

# JOB

For our next character study, we have to zoom past the books of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther...until we stop at the book of Job. Some of you might be thinking, "hey, Job was married" but we'll touch on that at some point in our study.

**Biblical References:** Gen 46:13, Job, Eze 14:14, 20; Jam 5:11

**Key Passages:** Job 1:1, 1:6-8, 1:21-22, 2:9-11, 4:4-6, 31:35-37, 38:3-5, 42:2,6; 42:16-17

The book of Job obviously centers around the life of Job. It's a book that is veritable "mother lode" of nuggets of wisdom and insight into the sovereignty of God. Preparing for this study was quite a challenge because I wanted to stick to the format of covering a person in one session. But each verse in Job had such impact and is so relevant that I wanted to use them all! Well, let's find out who this Job person is.

**Job 1:1** "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job. And that man was perfect and upright, and one who feared God and turned aside from evil"

Pretty straight forward. It is important to note that "perfect" here means perfect in the human sense... not perfect as in how God is perfect.

**Job 1:6-8**, "And a day came when the sons of God came to present themselves before Jehovah. And Satan also came among them. [7] And Jehovah said to Satan, From where do you come? Then Satan answered Jehovah and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. [8] And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you set your heart against My servant Job, because there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil?"

A few noteworthy things here. First, we see that Satan has access to Jehovah God. Next we see that Satan has the freedom to roam the earth. And lastly we see the Lord actually BRAGGING about Job. If the Lord had a conversation like that about YOU, would HE able to brag about YOU?!

Of course Satan dismisses Job's righteousness by saying that Job is only like that because God has blessed him...that if those blessings were removed, Job would turn from the Lord. So God takes the challenge and allows Satan to do what he wants with Job's possessions and those around him, but that he wasn't allowed to touch him.

Job's livestock was killed or stolen, his children were killed. What was Job's response?

**Job 1:21-22**, "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 did not sin, nor charge God foolishly."

Satan then approaches God again, and again God brags about Job. Satan brushes THAT off by saying that it is one thing for a man to lose his possessions and loved ones, but quite another if he were to lose his health. So once again God gives Satan permission to do what he wishes but that Job's life must be spared... so he afflicts Job with sores and boils.

We see that Satan attacks Job in 3 areas... the lust of the flesh: material possessions, lust of the eyes: physical appearance, and the pride of life: his children. He used the same approach to tempt Jesus in the desert, and he uses the same tactics against us today.

All this comes down on Job, and what is his wife's reaction?

**Job 2:9-10**, "And his wife said to him, Do you still hold to your integrity? Curse God and die! [10] But he said to her, You speak as one of the foolish ones speak. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this Job did not sin with his lips."

As if the troubles themselves weren't enough, Job's wife adds to the burden by her cynicism. Rather than be supportive and encouraging, she tries to bring him down. If you've ever had a spouse that did that to you, or you had done to a spouse, you know

what a weight it can be. Friends, family, and loved-ones should be pushing you TOWARD the Lord... not away. And we should do the same for them.

Some commentaries said that she left Job after he refused to take her advice. Maybe she did, maybe she didn't. But Scripture does indicate that he was alone with his friends after this point.

**Job 2:11**, "And Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, and they each one came from his own place: Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had met together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him."

His friends were so overwhelmed by Job's misfortunes that they didn't know what to say to him...how to comfort him. Have you ever been in a situation where you didn't know what to say to someone?

In all of chapter 3, Job embarks on a long diatribe of self-pity. Eliphaz is the first of Job's friends to offer him counsel.

**Job 4:4-6**, "Your words have upheld him who was falling, and you have made strong the feeble knees. [5] But now it has come upon you, and you faint. It touches you, and you are troubled. [6] Is not your reverence your hope? Is not your hope the uprightness of your ways?"

So we learn that Job was a minister of sorts. He provided counsel and encouragement to others. He continues on to ask Job a series of rhetorical questions, like "have you ever seen an innocent man erroneously judged?" The implication is that only the sinful suffer. He tells Job that there must be some secret sin that Job is hiding and THAT is why God has "punished" him.

This is the same beliefs held by the "Name it, Claim it", "Blab it, Grab it" prosperity gospel of the Word Faith movement. They believe that if you are suffering an illness or financial difficulty that it is due to a lack of faith. But that's clearly not the case, Job was a righteous man.

The next dozen chapters consist of Eiliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar continuing to press Job to repent... and Job responding that he didn't do anything to deserve this treatment. He eventually has his fill of advice from his friends and wants to appeal to a higher source.

**Job 31:35-37**, “Oh that I had one to hear me! Behold my mark. Let the Almighty answer me, and my Accuser write an indictment. [36] Surely I would carry it on my shoulder, and bind it like crowns to me. [37] I would declare to Him the number of my steps; like a prince I would go near Him.”

Throughout his conversation with the Lord, Job remained questioning, but respectful. The Lord responds to Job.

**Job 38:3-5**, “Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. [4] Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. [5] Who determined its measurements? Surely you know!”

The Lord turns the tables, and through a series of rhetorical questions, He knocks Job down a few pegs and puts the situation into perspective in a way that reveals God's omnipotence. Having received the “divine smack-down” from God Himself, Job repents...

**Job 42:2,6** “I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You... [6] Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes.”

Job is restored by God, and his friends rebuked. Job is given twice as much as he had before this ordeal. He had more children, and was abundantly blessed for the remainder of his life.

**Job 42:16-17**, "After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. [17] So Job died, old and full of days."

**Key Character Traits:**

- **Faithful**  
He remained faithful to the Lord even though he didn't know WHY he was suffering.
- **Selfless, Caring**  
He offered sacrifices on behalf of his children just in case they sinned. He provided sound counsel and encouragement to those around him.

## **MEANING OF HIS NAME**

His name means, "*he that weeps or sighs*".

## **EXPERIENCE**

- **He was from the land of Uz**  
Job 1:1
- **He had 7 sons and 3 daughters**  
Job 1:2
- **His livestock and servants were killed**  
Job 1:14-17
- **His children were killed**  
Job 1:19
- **He was afflicted with painful boils**  
Job 2:7
- **He was doubly restored, and abundantly blessed.**  
Job 42:10-17

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE**

Job was a righteous man. He worshipped the Lord, gave sound counsel to those around him, and remained obedient and faithful in spite of not knowing the cause for his suffering. He had a conversation with the Lord.

## **SHORTCOMINGS**

**Self-righteous.** Although never losing his faith in God, Job believed that his self-righteousness was sufficient enough of a reason to avoid any suffering or hardship. He did not factor in the omnipotence and sovereignty of God.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Job was long-suffering... patient. Although he didn't understand why things had happened to him, he didn't let that confusion interfere with his worship and faithfulness to God.

## **GLORY TO GOD**

Through the life of Job, God's omnipotence was exhibited. It clearly showed that God and Satan are not peers... they are not 2 sides of the same coin. Job's life illustrates that God is omnipotent, all-powerful, and sovereign.

*When all is said and done, it is Jehovah God who is in control.... Total control.*

## **ESSENTIAL TRUTH (and LIFE APPLICATION)**

**Trials are not a sign of sinfulness.** Job's friends used scripture out of context to draw the erroneous conclusion that trials and difficulties are a sign of sinfulness. This forced Job to defend himself. And all that he had to use was his own righteousness. Which can quickly and easily become a "pride thing". "But I'm a good person", "but I'm faithful", It can take the phrase "but God..." that Pastor Al has been speaking about and turn it into "but I' And that doesn't sound too good, does it?

But God is sovereign, omnipotent, and omniscient. He knows "the big picture".

practical application → **We need to pray for wisdom, knowledge, and the courage to accept God's will.** We need to pray for wisdom in our life situations to determine if

the difficulties we are faced with are (A) the consequences of sin,

when we sin, there are consequences... Sometimes it's just a convicting by God's Holy Spirit. But other times there are physical consequences. If because of poor stewardship you rack up credit card debt and get so overwhelmed that you lose your house. That isn't necessarily God making it happen. He can allow it to happen so that you learn a lesson. The trial, in this case, is of our own making.

or (B) the Lord's efforts to redirect the path we're on,

If God is closing a door in your life, or pruning a branch, and you stubbornly refuse to accept it, the situation will get more and more difficult until you reach a point where you DO accept it. In this case, we know why we're going through a trial, but we willfully defy it because of something we want.

or (C) simply one of those things that we just don't know the reason for (at that particular moment).

As we saw in the life of Joseph son of Jacob, sometimes we endure trials for OTHERS.

If we sincerely don't know why, then we need to remember that the Lord loves us, so if we are going through a trial, we should assume that it is for our good, for someone else's good, or to bring Glory to God.

**Faith in and Worship of the Lord should NOT be a measure of our understanding of His Will.** Job was completely unaware of the spiritual wager that had transpired. He didn't know why he was suffering. His friends accused him of some hidden sin that had to be the cause. In spite of all that, Job stood firm in his worship of the Lord. Job even questioned Him as to what he did to deserve that treatment. When we make our worship of the Lord dependent upon our understanding of His Will, we place a limit on what we believe He can do... confined to whatever our intellect is capable of comprehending.

*practical application* → **Worship the Lord for who He is... PERIOD!** We do a pretty decent job of praising the Lord for what He has done... thank Him for answered prayer (again, what He has done). But how often do we simply worship the Lord? Do we simply revere Him simply because He is El Elyon, “God Most High”? Simply because He is God. Make it a habit to periodically set aside a day and simply worship the Lord. Don't ask for anything. Don't focus on what He has done. Just worship Him for who He is... in His holiness, righteousness, mercy, grace, omnipotence, omniscience....