

Job

Job - A Righteous Man Suffers

Job 1-2

Gathering: Why do bad things happen to good people?

Today's Focus: God permitted Satan to afflict Job and Job maintained his faithfulness to God.

Key Verses: *Job was blameless and upright; He feared God and shunned evil.* Job 1:1

In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. Job 1:22

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Introduction to the Book of Job

WHEN

Probably the oldest book in existence

Not sure when it took place or was written - Sometime between 2000-1000 BC

Talmud cites 8 opinions about when Job lived

Probably around the time of Isaac (1800 BC)

Job lived around 200 years (Job 42:16)

Name *Job* common around 2000BC, not later

No proper names have any symbolically intended meaning

Hebrew language mixed with Syriac & Arabic expressions

Some ancient words not found elsewhere, uncertain meaning

References earliest form of idolatry - Star Worship (Job 31:26-28)

Sacrificed 7 oxen & 7 rams (Job 42:8) - Similar to Balaam worship (Numbers 23:1)

Patriarchal religion - no priest, temple, altars

No allusion to exodus, miracles, Israel Law, Ritual, priesthood

References flood (Job 22:15-16)

Riches stated by cattle, Nomadic lifestyle, Raiding tribesmen

Timeless Message

WHERE

Job 1:1

Uz - North of Arabian Desert, Between Canaan (Palestine) & Euphrates

Chaldeans & Sabeans lived around this area (Job 1:15,17)

Descendents of Shem's grandson *Uz* (Genesis 10:21-24)

Arameans settled between Euphrates & Tigris (*Uz* was Aram's son)

HOW

Written in Poetry

First OT Book of Poetry (History, Poetry, Major Prophets, Minor Prophets)

Hebrew Poetry

English poetry is based on:

Hebrew poetry is based on:

Poetry commonly used in East to help remembrance

Types of Parallelism

Synonymous (Proverbs 2:11)

Antithetic (Proverbs 10:1)

Emblematic (Proverbs 10:26)

Synthetic (Proverbs 3:6)

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Job's Integrity (*Job 1:1*)

What do we immediately learn about Job?

Job 1:1 (Ezekiel 14:14)

Upright – Hebrew *yashar* means straight, just

Blameless – Hebrew word *tam*

Latin for *tam* is *integer* - From where we get *integrity*

Integrity – Doing what you said you would do, Keeping your promises

Integrity can be demonstrated (seen), destroyed (lost) and determined (willed)

How did Job *demonstrate* his integrity?

Job 1:8

Did Job recognize that his integrity could be *destroyed*?

Job 27:5-6

How *determined* was Job to keep his integrity?

Job 2:9-10 (James 3:2)

Job's Family (*Job 1:2-5*)

What do we learn next of Job?

Job 1:2 (Ruth 4:15; 1 Samuel 2:5)

How old were Job's children and how well did they get along?

Job 1:4

What was Job's greatest concern for his children?

Job 1:5

Job's Blessedness (*Job 1:3*)

How was Job blessed beyond having a great family?

Job 1:3a

7000 sheep – wool for clothes, meat for food

3000 camels – carrying loads, traveling distances, milk

500 yoke (1000) oxen – work power, meat, milk

500 donkeys – personal transportation

Large number of servants

Was Job basically the richest person in the world at the time?

Job 1:3b

Chapter 29 – Walked with God (2-3), blessings (4-6), respect (7-11), compassion (12-17), wisdom (18-25)

Job's Patience (*James 5:11*)

James 5:11

Is Job the best example of how to endure suffering calmly & serenely?

Job 1:21

Job 2:10

Job 3:3

Job 6:8-9

Job 7:11

Job 9:27-29

Job 30:20-23

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God and Satan Discuss Job (*Job 1:6-12*)

- Why did Satan come to visit God?
Job 1:6-7
- What did God think of Job?
Job 1:8
- What was Satan's reason why Job was righteous?
Job 1:9-10
- What does Satan ask God to do?
Job 1:11
- How does God respond?
Job 1:12
- Who is in control?

Disaster Strikes (*Job 1:13-19*)

- What did Satan take from Job to make him suffer?
Job 1:13-19
- What could Satan take from you to make you suffer?
- What is Satan's intent of taking everything all at once and *I alone have escaped*?

Job's Response (*Job 1:20-22*)

- How do we see that Satan succeeded in overwhelming Job with this great loss?
Job 1:20a
Tore robe – shows outwardly what is happening inwardly
Shaved head – Long hair and beard were signs of pride (see Deuteronomy 14:1-2)
- Did Job curse God to His face as Satan predicted?
Job 1:20b-22
- For what did Job bless God?
- Did Satan win this battle?

God and Satan Discuss Job Again (*Job 2:1-6*)

- Why did Satan come to visit God?
Job 2:1-2
- What did God think of Job?
Job 2:3
- What did Satan think was more important to man than God?
Job 2:4
- What does Satan ask God to do?
Job 2:5
- How does God respond?
Job 2:6
- Who is in control?

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Job is Afflicted (*Job 2:7-8*)

What did Satan take from Job to make him suffer?

Job 2:7

Why did Job *sit among the ashes*?

Job 2:8

Job's Response (*Job 2:9-10*)

What advice was Job given by his closest companion?

Job 2:9

How did Job respond to this advice?

Job 2:10

Did Satan win this battle?

Job Suffers (*Job 2:11-13*)

What did Job's friends do when they heard about his disasters?

Job 2:11

How did they respond when they saw him?

Job 2:12

What solutions did they offer at first?

Job 2:13

What were these friends accomplishing by not saying anything to Job?

Did they have anything to say to solve his problems?

Job 3-37

In Summary

Was Job suffering as the result of a serious sin or sins?

What had Job done to deserve his suffering?

Had God sent the suffering to test Job?

Did Job realize the reasons behind his suffering?

Was Job happy about what had happened?

What does it mean to praise God in the face of persecution?

Closing Prayer

Next Week - *Suffering – Persuasion to Repent?* (Job 3-14)