; Job was suffering; therefore Job was being punished for some sin." What part of this statement did Job still reject (Job 31:35-37) ?

Look at Job 32: 3,11,12. What upset Elihu?



Job 29-37

CYCLE OF SUMMATION SPEECHES BY JOB AND HIS YOUNGER FRIEND.

(Job 32–37) Elihu’s Contribution: Tear down the premises of the three friends of Job and defend God’s Sovereignty. Elihu bursts against the three friends and speaks some truths regarding God dealing with his own who suffer.

“The only proper moral attitude in respect to God is humility.”

-August Pieper

Truths expressed by Elihu:

Job has no right to complain to God and demand an accounting from him. (33:13 , 34:29)

God may use suffering to rescue his own from spiritual danger. (33:22,29,30)

God is always just. (33:8-14, 34:10,17)

When the believer finds fault with God’s chastisement, he or she becomes guilty of rebellion. (34:35-37)

The believer must wait patiently committing his/her cause to God. (35:14)

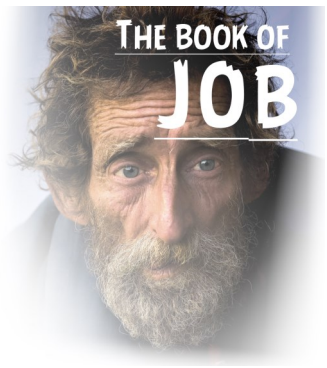
God’s ways and workings are beyond us and unsearchable. (36:26)

Looking at God’s wonders in creation and governance of nature lead us to see his infinite majesty, power, and wisdom and to bow before him in reverent awe. (36:27-33 37:1-24)

Next: The conclusion to Job, Part 5. The Lord himself speaks to Job. In Job 37 God was pictured by Elihu with images of a storm. Job 38 begins with the Lord answering Job from out of a storm. Read Job 38 to the end of the book.

*“Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?”
- Job 31:15*

- USA Supreme Court Roe verse Wade court decision.
- Job is speaking about a reason for treating people equally.
- Explain how passages like this and Ps 22:10, 139:13-14 can be used as the “positive” argument against abortion.



Job 38-42

GOD'S CLOSING SPEECH EPILOGUE TO THE BOOK

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Our best contribution to God's wisdom

"Who is this that darkens my counsel?"

-Job 38:2

God's sarcasm

"Surely you know, for you were already born! You have lived so many years!"

-Job 38:21

It is foolishness to think we can tell God how to better manage the affairs of his created world.

(Job 38-39) The Lord compares his wisdom to Job's

Scan through and read sections of Job 38-40. What tone do you sense?

Job 38 God's challenges for Job.

Job 39 God's presentations to Job.

What is God's point? (see also Isaiah 55:8-9) Of what mistake, therefore, is Job guilty?

Although God hasn't spoken directly with everyone like he did with Job, consider Romans 1:18-20. In what way do all people already have this same message from the Lord?

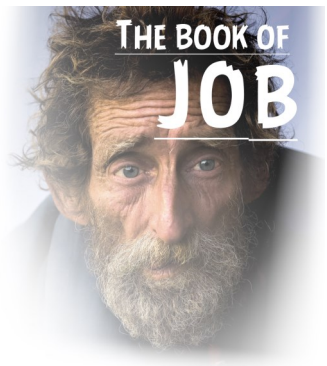
(Job 40:1-14) The Lord compares his justice and glory to Job's

Read Job 40:1-5 Evaluate Job's response. Why is it inadequate?

(Job 40:8) "Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself? " List and discuss some ways that people justify themselves by attacking God's Justice.

Job 40:15-41:34 The Lord highlights his Sovereign will and might by _____ Job's will and might _____ the powerfully created creatures.

Job 40:15-25 Behemoth? Job 41 Leviathan? What is God's point in mentioning these creatures?



Job 38-42

GOD'S CLOSING SPEECH EPILOGUE TO THE BOOK

"The Lord spoke..."

Note what God has now revealed through his son:

Heb 1:1-2

Eph 1:9-10

God's restoration

What to expect when God restores us and causes our suffering to cease:

- Exodus 10:19
- Romans 8:18-25
- Rev 21:1-4

James 5:10-11

What do we learn from Job about suffering under God?

Final thoughts:

Psalms 92:12-15

Suffering? We don't know how much God has in store for us!

(Job 42:1-6) Job repents in humility

How is Job's second response to God different from the first?

Job refers to God's workings as "Things too wonderful for me to know." Why doesn't God reveal everything to us?

As to exactly how God revealed himself and spoke in the past is unimportant (Hebrews 1:1-2). What matters to us is that he did speak to his people. And *he has given* us a clear, inerrant, and inspired record of his Word in both Old and New Testament.

(Job 42:7-17) God restores Job

What is amazing about the title for Job?

In all our troubles we look forward to an even greater restoration than what we read happened for Job. Like Job we look forward to when we will be forever restored to live with our Redeemer.

"Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever! I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"