

Lesson 1

Book Of Job

Title

1. The titles of the Old Testament books are not inspired, but have been added by men.
 - a. The Hebrews generally referred to a book by the first few words of the book.
 - b. Genesis was called “in the beginning” and Exodus “names” or “these are the names.”
2. This book is called Job because Job is the principle character and hero of the book.
3. It is called Job in both the LXX (Septuagint, 280 B.C.) and in the Latin Vulgate.

Authorship of Book

1. The authorship of the book is not known and there is no way of knowing it for sure.
2. Some think Job wrote it. This is possible, but there is no evidence for or against the Joban authorship.
3. Some think Moses wrote it during his time in Midian (Exod. 2:15).

EXO 2:15 When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the presence of Pharaoh and settled **in the land of Midian**; and he sat down by a well.

- a. The wilderness of Midian bordered on the Edomite country.
- b. It seems unlikely Moses would have written it while in Midian, but perhaps at a later date after he accepted God’s call and became the deliverer of Israel. (Exod. 3:1-15).
 - 1) In Midian Moses had not been called by God to lead Israel out of bondage.
 - 2) There is no record of God communicating with him until his call at the burning bush.
 - 3) His 40 years in Midian were at a time of inactivity in regard to leadership and writing. (Exod. 2:15-25).
 - 4) The Bible clearly reveals that Moses spent 40 years in Midian and was 40 years old when he arrived there. (Acts 7:23, 30).
 - 5) Scripture reveals Moses was a shepherd during that period of his life.
- c. It is speculated, by some, that Job may have related his story to Moses, but there is no evidence for this.
- d. The Bible never speaks of Moses knowing Job or having any communication with him. Moses does not

mention Job in his writings unless Genesis 36:33 refers to him.

- e. The Mosaic style of writing bears little similarity with the book of Job.
 - f. There is no conclusive evidence for or against this theory.
 - g. Moses was born in about 1526 B.C. and died 120 years later in about 1406 B.C.
4. Some believe Solomon wrote it or it was written in the Solomonic era, 970 to 930 B.C.
- a. This is possible, but there is no proof.
 - b. It has some similarity to Proverbs. (Job 15:8 & Job 28 with Prov. 8).
5. The description of creation, God's employment of angels, Satan the adversary, the representations of Sheol, and other things that so strongly accord with Hebrew thought, support that the author was an Israelite.
6. **Liberals** deny the inspiration of the book and contend it was written at a much later time than the Mosaic or Solomonic date and it was written by a multitude of authors and editors over a long period of time.
- a. Most liberals deny the inspiration of all or most of the books of the Old and New Testaments.
 - b. They are quick to reject the inspiration and historicity of this book that records conversations between God and Satan.
 - c. Some call Job a "parable" representing the distresses of the Hebrew people during the time of the Babylonian captivity.

Job - The name (Heb. Iyyob, Gr. Iob, ee **ohb**) means "hated or persecuted one."

1. Some think the name comes from an Arabic root meaning "to repent" reflecting his attitude at the conclusion of the book.
2. This is not the most common view.

Job And New Testament

1. James, the Lord's brother, mentioned Job in his letter.

JAM 5:11 Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

- a. "Endurance" is from "hupomone" [hoo pah mah **nah**] that is from "hupo" [hoo **pah**, under] and "meno" [**meh** noh, abide].
 - b. It has the idea of one who is able to abide or endure under trials.
 - c. Job was one who trusted in the Lord even when he was severely tested and did not understand why he was being tested. (Job 13:10, 15; 16:29-31; 19:25-26).
2. There are several quotations in the New Testament from the book of Job showing Paul believed in the inspiration

of Job.

a. Job 5:13 with 1 Cor. 3:19

JOB 5:13 "He captures the wise by their own shrewdness And the advice of the cunning is quickly thwarted.

1CO 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "He is the one who catches the wise in their craftiness";

b. Job 35:7 and 41:11 with Rom. 11:35.

JOB 35:7 "If you are righteous, what do you give to Him? Or what does He receive from your hand?

JOB 41:11 "Who has given to Me that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine.

ROM 11:35 Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again?

Date of Book - The date of the book is by no means certain.

1. The date of the actual composite of Job may have been pre-Mosaic age or Mosaic or perhaps in the time of Solomon.

a. The date of the writing could have been a short or long after the events of Job occurred.

b. Moses recorded the creation account and the book of Genesis long after it occurred.

2. Many believe it took place during the Patriarchal age.

a. Hebrew law or history is not mentioned..

b. Job functions as a patriarch and priest in offering sacrifices for his family. (Job 1:5).

JOB 1:5 And it came about, when the days of feasting had completed their cycle, that Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and **offering burnt offerings** according to the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." **Thus Job did continually.**

c. Job's longevity is typical of the patriarchs. (Job 42:16).

JOB 42:16 And after this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his grandsons, four generations.

Abraham lived 175 years (Gen. 25:7). Sarah 127 years (Gen. 23:1). Isaac 180 years (Gen. 35a:28). Jacob 147 years (Gen. 47:28). Joseph 110 years (Gen. 50:26). Moses and Aaron had lived to be 120 and 123 respectively. (Deut. 34:7; Num. 33:39). Miriam about 130 years. (Num. 20:1). The longevity of man in the time of David and Solomon was much less.

d. We do not know how long he lived, but it appears it was a long time. Job open with Job being married and having 10 grown children.

1) His children had their own homes. (Job 1:4).

2) His children were old enough to sin. (Job 1:5).

- 3) His children are called “young people” in Job 1:19.
 - 4) This likely means they were young adults, but since there were 10 children some were at least 10 years older.
 - 5) All of this suggests that Job was not real young when all these tragedies came upon him.
- e. There are references to Job as early as 2,000 B.C. in archaeological references suggesting the events took place during the patriarchal age. This may or may not have been the Job of the Bible.
 - f. The use of the Hebrew term “qesitah”, translated “piece of money” (42:11), is elsewhere used only of patriarchal times. (Gen. 33:19; Josh. 24:32).

JOB 42:11 Then all his brothers, and all his sisters, and all who had known him before, came to him, and they ate bread with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought on him. And each one gave him one **piece** of money, and each a ring of gold.

GEN 33:19 And he bought the piece of land where he had pitched his tent from the hand of the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred **pieces** of money.

JOS 24:32 Now they buried the bones of Joseph, which the sons of Israel brought up from Egypt, at Shechem, in the piece of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred **pieces** of money; and they became the inheritance of Joseph's sons.

Note: The absence of Mosaic references (history or law) does not absolutely prove the author of Job was a patriarch or the author of Job was ignorant of them.

Place In The Old Testament

1. He is mentioned in Ezekiel 14:14, 20.

EZE 14:14 even though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job were in its midst, by their own righteousness they could only deliver themselves, "declares the Lord God.

EZE 14:20 even though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in its midst, as I live, "declares the Lord God," they could not deliver either their son or their daughter. They would deliver only themselves by their righteousness. "

2. Hebrew text has Job as part of the writings (kethubhim) - Psalms, Proverbs, Job. **Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Chronicles are also included in the writings.**

3. The book forms part of the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament. Many of the wisdom sections are written in poetry.

Literary Masterpiece - It is universally recognized as superb literature.

1. Victor Hugo, French poet 1802-1885, said, “The book of Job is perhaps the Greatest Masterpiece of the Human Mind.”

2. Thomas Carlyle, great English critic and philosopher (1795-1881), wrote, “one of the Grandest things ever written. There is nothing written, I think, of equal literary merit.”

3. Tennyson affirmed the book of Job is “the greatest poem whether of ancient or modern literature.”

Purpose of Book

1. It deals with the problem of human suffering.
2. It deals with the question, "Why do the righteous suffer?"
3. How can the suffering of the righteous be reconciled with the infinite goodness and holiness of God?

Home Of Job

1. The author introduces to us a man "whose name was Job."
2. Job is from "the land of Uz." (Job. 1:1).
3. Uz had plentiful pastures and crops. (Job. 1:3).
 - a. It was located near a desert, and was close enough to the Sabeans and Chaldeans to be raided. (Job 1:19, 14-17).

JOB 1:19 and behold, a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people and they died; and I alone have escaped to tell you. "

JOB 1:14 that a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, JOB 1:15 and the Sabeans attacked and took them. They also slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you. "

JOB 1:16 While he was still speaking, another also came 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."

JOB 1:17 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and took them and slew the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you."

- b. Uz is also mentioned in Jeremiah. (Jere. 25:19,20).

JER 25:19 Pharaoh king of Egypt, his servants, his princes, and all his people;

JER 25:20 and all the foreign people, **all the kings of the land of Uz**, all the kings of the land of the Philistines (even Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod);

- c. Uz is Edom. (Lam. 4:21).

LAM 4:21 Rejoice and be glad, **O daughter of Edom, Who dwells in the land of Uz**; But the cup will come around to you as well, You will become drunk and make yourself naked.

- d. Edom was S.E. of Palestine near the Dead Sea. The Greeks and Romans gave the name "Idumea" to Edom (Isa. 35:5,6; Ezek. 33:15; 36:5).
- e. Uz was evidently somewhere between Damascus on the North and Edom on the South, that is, in the steppes East of Palestine-Syria.
- f. It was probably in the Arabian or Syrian desert east of Palestine [Canaan].
- g. The Septuagint, in a postscript following ancient tradition, identified Job with Jobab, the second king of Edom.

(Gen. 36:33).

GEN 36:33 Then Bela died, and **Jobab** the son of Zerah of Bozrah became king in his place.

Problem of Suffering

1. The problem of suffering has caused many to **deny God's existence**.
2. The problem of suffering has caused many to **denounce God and curse Him**.
3. The problem of suffering has led many to believe God is **indifferent toward mankind and does not get involved with it**.
4. The problem of suffering has led some to believe **God is finite and unable to prevent suffering**.
5. The problem of suffering has led some to hold to the position that **God takes pleasure in suffering**.
6. The problem of suffering has led some to believe that **suffering is unreal and merely an allusion**.
7. The problem of suffering has led many to believe **all sufferers are being punished by God for sins**.

Comments:

1. As we grow older and see so much suffering and so much inequalities and injustice, we are prone to ask, "How could a good God make a world like this?"
2. This book of Job does not answer all questions about human suffering, but it will give us great insight into this problem.
3. This book also reveals that finite man is incapable of understanding the Infinite God and His thoughts and actions.
4. No one is smart enough to challenge or question the Sovereign, Omnipotent, Omniscient God.
5. God is the Creator and Master of the Universe and all creation and man is His finite creation.

Length of Study

1. We will spend several months studying this important book.
2. Several weeks will be spent on the opening chapters, but the later chapters will be surveyed.
3. We will not study the later chapters verse by verse, but will study the major points of the many speeches found in the book.

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