

# Job

## Suffering - Punishment for the Wicked?

Job 15-21

Gathering: Do bad things happen to bad people and good things happen to good people?

Today's Focus: Job's friends try to help see that his troubles are the result of his wickedness.

Key Verses: *Why do the wicked live on, growing old and increasing in power?* Job 21:7

*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 the flesh I will see God.* Job 19:25-26

Opening Prayer

### Lesson

Review of Studies 1 & 2

The Book of Job - Likely oldest book in existence, Story occurred around 1800 BC (time of Isaac)  
First OT book of poetry - Hebrew poetry is based on parallelism

Job Loses His Belongings and Health - *Chapters 1 & 2*

- What do we learn about Job?
- What did Satan ask God to do in Chapter 1?
- What did Satan ask God to do in Chapter 2?
- How did God respond in both cases?
- What did Satan take from Job?
- How did Job respond to his losses?
- Did Satan win these battles?

Summary of Story

- 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?

Job Breaks the Silence - *Chapter 3*

- What were Job's 3 wishes?
- Why did Job long for these?

The Causes and The Solutions - *Chapters 4, 5, 8 & 11*

- What did Job's friends understand to be the causes of Job's troubles?
  - Eliphaz (4:7-11)
  - Bildad (8:1-4)
  - Zophar (11:1-6)
- Where did Job's friends claim to receive their profound insights?
  - Eliphaz (4:12-5:7)
  - Bildad (8:8-10)
  - Zophar (11:7-12)
- What solutions did Job's friends offer?
  - Eliphaz (5:8-27)
  - Bildad (8:5-7)
  - Zophar (11:13-20)

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Review of Studies 1 & 2 (continued)

Job's Friend's Wisdom

In a nutshell, what did the friends understand to be the situation?  
Were Job's friends correct?

Job's Response - *Chapters 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13 & 14*

Did Job agree or disagree with his friends' analysis?  
Job 9:21

How did Job thank his friends for their support?  
Job 6:14,21  
Job 12:2  
Job 12:7-8  
Job 13:4-5

What did Job ask of God?  
Job 7:20  
Job 10:2  
Job 13:20-22  
Job 14:13

With Friends Like These - Eliphaz

How did Eliphaz address Job after the silence was broken?  
Job 4:4-6

How did this change after Job rejected his friends' advice?  
Job 15:1-6

How did Job respond to Eliphaz's accusations?  
Job 16:1-5

How did Eliphaz change after Job rejected the second round of advice?  
Job 22:5-10

How did Job reply to this last charge?  
Job 29:11-13 (7-17)

How would you feel or respond if you were Job?  
Job 17:4

Why did Eliphaz believe he was right and Job was wrong?  
Job 15:9-10 (7-13)

What support did Eliphaz claim even greater than the wise elders?  
Job 15:17-19

What reason does Eliphaz give that man can't be as pure as Job claims to be?  
Job 15:14-16

How does this differ from Job's view of man's relation to God?  
Job 10:12

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### The Wicked Suffer (Eliphaz) - *Chapter 15*

According to Eliphaz, who receives the kind of suffering Job has seen?

Job 15:20

What kinds of torments do the wicked experience?

Job 15:21-24

Why should the wicked expect these things?

Job 15:25-26

How does Eliphaz explain prosperity we might see among the wicked?

Job 15:27-29

How does Eliphaz compare the wicked to a plant?

Job 15:30-33

What is the offspring of the wicked?

Job 15:34-35

Is Eliphaz correct in describing reality?

### The Wicked Suffer (Bildad) - *Chapter 18*

What is the meaning of the wicked being in darkness?

Job 18:5-6

What kinds of traps await the wicked?

Job 18:7-8 (7-10)

What kind of life does Bildad say the wicked can expect?

Job 18:12 (11-14)

What kind of legacy does the wicked leave?

Job 18:17 (15-20)

Is Bildad correct in describing reality?

### The Wicked Suffer (Zophar) - *Chapter 20*

What does Zophar say about the joy and pride of the wicked?

Job 20:5-7 (4-11)

How does evil taste to the wicked?

Job 20:12-14 (12-16)

Does the wicked get to taste his successes?

Job 20:18 (17-19)

What happens when the wicked has eaten his fill?

Job 20:22-23 (20-28)

How does Zophar say this is assured?

Job 20:29

Is Zophar correct in describing reality?

### Discerning The Wicked and The Righteous (Job) - *Chapters 16 & 17*

How do the wicked respond to Job's troubles?

Job 16:10-11

How do the righteous respond to Job's troubles?

Job 17:8 (6-9)

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### The Wicked Prosper (Job) - Chapter 21

- Does Job agree that the life of the wicked is full of troubles?  
Job 21:7 (1-7)
- What proof does Job offer that the wicked also prosper?  
Job 21:8-13 (8-16)
- What proof does Job offer that the wicked is not punished in life?  
Job 21:17,29-31 (17-21, 27-33)
- Can we expect equal treatment through life?  
Job 21:22-26
- What reward can the faithful expect?  
Job 19:25-26 (23-27)

### Job Responds to His "Friends' Wisdom" - Chapters 16, 17 & 19

- How does Job feel about his friends' advice and how he should respond?  
Job 16:2-3, 6 (1-6)
- How has Job responded to what has happened to him?  
Job 16:7, 15-17 (7-17)
- What friend does Job look to for help?  
Job 16:19-21 (18-21)
- How helpful are the friends that Job has on earth?  
Job 17:1-2, 10, 12 (16:22-17:16)
  
- How does Job respond to his friends after Bildad speaks the second time?  
Job 19:2-4 (1-6)
- What concerns Job more than the attacks of his friends?  
Job 19:7-8 (7-12)
- Why does he believe his friends are against him?  
Job 19:13, 19 (13-20)
- What does Job ask of his friends?  
Job 19:21-22
- Since they don't support him, how does Job conclude his comments about his friends' miserable comfort?  
Job 19:28-29
  
- How does Bildad respond to Job's comments?  
Job 18:2-3 (1-4)
- Why does Zophar respond even knowing that Job will reject what he says?  
Job 20:2-3

Closing Prayer

Next Week - *Suffering – Beyond Man's Understanding?* (Job 22-31)