

Welcome to

Journey through the Bible



**Book by book
Bible study**

Job

**The Sovereignty of God
and
The Suffering of Job**

**“Shall we indeed accept good from
God and not accept adversity?”**

Job 2:10

**The source and significance of
the suffering of God’s children**

Probing when & why believers suffer

The Setting of the book of Job

- Job is a devoted family man with ten children in a harmony filled home
- Job is God oriented, a devout believer
- Job is a sin sensitive believer, quick to recognize and diligent to confess sin
- Job is at the pinnacle of success, wealthy, highly regarded, and socially prominent

The Setting of the book of Job

- Events in heaven are hidden from Job
- We know the “why” of Job’s suffering, Job knows only the “what” of his suffering
- Satan is the source of Job’s suffering, but God has set limits on how and how much!
- Satan intends to disprove Job’s faith, but God intends to demonstrate Job’s faith!

What do I discover about God? What do I learn about myself?

- ★ What disaster and loss do I fear?
- ★ If I lost “everything” what would I have left?
- ★ If all I had left was God, would He be enough?

Main Purpose of the book of Job

Is to show that the proper relationship between God and man is based solely on the sovereign GRACE of God and man’s submissive FAITH response.

JOB: The Sovereignty of God and the Suffering of Job
Key verse: 2:10, “Shall we indeed accept good from God, and not accept adversity?”

Key Words: How? Why? Cry, Pain, Affliction, Words, Wicked, Wise/wisdom, Death/ide

Prologue 1:1-5		the LORD and Satan Act I		Job and His Friends Act II		the LORD and Job Act III		Epilogue 42:7-17	
1:1-5 1:6-22		2:1-10		2:11-31		32-37		38-41	
Satan's logic Job's dilemma		Conventional wisdom Men's wrong answers		Divine wisdom God's right answer		Job tested		reproved, restored	
Job's Character		Job's dilemma		Men's wrong answers		Divine wisdom		Job's Prayer and Prosperity	
First attack: Job's possessions 1:6-22		Second attack: Job's person 2:1-10		Job's lament: Why was I born? 3:1-26		First cycle: accusation 4:1-14		Second cycle: condemnation 5:1-27	
				Third cycle: castration 22:27		Interlude: hymn to wisdom 28		Job's discourse on life: 29-31	
				Intervention of Elihu: 32-37		First cycle: God's wisdom 38-39		Job's silence 40:1-5	
						Second cycle: God's power 40:41		Job's submission 42:1-6	

Probably, 2000-1900 B.C.

The Prologue, 1:1—2:13

Job's Character 1:1-5; chaps 29, 31

- Job's person: how God sees him
His goodness or righteousness, v. 1
- Job's possessions: how others see him
His accomplishments, vv. 2-3
- Job's practice/passion: how he sees himself, His family, vv. 4-5

The Goodness of Job 1:1-5, 8; 2:3

He was spiritually and morally upright—not sinless, but a person of integrity. His reverential trust in God included commitment to God's revealed will.

He was a rancher, owning extensive property for grazing sheep, oxen, camels, and donkeys.

He had a large number of servants helping him administer and care for his family and possessions.

He was a homeowner and probably provided homes for his sons and daughters.

The Goodness of Job 1:1-5, 8; 2:3

He had seven sons and three daughters, a normal-sized family for people at that time.

He was a family priest or representative, offering sacrifices in case of sin incurred by any of his sons and daughters.

He was the greatest man among all the peoples of the East.

God's estimation of Job was that: "There is no one on earth like him."

The point is this:

- ☆ Job was the best of the best and yet he still suffered
- ☆ Are we exempt?
- ☆ Am I exempt?

The Conversation in Heaven,

(What God thought of Job)

One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." (1:6-8)

Satan's first accusation against Job

(What Satan thought of Job)

Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." (Job 1:9-12).

There are two basic assumptions that Satan had of God and of Job:

- (1) People serve God for what they can get from Him, and
- (2) God buys the worship of people by giving them what they want and He keeps them faithful by threatening to remove His blessings if they fail.

How do these assumptions apply to us?

Don't let Satan determine your faith!

Satan's first attack on Job, 1:13-19

(What Satan did to Job)

- A Sabean raiding party rustled all of Job's donkeys and oxen, and
- murdered all but one of Job's servants.
- Fire fell from the heavens and consumed Job's sheep and all but one of the servants.
- A Chaldean raiding party rustled all of Job's camels, killing all but one of the servants, and
- A windstorm caused the collapse of the oldest son's house killing all ten of Job's children
- "While he was still speaking" = (in minutes)

Job's response to Satan's attack

(Job did not "blame" God)

At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart.

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. (Job 1:20-22)

Satan's second accusation against Job

(What Satan thought of Job)

Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."

"Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." (Job 2:3-5)

Satan's second attack on Job,

(What Satan did to Job)

The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."

So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. (Job 2:6-8)

Job's response to Satan's attack

His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!"

He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

(Job 2:9-10)

Job's initial response

This is even more exceptional when we remember, Job knows nothing of the conversations that have gone on in God's throne room with Satan. He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

The author warns us not to criticize Job here, "In all this Job did not sin with his lips," (2:10c).

It is not a sin to say that what Satan does is "from the LORD."

What Do We Learn From Job 1-2?

These chapters reveal/establish:

- ☆ Undeserved suffering is real and is a legitimate category of suffering.
- ☆ Job's Integrity.
- ☆ These chapters reveal Satan & his nature.
- ☆ They reveal God's power and protection; His sovereign control over His creation.
- ☆ These chapters reveal that even great people of God are still weak, vulnerable.

Personal questions from Job's life:

- ★ Job was the best of the best and yet he still suffered, am I exempt?
- ★ How would/does suffering affect my relationship with God?
- ★ What suffering do I dread/fear?
- ★ How do I handle my suffering?

Don't let suffering destroy your faith!
When you can't see God's hand,
trust God's heart!

See you next week!

Read Job 3-42,
God's answer to Job's suffering


