

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 = Review Course Summary & Outline

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 = Talmud is ancient rabbi commentaries

Probably around the time of Isaac (1800 BC) = Job was not a Jew

Job lived around 200 years (Job 42:16) = common in patriarchal times

Name *Job* common around 2000BC, not later = Aramaic for *to return*, leads to *to repent*

No proper names have any symbolically intended meaning

Hebrew language mixed with Syriac & Arabic expressions = Uses name *Yahweh*

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 = Precedes giving of the Law

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 = In the land of Uz

Uz - North of Arabian Desert, Between Canaan (Palestine) & Euphrates = Syria, Iraq, Jordan area

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

Descendents of Shem's grandson Uz (Genesis 10:21-24) = Eber was father of Hebrews

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: = Rhythm & Rhyme

Hebrew poetry is based on: = Parallelism & Intensification

Poetry commonly used in East to help remembrance

Types of Parallelism = Same ideas in parallel clauses

Synonymous (Proverbs 2:11) = Similar concepts in 2nd line

Antithetic (Proverbs 10:1) = 2nd line is opposite or in contrast to 1st

Emblematic (Proverbs 10:26) = One line illustrates or clarifies with a picture

Synthetic (Proverbs 3:6) = 2nd line continues same thought of the 1st

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Job's Integrity (Job 1:1)

- What do we immediately learn about Job? = In Ezekiel, called righteous by God (with Noah & Daniel)
Job 1:1 (Ezekiel 14:14) = *Blameless & upright, feared God & shunned evil*
Upright – Hebrew *yashar* means straight, just = not deviating from God's standards
Blameless – Hebrew word *tam* = Deals with completeness, wholeness, integrity
Latin for *tam* is *integer* - From where we get *integrity*
Integrity – Doing what you said you would do, Keeping your promises = When no one is watching
Integrity can be demonstrated (seen), destroyed (lost) and determined (willed)
- How did Job *demonstrate* his integrity? = God knew Job's integrity, Satan could only observe it
Job 1:8 = Lived his life in fear of God and shunned evil
- Did Job recognize that his integrity could be *destroyed*?
Job 27:5-6 = He would maintain and not deny his integrity
- How *determined* was Job to keep his integrity? = Greek for integrity is *I*, used in James 3:2
Job 2:9-10 (James 3:2) = He even kept his tongue - If you can bridle tongue, you can bridle body

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

- What do we learn next of Job? = Seven sons were a sign of divine blessing, 7 implies complete
Job 1:2 (Ruth 4:15; 1 Samuel 2:5) = He had 7 sons and 3 daughters – average-sized family
- How old were Job's children and how well did they get along? = Close-knit family did things together
Job 1:4 = Each had their own house (not tent, owned land) – they were adults
- What was Job's greatest concern for his children? = What is your greatest concern for your children?
Job 1:5 = Their relationship and righteousness with God

Job's Blessedness (Job 1:3)

- How was Job blessed beyond having a great family? = No banks, so wealth measured in possessions
Job 1:3a = Had 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 500 yoke (1000) oxen, 500 donkeys, many servants
7000 sheep – wool for clothes, meat for food = Need lots of land & shepherds to support 7000 sheep
3000 camels – carrying loads, traveling distances, milk = Trucks of the day, 3000 could carry lots & lots
500 yoke (1000) oxen – work power, meat, milk = Tractors of the day, 1000 could work lots of ground
500 donkeys – personal transportation = Cars of the day, 500 was a huge fleet
Large number of servants = Hundreds needed to care for animals, work land, run business, etc.
- Was Job basically the richest person in the world at the time? = Bill Gates or Warren Buffet of his day
Job 1:3b = *greatest of all the people of the east* – Greatest in every sense, not just wealth
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 = *You have heard of the patience of Job (KJV) - perseverance (NIV), steadfastness (RSV)*
- Is Job the best example of how to endure suffering calmly & serenely? = Gets less & less patient
- Job 1:21 = Naked I came, naked I return; Lord gave & taken away; bless God
- Job 2:10 = *Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?*
- Job 3:3 = Curse the day I was born!
- Job 6:8-9 = I wish God would let me die, and be freed from His painful grip
- Job 7:11 = Let me express my anguish and complain in my bitterness
- Job 9:27-29 = If I try to be happy, I still hurt so why try?
- Job 30:20-23 = I cry to God with no answer; He wants to kill me

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

Why did Satan come to visit God?

Job 1:6-7 = To report his activities along with other angels; Satan still reports to God

What did God think of Job?

Job 1:8 = *blameless & upright*; He was proud of Job

What was Satan's reason why Job was righteous?

Job 1:9-10 = God had blessed and protected him

What does Satan ask God to do?

Job 1:11 = Take away Job's blessings to test Job

How does God respond?

Job 1:12 = Allows Satan to do so; God does not send the suffering

Who is in control? = God; He grants permission and limits Satan's hand

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

What did Satan take from Job to make him suffer? = Took away everything he had of value

Job 1:13-19 = Oxen & donkeys stolen, sheep burned, camels stolen, servants & children killed

What could Satan take from you to make you suffer? = Job lost it all

What was Satan's intent of taking all at once and *I alone have escaped*? = Overwhelm Job with loss

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

How do we see that Satan succeeded in overwhelming Job with this great loss?

Job 1:20a = Job tore robe, shaved head - Grief is shown publicly in Middle East, private in west

Tore robe – shows outwardly what is happening inwardly = Clothes expensive, so rarely torn

Shaved head – Long hair and beard were signs of pride (see Deut 14:1-2) = shaving showed loss

Did Job curse God to His face as Satan predicted? = mourned losses, but blessed God

Job 1:20b-22 = No, he worshiped God; did not sin or blame God

For what did Job bless God? = time he had with the blessings

Did Satan win this battle? = No, Job proved Satan wrong

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

Why did Satan come to visit God?

Job 2:1-2 = To report his activities along with other angels, a regular activity – even today

What did God think of Job?

Job 2:3 = *blameless & upright*; He was proud of Job's response

What did Satan think was more important to man than God?

Job 2:4 = His life and his health

What does Satan ask God to do?

Job 2:5 = Take away Job's health to test Job

How does God respond?

Job 2:6 = Allows Satan to do so; God does not send the suffering

Who is in control? = God; He grants permission and limits Satan's hand

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

What did Satan take from Job to make him suffer?

Job 2:7 = Health; gave pain and misery through boils and ulcers over his entire body

Why did Job *sit among the ashes*? = Ashes – outside living areas in the rubbish heap

Job 2:8 = Signifies deepest mourning (ashes-to-ashes)

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

What advice was Job given by his closest companion? = Satan uses Job's wife in his temptation

Job 2:9 = *Curse God and die* - Push God to take you out of your misery

How did Job respond to this advice? = Accepted whatever he received from God

Job 2:10 = *Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?*

Did Satan win this battle? = No, Job proved Satan wrong

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

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

Job 2:11 = They went together to comfort him & mourn with him

How did they respond when they saw him?

Job 2:12 = Didn't recognize, cried, tore robes - mourned with him

What solutions did they offer at first? = Customary to mourn 7 days for dead (Gen. 50:10; 1 Sam. 31:13)

Job 2:13 = None, just sat 7 days & nights with him in silence

What were these friends accomplishing by not saying anything to Job? = Showing that they cared

Did they have anything to say to solve his problems?

Job 3-37 = Lots. We'll look at these over the next 4 weeks.

In Summary

Was Job suffering as the result of a serious sin or sins? = No

What had Job done to deserve his suffering? = Nothing

Had God sent the suffering to test Job? = No, he allowed Satan

Did Job realize the reasons behind his suffering? = No

Was Job happy about what had happened? = No, he was filled with grief

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

Closing Prayer

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