

Purpose

To highlight God's sovereignty, the meaning of true faith, and the question of why the righteous suffer

Meaning of Job

Literally "Persecution"

Possible Penmen

Moses, Solomon, Elihu, Job

Date Written

Unknown — the book records events that occurred during the Patriarchal Period, 2000-1800 BC

Setting

The land of Uz, probably located northeast of Palestine

Key People

Job, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and Elihu

Special Features

Some believe this was the first book of the Bible to be written. Is Job true or is it fiction? *Ezekiel 14:14, 20*, and *James 5:11* mention Job as a real character.

Key Verse

"Then the Lord asked Satan, 'Have you noticed My servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth — a man of integrity.'" *Job 2:3*

An Overview (42 Chapters)

- Job Is Tested (*1:1-2:13*)
- Three Friends Answer Job (*3:1-31:40*)
- A Young Man Answers Job (*32:1-37:24*)
- God Answers Job (*38:1-41:34*)
- Job Is Restored (*42:1-17*)

Major Themes

- *Suffering*: Suffering can be, but is not always, a penalty for sin. In the same way, prosperity is not always a reward for being good. Those who love God are not exempt from trouble. It is not our place to understand suffering but to trust God through it, learn from it, and glorify Him in it.
- *Satan's Attacks*: We must learn to recognize but not fear Satan's attacks, because Satan cannot exceed the limits that God sets. Don't let any experience drive a wedge between you and God. Although you can't control how Satan may attack, you can always choose how you will respond when he does.
- *God's Sovereignty*: From the beginning to the end of this book, God is in charge. Satan must get His permission to test Job and, after all is said and done, God puts Job and his friends in their place. We should serve God for who He is; we should never make Him into our image, based on what we think or feel about Him.
- *Trusting*: Job showed the kind of faith we are to have. When everything is stripped away, we are to recognize that God is all we ever really had. We should not demand that God explain everything. God gives us Himself, but not all the details of His plan. We must remember that this life, with all its pain, is not our final destiny.