

Book of Job and Character Summary

The book of Job is Narrative History. It is possible that Job is the oldest of any book of the Bible written approximately 2100-1800 B.C. Key personalities of this book include Job, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, Zophar the Naamathite, and Elihu the Buzite. Job is an example of faithfulness as he loses everything important to him yet remains faithful to God. The purpose of this book is to illustrate God's sovereignty and faithfulness during a time of great suffering.

Job

Job is a wealthy man living in a land called Uz with his large family and extensive flocks. He is "blameless" and "upright," always careful to avoid doing evil.

Eliphaz

Eliphaz was from Teman, an important city of Edom a country and a people located initially in Transjordan. He was a representative that would provide Job with wisdom and seek to be one of three individuals to provide comfort. He believed that the righteous do not perish and only the wicked suffer. Eliphaz will be the first to speak through the different discussions that take place.

Bildad

Bildad was a descendant of Shuah, son of Abraham, a second comforter for Job. He is going to have good intentions when he speaks with Job but something will happen to create friction and hardship in their relationship.

Zopher

Zopher the third comforter for Job. Zophar emphasizes an old Hebrew concept—suffering is an inevitable lot for an evil man.

Elihu

Elihu descended from Buz who may be from the line of Abraham. We will not meet this individual until Chapter 32 but he will provide a different perspective in this story that will cause Job and the other three men to think of things a little different. He will provide a deeper insight of the challenge that Job is being faced with and hope for tomorrow and the future.

Request from Kevin and Todd

We are covering a lot of material in a short amount of time, so we are asking that you read and prepare for the next week with the questions that we will provide you. This will help to provide a means of guiding our discussions as we will not have time to read each verse through this study.

The Study of JOB

7 Reasons to Study the Book of Job

1. Understand God for Who He Is
 - a. The book of Job will force you to think deeply about God
2. Grapple with God's Sovereignty
 - a. Job will press you to think carefully.
 - b. Job sets before us a universe in which God is completely sovereign
3. Reject False Gospels
 - a. Job is God's antidote to the prosperity gospel (This is a worldly view)
 - b. Is God's Purpose that you feel Fulfilled and Happy.
4. Identify with Those Who Suffer
 - a. The sufferings that Jesus experienced for us are similar to what Job will face
 - b. A deeper look into how the church today faces similar challenges
5. Find Hope in the Midst of Pain
 - a. Job is full of hope and comfort
 - b. Redemptive Suffering gives Hope to the Suffering Believer.
6. Develop your Emotional Pallet
 - a. We will learn to feel, desire, and to grow more sensitive to experiences of life.
7. Encounter the Living God
 - a. Job can be a life-changing and life-shaping
 - b. God will deal deeply and graciously with you through this study.

Author of the book: Unknown? (Maybe Job or Elihu)

Location: UZ (located in Northern Arabia)

PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY:

1. To demonstrate that God is worthy of love apart from the blessings He provides.
2. God may allow suffering as a means to purify and strengthen a person in godliness.
3. To emphasize that man is unable to view life from God's vast perspective
4. To explore the justice of God who treats the righteous with suffering.
5. To demonstrate to the evil angels (Satan) that God's practice of blessing the righteous is not a hindrance to the development of true righteousness.
6. To address Mankind's wrestling with affliction which defies human explanation

Job 1 and 2 - (Week #2 - June 4, 2017)

Job - Chapter 1: 1 -5

1. What words seemed to describe Job? What kind of man was he?
2. What do you think of his family and his relationship with his kids?
3. Would you say that Job was a poor, middle or upper class person of society during this time period?

Job - Chapter 1: 6 -12

1. Who shows up? What is a general summary of the conversation that takes place?
2. Is Job going to suffer because he is the worst of men or the best of men?
3. Why do you think God seems to be okay with this plan?

Job - Chapter 1: 13-22

What takes place in these verses? What is your initial reaction to Job's situation? How would you respond if this were you?

Does God ever tempt us (James 1:13)?

Where does suffering come from (2 Corinthians 12:7-12)?

Was Job right in his conclusions (1:21)

Job - Chapter 2: 1-6

What is a summary of the conversation that God and Satan have in regards to Job?

What does God allow Satan to do to Job? What is God's restriction on Satan with Job?

When we are faced with adverse situations, do we turn from God or turn toward him?

Job - Chapter 2: 7-13

What afflictions did Satan place on Job? What was Job's wife's thoughts about what was taking place and HOW did Job respond to his wife?

How do other's attitudes and thoughts impact how we perceive and respond to adverse situations?

Who were the friends that wanted to help Job? What was their goal prior to leaving their homes?

Do you think they anticipated what they saw? How many of us have experienced the element of weeping for a loved one hurting? How can we effectively love on those who are hurting and in pain?

Job 3 (Week #3 - June 11, 2017)

Job - Chapter 3: 1 - 26

What *DOES* Job curse? What does he *NOT* curse? Would these be words that we would speak?

The storm which descended on Job a week earlier was great, but how was the storm which raged within him even greater? (Reference: Proverbs 18:14)

The major conflicts in which Satan engages us are battles fought within us. If we cannot control what happens to us, what must we control?

Job is not yet ready to accuse God, but what is he thinking about? (3:4 & 23)

Job Asks The Question *“Why”* Seven Times. Interestingly, seven is a number that occurs throughout the Bible as a number indicating completeness or fullness. What are your thoughts about these *“Why”* statements?

- “Why did I not die at birth?” (3:11)
- “Why did I not perish when I came from the womb?” (3:11)
- “Why did the knees receive me?” (3:12)
- “Why the breasts that I should nurse?” (3:12)
- “Why was I not hidden like a stillborn child...?” (3:16)
- “Why is light given to him who is in misery...?” (3:20)
- “Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden...?” (3:23)

Describe Job’s view of death. (3:13-19)

Are we in any position to judge Job and his feelings?

Job 4 - 7 (Week #4 - June 18, 2017)

Job Chapters 4-5 Eliphaz's Speech

Job 4: 1 -6 What types of word are spoken to Job? What is Eliphaz trying to do for Job?

Job 4: 7 -11 What does Eliphaz say that God does to evildoers? To those whom are righteous?

Job 4: 12 - 21 Eliphaz shares of his visions and ultimately believes God's ways are what? Do we believe the same?

Job 5: 1-7 Eliphaz states that Job can not turn to whom for answers, direction or guidance? Whom do we turn to for answers, direction or guidance in times of challenge, despair and difficulties?

Job 5: 8 -16 Who does Eliphaz encourage Job to seek? What does Eliphaz believe Job will experience from this experience and/or situation? What do you think Job thinks of these comments? What would think if you were Job?

Job 5: 17 - 27 What ultimately is shared by Eliphaz in these closing verses? Do you find these words encouraging? Do you think Job will find these words encouraging?

Was everything pretty 'black and white' to Eliphaz? Is there any benefit to that attitude when looking at some of the gray areas of life?

How do Job's friends speak to him? What do they lack? Suppose they were right all along with their philosophy—what do they still lack?

Job - Chapter 6 & 7 (Job's Response)

Job 6: 1- 7 What is Job's response to Eliphaz's comments? As you reflect on Job 3 and these verses, in what ways does this sound like you and I?

Job 6: 8 -13 What does Job share with his friends that his desire is? What does he ultimately want to see God do? What does he admit about himself?

Job 6: 14 -30 What support did his friends bring to assist and support Job? How do Job's friends speak to him? What do they lack? What does this teach us about comforting others who are dealing with affliction, challenges, hardship and loss?

Job 7: 1 - 5 What do you think of what Job says? What does he acknowledge? (Do we acknowledge this as well?) How is he coping with his situation? (How would we cope?)

Job 7: 6 - 21 Job cries out to God in these verses -

Job 7: 12 -19 What does Job ask God in these verses? How does he feel? Do we ever feel like Job in our lives? How? When? What do you believe you are worth to God?

Job 7: 20 & 21 What does Job ultimately ask God? What is Job's heart in these two verses?

Job 8 - 10 (Week # 5 - June 25, 2017)

Job 8: Bildad's First Responses to Job

Job 8: 1- 4 What do you think of what Bildad's initial words to Job? What might be your reaction if someone shared these same words to you?

Job 8: 5- 7 What does Bildad state that Job should do? According to Bildad - what will happen per his advice?

Job 8: 8- 10 What does Bildad appeal to in order to establish the case of his argument?

Job 8: 11- 19 As you read these verses, here are a few reflective thoughts to keep in mind: Is tradition always right? Is it sometimes right? Does the past deserve our consideration? Why or why not?

Job 8: 20 - 22 What does Bildad insist about Job and his future?

Chapter Reflective Question(s):

1. Was Bildad's philosophy and theology simple or complicated?
2. Was Bildad's philosophy and theology shallow or deep?
3. What did Bildad see life as? In what ways did Job see life differently from Bildad?

Job 9 - Job's Response to Bildad

Job 9: 1-4 What does Job state about God? What witness are these words to these men? To us?

How would you describe Job's attitude in his response to Bildad?

What does Job charge God with in each of these verses?

- 9:15 -
- 9:16 -
- 9:17 -
- 9:18a -
- 9:18b -
- 9:19 -
- 9:22a -
- 9:22b -
- 9:23 -
- 9:24a -
- 9:24b -

Job 9: 25 -31 What do you sense about Job's state of mind? What words seem to exclaim how he is feeling?

Job 9: 32 -35 What is Job longing for? Seeking to find? What does he want to accomplish?

Job 10 - Job turns to God and Shares His Thoughts

Job 10: 1 - 7

What does Job state about his life? What does he seek to do next?

What does he ask God in verse 4? What do we tend to see in people? What does Job want God to see in him?

Job 10: 8 - 12

What does Job appeal to God to remember?

What does Job seek to convey to God?

Job 10: 13 - 17

What does Job state that God is bring against him?

Job 10: 18 -22

As we finish this chapter how is Job acting the way human beings act in times of pain?

Do you believe that God understood where Job was coming from? What he was sharing with him? Does God understand the millions of others who have raged and stormed against him during their time of agony and pain?

Job relentlessly exposes facts and expresses truth to his friends and to God.

Job 11 - 14 (Week #6 - July 2, 2017)

Job 11: Zophar's First Response to Job

Job 11: 1- 6 What is Zophar thinking of Job's comments? What does Zophar state that God should be doing to Job?

Job 11: 7 -11 What does Zophar have to say about God?

Job 11: 12 What point is Zophar trying to make in this verse?

Job 11: 13- 19 What is Zophar trying to get Job to acknowledge and do?

Job 11: 20 What does Zophar say will happen if Job doesn't act on his advice?

How would you describe Zophar from this chapter? What adjectives fit his character?

Zophar has his mind made up - he sees his task not to search for answers, but to what?
How many times do we seem to have our minds made up about something? someone?
A situation?

He believes that the solution for Job is to what? Is it difficult for us to have a different perspective of things once we have our mind (thoughts) convinced that we have the answer? Solution?

Job Chapter 12: Job's Response to Zophar

Job 12: 1 -6 How does Job respond to Zophar? What realization does Job seem to now know about his friends, what they have shared with him and how they can help him?

Job 12: 7 -12 Who does Job know is responsible for this journey he is on? Who does Job suggest that his friends ask to really learn who is responsible for his situation? What do you think of Job's comments?

Job 12: 13 -21 As you reflect on these verses, do you sense a different attitude, feeling about Job from previous chapters? What support or non-support do you find for your thoughts.

Job 12: 22 -25 What is Job's ultimate statement of faith to his friends?

Job 13: Job wants to argue his case with God

Job 13: 1 - 3 How have his friends have been speaking to Job? Do you think how his friends have been treating him is influencing his view of wanting to talk with God?

Job 13: 13 -19 What does Job tell his friends? What has he prepared for? What is he ready to do?

Job 13: 20 -28 Job Asks How He Has Sinned

Job 13: 21 What two things does Job ask for?

Job 13: 22 -28 How would you summarize Job's thoughts and views at this point?

Job 14: Job Asks How He Has Sinned

Job 14: 1 -6 What does Job state about the treatment of men? Of him to God?

Job 14: 7 -12 In what does Job not have much of in these verses?

Job 14: 13 -17 Job seems to express hope - something better and greater.

Job 14: 18 - 22 What does Job return to as we conclude this chapter?

Job is really struggling! Despite his faithfulness to God - he wonders why this is happening to him? What does God want from him? How can God be doing this to him?

In what way has God rescued you from the feeling of Hopelessness? Loneliness? Emptiness? Unworthiness? In what areas might you still be struggling in and need God's assistance and/or a brother/sister in Christ to walk with you?

Job 15 - 17 (Week # 7 - July 9, 2017)

Job 15: Eliphaz's Second Response to Job

Job 15: 1 -6 How would you summarize these verses?

Job 15: 7 -16 What essentially is Eliphaz stating about Job and his life? His relationship with God?

Job 15: 17 -35 What two things can the wicked expect according to Eliphaz? What then is the view by Eliphaz of Job? (What is he hiding? Not telling them? Keeping secret?)

Job: 16 & 17 Job's Response to Eliphaz Second Thoughts (Job's Fifth Response)

Job 16: 1 -6 What does Job think of his friends? Why do you think his friends seem to be showing no pity or sympathy for Job's affliction?

Job 16: 7 -14 What do you think has happened to Job's spirit? What words or phrases help us to gain insight to Job's feelings? His emotions?

Job 16: 15 -22 As Job cries out to God - what does he long for? What does he seek?

Job 17: 1-5 Job is beaten and he is ready to what? What does he also want to do with his accusers?

Job 17: 6 -9 What does Job maintain through these verses?

Job 17: 10 -16 What mental state does Job return to? Is it possible for him to get out of this mindset? What is it going to take?

Job: Chapters 18 - 21 (Week #8 - July 16, 2017)

Job Chapter 18: Bildad's Second Speech

Job 18: 1-4 How would you summarize Bildad's opening words in this chapter to Job?

Job 18: 5 - 21 What does God in mind for Job according to Bildad? Why?

Job - Chapter 19: Job's Response to Bildad (His Sixth Speech)

Job is tormented by three things - let's identify those three core elements.

Job 19: 1 -5

Job 19: 6 -12

Job 19: 13 -20

Job 19: 23 -29 What is Job confident of that he will one day be able to do? What does he long for? What does he hope will happen to his friends?

Job - Chapter 20: Zophar's Second Response to Job

Job 20: 1 -3 What is this conversation between Job and his friends is turning into?

Job 20: 4 -11 From Zophar's perspective, what does he remind Job of? Why is Job experiencing such great affliction?

Job 20: 12 -28 What does Zophar say about the prosperity of the wicked?

Job 20: 29 How does Zophar ultimately conclude his thoughts?

Job - Chapter 21: Job's Response to Zophar (His 7th Response)

Job 21: 1 -3 What is the one thing that he is pleading his friends to do?

Job 21: 4 -15 With everything that his friends have stated about evil and wickedness, what does Job challenge his friends about? What does Job see in his friends from what he shares with them?

Job 21: 16 What does Job state that he wants NO part of? (Do you think this would be a hard statement knowing the afflictions that Job has faced?)

Job 21: 17 -21 Job ask TWO specific questions in these five verses; what are they?

Question #1: (verses 17, 18)

Question #2: (verses 19 -21)

Job 21: 24 -31 As Job finishes up his words in this chapter, how would you summarize his expressions, thoughts and words?

Do you think Job is starting to develop the same intellectual smugness that he so despised in his friends? What causes man to develop such an attitude?

Job 22 - 26 (Week # 9 - July 23, 2017)

Job - Chapter 22: Eliphaz's Third Response to Job

Job 22: 1 -4 What does Eliphaz ultimately share - state to Job from his comments? As Eliphaz tries to "exalt" God, what does He make God appear to be toward man's struggles? Does that really exalt God?

Job 22: 5 -11 What does Eliphaz do when he cannot substantiate his charge against Job as a sinner worthy of punishment? Do people still do that today?

Job 22: 21 -30 What does Eliphaz assure Job will happen if he will return to God?

Job - Chapter 23: Job's Response to Eliphaz (8th Speech)

Job 23: 1 -9 Job has sought God, like Eliphaz has advised, but not found God. What does Job intend to do if he ever does find God?

Job 23: 10 -12 What does Job believe the end of this test will establish?

Job 23: 13 -17 How does Job end this chapter? What does he reveal about himself?

Job - Chapter 24: Job Asks Why the Wicked Are Not Punished

Job 24: 1 -12 What does Job state that God allows and what does he oppress?

Job 24: 13 -24 Job contends that God give security to the whom? What actions does God encourage according to Job?

Job 24: 25 What does Job long for as he closes this chapter?

Job - Chapter 25: Bildad's Third Response to Job

Job 25: 1 -6 Two things are proclaimed by Bildad: God is _____ and man is _____

Job - Chapter 26: Job's Response to Bildad (9th Response)

Job 26: 1-4 What does Job think of all the advice that he has obtained from his friends?

Job 26: 5 -13 What does Job acknowledge about what Bildad has said is true?

Job 26: 14 What have all of them not even scratched the surface of?

Job 26: 5 -14 Job concludes the debate with lofty statements about God and his ways. What should his knowledge of those ways have taught Job all along?

Job 27 -31 (Week #10 - July 30, 2017)

Job - Chapter 27 - Job's Final Speech

Job 27: 1 -6 What statement does Job make? What does he seek to maintain?

Job 27: 7 -23 What would you say is Job's state of mind? What is he convinced about God in regards to those whom are wicked? What does Job think God might be overlooking?

Job - Chapter 28 - Job Speaks of Wisdom and Understanding

Job 28:1- 28 Is it possible for man to obtain this elusive characteristic of wisdom?

Job shows a real insight into the value and real source of wisdom.

- It does not originate with men (28:11)
- It cannot be bought with money (28:15)
- It is far more valuable than the most precious jewel (28:16-19)
- God only "knows its place" (28:23)
- The fear of the Lord is wisdom (28:28)

Job 28: 28 Ultimately, how can we obtain true wisdom?

Job - Chapter 29 - Job Speaks of His Former Blessings

Job 29 1- 6 What ultimately is Job longing for? How many of us feel this way at times?

Job 29: 7-17 What does Job reveal about his past? What does he acknowledge about God? What does he also share that he was able to do for others? Was this a burden or a blessing for Job? Support your thoughts.

Job 29: 18 - 25 What was Job able to do because of where God had placed him prior to his afflictions.

Job - Chapter 30 - Job Speaks of His Anguish

Job 30: 1- 15 How do you know when you have really hit the bottom?

Job 30: 16 - 31 In these verses, we can see Job's physical pain is great but what is greater than this to Job? How does he feel about his relationship with God?

Job - Chapter 31 - Job's Final Protest of Innocence

Job Calls For Judgment Upon Himself If He Has Sinned. What are the sins that Job references about in this chapter?

Job 31:1- 4, 9 -12

Job 31: 5 - 8

Job 31:13 -15

Job 31:16 - 23

Job 31: 24 - 28

Job 31: 29 - 37

Job 31: 38 - 40

Job 31: 35 What was the real heart of all the trouble Job was experiencing?

(Week #11 - August 6, 2017)

Job - Chapter 32 - Elihu Responds to Job's Friends

Who is Elihu? He is the last character in this discussion. His name means "**He is my God.**" He is evidently a young man. (32:6-7) He shows respect for their age but not for their philosophy. (32:6-9) Sympathetic to Job's condition he is not likewise sympathetic to Job's accusations. (33:6-7)

Job 32: 1 - 6 What are some additional things that we learn about Elihu from these first few verses of this chapter?

Job 32: 9 & 10 What does Elihu suggest has been taking place among these men? What does he challenge them to do?

Job 32: 11 -22 How would you summarize what Elihu is sharing with these men in these verses?

Job - Chapter 33 - Elihu Presents His Case against Job

Job 33: 1 -7 How did Elihu intend to speak differently from Job's other friends?

Job 33: 8 - 12 What does Elihu remind all the men of? What does he intend to prove?

Job 33: 13 -18 What does Elihu remind us about God? How valuable are these words to these men?

Job 33: 19, 29 -30 What is Elihu's philosophy about suffering?

What challenge does Elihu present to these men as this chapter comes to a close?

Job - Chapter 34 - Elihu Accuses Job of Arrogance

Job 34: 1- 9 Essentially, Elihu just wants these men to what?

Job 34: 10 -15 What does Elihu state about God?

Job 34: 16 -20 What are Elihu's thoughts about words that have been said about God?

Job 34: 21 -30 Is God righteous in judgment? (Support your ideas)

Job 34: 31 -37 Have these men been unrighteous in their judgement? How can you support your stance from these verses?

Job - Chapter 35 - Elihu Reminds Job of God's Justice

Who does Elihu advocate on behalf of in this chapter? What do you think stands out the most to you from Elihu's thoughts that are being shared?

Job 35: 9 - 15 In what ways would you agree or disagree with what Elihu states in these verses?

What do you think of Elihu's conclusion in this chapter? Do you think Elihu is correct in what he states?

(Week # 12 - August 13, 2017)

Job - Chapter 36 - 1-21 (Elihu continues to speak)

What does Elihu want to continue in these verses? What does Elihu say that God does not do?

Job 36:10 As you look at this verse, what are your thoughts? Do you think this is a true or false statement? Why?

Job 36: 11 -15 What does Elihu state will happen to those whom listen **and** obey God? And if they refuse? What are your ultimate thoughts of these verses?

Job 36: 16 - 21 As you reflect on these verses, what stands out the most to you?

Job 36: 22 - 33 Elihu Reminds Job of God's Power

What are the different examples noted by Elihu of God's power that are shared with Job and his friends?

As you read these verses, do you take time in your busy life to honor and really reflect on how Great God's power is in your life? In what ways are these verses a good reminder for you (us) of God's great power in and over our lives?

Job 37: 1 -24 Elihu Reminds Job of God's Power cont.

Job 37: 1 - 5 What does Elihu share about God's power as he reflects upon how great it is?

Job 37: 6 - 13 These verses Elihu shares some different examples and he concludes with a question? What do you think of his question? What are your thoughts from the examples he shares?

Job 37: 14 - 18 What does Elihu challenge Job to do? What does he challenge Job to do if he can? What is Elihu's goal here? Do you think Job understands God's works? Do we?

Job 37: 19 -24 Elihu concludes by asking Job to speak words that are worthy of God's time. What do we need to know to be able to relate to God and accept Him and His ways.

(Week # 13 - August 20, 2017)

Job 38: 1 - 41 & Job 39: 1 - 30 = The Lord Challenges Job

Job 38: 1 -3 Who shows up to talk? What does this speaker have to say?

How is God working in our lives or in this physical world? (Review these verses and write down “how” God is working in our lives? Are we looking for him or see him in these examples?

Job 38: 4 - 7

Job 38: 8 -11

Job 38: 12 -15

Job 38: 16 - 18

Job 38: 19 - 21

Job 38: 22 - 30

Job 38: 31 - 33

Job 38: 34 - 38

How is God working in Animal World?

Job 38: 39 - 41

Job 39: 1 - 4

Job 39: 5 -12

Job 39: 13 - 18

Job 39: 19 - 25

Job 39: 26 - 30

Job learns a little more about running the universe, what kind of position is he in to question God's running of the moral universe?

Elihu had shown a great amount of patience before he finally spoke up, but who has shown more patience than even him?

Job 40: 1 -2 God Confronts Job - What does God ask Job? What do you think of God's question?

Job 40: 3 -5 How does Job answer God's question? If we had faced all the afflictions that Job had - would we respond in the same manner as Job has here?

(Week # 14 - August 27, 2017)

Job 40: 6 - 42: 17

Job 40: 6 - 14 What does God state to Job that he needs to do? How often do we need to be reminded of this as well in our lives?

Job 40: 15 - 24 What does God challenge Job to look and see? What has God done in verse 15? What does God want to see and understand in verse 19?

Job 41: 1 - 11 What does God challenge Job with in these verses? What does God ultimately state to Job in verse 11? God is talking about the Leviathan's what in these verses?

Job 41: 12 - 34 In these verses, God talks about the Leviathan's description. What are all the different things that God shares about this creature that makes it mighty - the *King of the Beasts*?

Job 42: 1 - 17

Job 42: 1 - 6 Job Responds to the Lord

What did Job say in these verses? What did he do?

Did God ever tell Job why he suffered or what God's purpose was for Job?

Job 42: 7 - 9 What does God say to Job's friends? What are they asked to do? What is Job asked to do? How do they respond? What does this say about all of these individuals?

Why was Job able to intercede for his friends?

Job 42: 10 - 17 What happened to Job after his great affliction?

What have you personally learned from this book and this study?

