



THE BOOK OF
JOB

Lesson 1: Job 1–3

Job—His Character

- “There was a man in the land of Uz...that man was **blameless and upright**, and one who **feared God and shunned evil**” (1:1).
- God, to Satan: “There is **none like him** on the earth, a **blameless and upright** man, one who **fears God and shuns evil**” (1:8).
- Remember the way **God** described him when his **friends** begin to describe him.

Job—His Family

- He had brothers and sisters (42:11; 19:13–14).
- He was married (2:9–10; 19:17), with “seven sons and three daughters” (1:2).
- “Job would send and sanctify them (sons)...would rise **early** in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all” (1:5).
 - “It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts” (1:5).

Job—His Possessions

- “His possessions were 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys...very large household...this man was the greatest of all the people of the East” (1:3).
- And so he had many animals and many servants to attend to them.
- “Oxen were plowing” (1:14) would seem to indicate he had crops, too.

Satan—His Activity

- The Hebrew word translated Satan means “opponent,” or “adversary.”
- The LORD to Satan: “From where do you come?” (1:7; 2:2).
 - **Satan’s answer:** “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it” (1:7; 2:2).

Satan—His Limitations

- Possesses intelligence and reason, but he is **NOT omniscient** (all knowing) **NOR omnipotent** (all powerful).
 - He “knew” Job, but he didn’t **REALLY** know Job.
 - He brought suffering upon Job, but with limitations imposed by God (“all that he has in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person”—1:12; “Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life”—2:6).

Satan's first challenge:

“Touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” (1:11).

And so begins the first wave of sufferings for Job.

“While he was still speaking...” (3x)

- Experienced great sufferings, and in rapid succession.
- The oxen and donkeys (500 each)—they’ve been taken away, and the servants killed.
- The sheep (7000) and the servants attending them—fire fell from heaven and burned them up.
- The camels (3000)—they’ve been taken away, and the servants killed.
- Your children (10)—a great wind struck the house, fell on them and killed them.

Job's Response: 1:20–22

- Did he mourn?
- “Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head...fell to the ground and worshiped” (v. 20).
- “Naked I came from my mother's womb...naked shall I return...The LORD gave...the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD” (v. 21).
- “In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong” (v. 22).

God's Statement about Job

- **To Satan:** “He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to destroy him without reason” (2:3, ESV).

Satan's second challenge:

“Touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” (2:5).

And so begins the second wave of sufferings for Job.

More Suffering (2:7–10)

- “So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with _____” (2:7).
- His wife then said what to him?
- “Job said to her, ‘You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?’ In all this Job did not sin with his lips” (2:10).
 - See also Ecclesiastes 7:14.

The Three Friends Arrive (2:11–13)

- WHEN did they come?
- WHY did they come?
- WHAT disturbed them “when they raised their eyes from afar”?
- WHAT did they do (and not do) for seven days and seven nights?

Job's Lament—Summary (ch. 3)

- Cursed be the night of my conception and the day of my birth.
- Why did I not die at birth, and be able then to enjoy the quiet of the grave—with princes and kings and counselors of the earth?
- There are no distinctions in the grave—all are at rest (e.g., small and great, servant and master).
- Why is light and life given to those bitter of soul, those whose way is hidden, who long for death?
- What I feared MOST has come upon me.

Questions About This Lament

- Does this long lament seem inconsistent with the attitude shown previously by Job?
- Just how critical should we be of his anguish and despair?
- Should Job have not shown more trust in God, that God would work all this out for his good?

Considerations

- Nowhere does Job say he will have nothing more to do with God.
- Does the anguish have more to do with the intensity of his suffering, or that he feels forsaken by God? (see v. 23, compare with 19:8).
- Remember, Job knows nothing of the conversations between God and Satan.

Considerations

- Would it have made a difference if Job knew what we do, from the New Testament—what it teaches about suffering, and the hope which sustains us through suffering?
- **For example:** “The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18).