

FACING STORMS

WHEN THE SEVERITY OF THE STORM THREATENS THE STABILITY OF YOUR FAITH

“HOW TO HANDLE LIFE’S TURBULENT TIMES”

“Trusting in the Face of Extreme Suffering”

(Overview of the Story & the Book of Job)

INTRODUCTION:

“And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job,...?’”

—Job 1:8; 2:3

THE STRUCTURE:

a - Prologue (prose)	Chapters 1 & 2	
b - Job’s Lament (poetry)		Chapter 3
c - Dialogue between Job and His Friends (poetry)		Chapters 4-27
In 3 cycles with Job responding to each:		
Eliphaz - Job		
Bildad - Job		
Zophar - Job		
c - Interlude on Wisdom (poetry)		Chapter 28
b1 - Job’s Complaint (poetry)		Chapters 29-31
b2 - Elihu’s Speeches (poetry)		Chapters 32-37
b3 - God’s Speeches (poetry)		Chapters 38-42:6
a - Epilogue (prose)	Chapter 42:7-17	

COMMON CAUSES OF SUFFERING:

- 1) Suffering do to **Sin in the World - Sorrow** (Psalm 31:10; 1 Peter 2:19; Romans 8)
- 2) Suffering do to **Sin in my Walk - “Spankification”** (1 Pet. 2:20; Heb. 12:5, 6)
- 3) Suffering do to **Satan at Work - Sifting** (Luke 22:31, 32; 1 Peter 5:8, 9)
- 4) Suffering do to the **Savior at Work - Sanctification** (1 Thess. 3:4; James 1:1-3)

JOB’S THEME:

- While suffering is a **major** theme of the book of Job, it is not the **primary** theme. The focus is **worship and integrity**. The question is raised, “Will Job continue to worship God regardless of the scope or severity of his suffering?”

“Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.” —Job 13:5a

1A. JOB’S _____ - *Who he was.* (Job 1:1)

“There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.”

2A. JOB’S _____ - *What he had.* (Job 1:2-5)

“...this man was the greatest of all the people of the east.”

3A. JOB'S _____ - *What he didn't know.* (Job 16-12; 2:1-6)

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD."

4A. JOB'S _____ - *What he lost.* (Job 1:7-19; 2:7, 8)

"...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,..." —Job 1:19

"So Satan ...struck Job with loathsome sores... —Job 2:7

5A. JOB'S _____ - *How he responded.* (Job 1:20-22; 2:9-10)

"...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,..." —Job 1:19

6A. JOB'S _____ - *What he endured.* (Job 2:11-13)

- Here Job's three friends are introduced:

- 1) Eliphaz (Teman, an Edomite city, the center of wisdom), is the gentle mystic (4:12-31).
- 2) Bildad (Shuhite), is a firm traditionalist (8:8-10).
- 3) Zophar (Naamathite), is a rash dogmatist (11:5f.).

1B. Their _____ . (v. 12)

2B. Their _____ . (v. 13)

7A. JOB'S _____ - *What he couldn't figure out.* (Job 13-37)

- At the end of repeated rounds of comfortless council, a fourth contributor is introduced:

- Elihu ("He is God"), a young and learned man, the ancient equivalent of a graduate student.

"I have heard many such things; Sorry comforters are you all." —Job 16:2

8A. JOB'S _____ - *What he learned.* (Job 38:1-42:6)

"Where were you...."

- The divine presence blasts the silence of Uz with all the force of a whirlwind, following with forty rhetorical questions, reminding Job of his humanity and of God's sovereignty. God's answer is powerful, not apologetic.

9A. JOB'S _____ - *What he received.* (Job 42:7-17)

- God leaves the courts of heaven and comes to the ash heap of Uz to restore the fortunes of the beleaguered Job, whom he affectionately affirms and calls His servant.

CONCLUSION: