

The Message of the Old Testament

A Book-by-Book Study

JOB

Job: Background and Introduction

While Job is one of the most profound books of the Bible, its _____ author can be known only through reading between its lines. Certainly he can be numbered among “the wise” (cf. Prov. 24:23), given his fondness for proverbs, which he quotes to develop a point: “those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same” (Job 4:8); “man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward” (5:7); “a stupid man will get understanding when a wild donkey’s colt is born a man!” (11:12).

Though the story of Job has its setting _____ Israel to the east and south (Uz is related to Edom, which may be the setting of the book, cf. 2:11; 6:19; Lam. 4:21), the author of Job is a _____, thoroughly immersed in the Hebrew Scriptures.

The author of Job makes direct allusion to the Hebrew Scriptures (e.g., Ps. 8:4; cf. Job 7:17–18), and at times quotes lines directly (e.g., Ps. 107:40; cf. Job 12:21, 24). Such precise repetition of phrases and reapplication of biblical thought indicates that the poet had _____ to these writings, though again it cannot be certain in what form they existed.

The author of Job was a well-_____ individual who could draw on a wealth of knowledge and experience. He knew the constellations (Job 9:9; 38:31), could discuss meteorology (38:22–38) or describe a sophisticated mining operation (28:1–11). He could refer to skiffs of papyrus reed plying the waters (9:26), or the plants that grew in the marshes (8:11–19). He had observed _____, eagles, mountain goats, hippopotamuses, crocodiles, and war horses (chs. 39–41).

There are no historical allusions in the book to determine its time or circumstances.
(All above is from ESV Study Bible)

Job: Outline

Job Encounters Severe _____ (1:1-2: 10)
Job’s _____ Come to Comfort Job (2:11-13)
Job Complains (3)
Job’s Friends Dialog in Cycles (4-37)
God Joins the Conversation (38-42)

The Message of the book of Job

Mark Dever summarizes the book with three simple ideas:

We _____ suffer
We _____ understand
We can _____ trust

Let’s meet Job

1:1-5---

Job . . .

Was _____

Had a big family

Was wealthy

Was _____

Was highly regarded

We Often Suffer

Job . . . Lost his worldly wealth

1:13-19 --- Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

Job . . . Lost his health

2:7-8 --- So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.

Job . . . Lost his encourager

2:9 --- Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die."

Mark Dever writes, "Perhaps Job suffered more _____ than any of us have suffered. But in the end, he did not suffer more _____ than we will suffer. As Sir Walter Scott said of all our lives, "Come he slow or come he fast, it is but death that comes at last." (470)

Suffering is a universal experience.

We Sometimes Understand

The dialogues, which take up most of the book of Job, are predominately concerned with understanding suffering. In the various dialogues, the speakers, Job, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, keep making the same point.

The arguments of Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar go like this: "Job, what has happened to you is really _____. You must have _____ most extraordinarily, because God is just and punishes sin. And though you deny having sinned, we _____ you must have. There can be no other explanation." And in each case, Job _____ a sin for which he is being punished. He confesses his sin all the way, but he denies a great, hidden sin that would have called for such calamity in his life.

When it seems Job's friends have said all they have to say, Job makes his final protest and practically demands that _____ present himself so he can speak directly with him about his suffering. At this point Elihu arrives on the scene and the reader hears from him. Elihu explains that he has been listening for some time. He did not speak sooner because he is younger and did not want to be disrespectful. But when he began speaking he continued for several chapters. He contends that Job's charges should be answered and he asserts that God is great and his justice is above criticism.

At last God speaks.

He charges that these talkers do not _____ what they are talking about. He then describes His unique and sovereign power.

38:1-11---Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? "Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band,

and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed?'

38:12-18---"Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place,
that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
and the wicked be shaken out of it?
It is changed like clay under the seal,
and its features stand out like a garment.
From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken.
"Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?
Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this."

39:26-29---"Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars and spreads his wings toward the south?
Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes his nest on high?
On the rock he dwells and makes his home, on the rocky crag and stronghold.
From there he spies out the prey; his eyes behold it from far away.

40:1-2---And the Lord said to Job:
"Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty?
He who argues with God, let him answer it."

40:3-5---Then Job answered the Lord and said:
"Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my _____.
I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further."

God replies

40:8-11---Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be in the right?
Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his?
"Adorn yourself with majesty and dignity; clothe yourself with glory and splendor.
Pour out the overflowings of your anger, and look on everyone who is proud and abase him.

God continues . . .

41:10b-11---Who then is he who can stand before me? Who has first given to me, that I should repay him?
Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine.

Job's final confession . . .

42:3b-6---Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.' I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;

It is a mistake to think that since God is and since he made us that he has given us all the facts all the time, that we should expect to always understand what He is doing.

There is in fact _____ indication in this book that Job had any idea of the encounter between God and _____ that took place at the beginning of the book. Job did not know that _____ had enticed Satan. He did not know Satan had _____ him of being a fair-weather worshiper. He did not know he had been observed by _____ during these days. But he did not need to know everything to persevere. Likewise, due to our creaturely limitations, there will be not a few things that are beyond our comprehension. We do not need what we don't have. We simply need to rest on what we do have from God.

We Can Always Trust

The reason Job was tested the way he was is not because of his _____. Rather, he was tested because of his _____.

Job 1:6-12---Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

Job 2:1-7---Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. And the Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason." Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

The ultimate reason for Job's affliction was not his sin but his uprightness before God! It was proven for all to see that the reason Job worshiped God was not because God was _____ him _____. God already knew it but he enticed Satan so that what he knew could be made manifest to _____.

If we worship God truly and sincerely for who God is not for what He does for us, then we will trust Him come what may, whether we _____ or not. He is all we really have and all we need.

We can know that He will always work all things together for good to those who love him, but we will not always know _____. He will do it. We can trust Him nevertheless.

The Message of the Book of Job: From the Perspective of God

God lets the faithful be _____

God lets people think about who He is

God answers the faithful

God vindicates the faithful

God is _____ under all conditions

Romans 8:18-24a

Job 13:15a — Though he slay me, I will hope in him.