

- I) V1-3 INTRO: There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job
- II) We are about to begin a study on the Book of Job
As we begin, I will give an introduction in order for us to better understand the book
- III) The man Job is introduced to us as a righteous man living in the land of Uz
Just where would this land be?
- IV) It would seem that the location of ancient Uz would be east of Israel, near Jordan
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.
- V) This would indicate that Uz was located on the border of Edom (Jordan)
The Edomites would have been in possession of Uz, so it is SE of Israel
Job was a man who lived in this land and this story is about what he went through
- VI) In Hebrew, his name means the assaulted, or persecuted one
This is what will be the theme of the book, the assault on Job
The Arabic translation means repentant one, which reveals his humbling
- VII) This is a story of a man who loses everything: His Children, wealth, health, reputation
It is a story that approaches the question: Why do the good suffer, and the evil prosper?
- VIII) If God is all-loving and all-powerful, why do the good hurt, and the evil get away with sin?
The question of why the good suffer is an age old question
- IX) The psalmist Asaph wrestled with this same question
Ps. 73:3 For I envied the arrogant when I saw the *prosperity* of the wicked.
Ps 73:12-13 This is what the wicked are like-- always carefree, they increase in wealth. Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; *in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.*
- X) This book answers the question by appealing to the Sovereignty of God
- XI) Suffering is not the central issue: What is learned by suffering is

Job experientially learns that God is sovereign over everything: He does as He wills

Ps 115:3 Our God is in heaven; He does *whatever pleases Him*

XII) Paul put it this way

Ro 9:20-21 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, Why did you make me like this? Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

I) TIME OF WRITING: The events recorded would pre-date the actual writing of the book

It is believed that the events take place between Gen 11 and 12

This would be between the building of the Tower of Babel and the call of Abraham

II) It is recognized as the earliest book of the Bible

The events occur in the Patriarchal period (time of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph)

III) Accurate dating is difficult: Are no references to contemporary historical occurrences

IV) THE AUTHOR: Is unknown, as he is not identified in the book

V) VARIOUS WRITERS HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED: Job, Solomon, Isaiah, Hezekiah, Ezra

VI) Moses most likely wrote the book because the Land of Uz is in ancient Edom, just south of the Dead Sea. It was located next to ancient Midian, and Moses lived in Midian for 40 years.

Moses may have obtained a record of this event, and under God's direction, included it in his writings, thus he would have written this book between 1485 and 1445 BC

VII) REASONS FOR THIS:

Job lived another 140 years after the book ends: During that period the life span was close to 200 years which is similar to the age of people in the patriarchal period

Wealth is measured in livestock, not gold, silver or precious stones

Like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Job is the priest over his own home and offer sacrifice

There are no references made to Israel, the Exodus, the Mosaic law, or the Tabernacle

The Chaldeans who murder Job's servants are still nomads, and not yet city dwellers

VIII) KEY VERSES: That give us insight into Job and his questions and God's solutions

Job 1:31 Naked I came from my mother's womb and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord

Job 9:33 If only there were someone to arbitrate between us, to lay his hand upon us both

Job 13:15 Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him

Job 25:4 How then can a man be righteous before God? How can one born of woman be pure?

IX) Most beautiful revelation of Job's heart towards the Lord

Job 19:25-27 *I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes --I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*

X) OUTLINE: The book begins with a controversy between *God* and *Satan*
This controversy covers the first two chapters

I) From there a debate between Job and his friends occurs as to *why he is suffering*

II) As Job defends himself: He basically has three complaints

FIRST: God is punishing me for something I am not even aware of doing
Job 7:20 Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, so that I am a burden to myself?

III) SECOND: Job contends that God does not hear him and has come against him
Job 13:24 Why do You hide Your face, and regard me as Your enemy

IV) THIRD: God allows the wicked to prosper but seems to ignore the righteous
Job 21:7 Why do the wicked live and become old, yes, become mighty in power?

V) SADLY: Job, through his constant self-defense, becomes guilty of *self-righteousness*

God ultimately ends the debate by pointing this out in Ch 38-42

VI) THE RESULT: Job is able to weather his incredible trial, and is blessed by God
His story becomes well known, and legendary

Ezek 14:14 Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and *Job*, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness," says the Lord GOD.

Jas 5:11 As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

VII) Interestingly, Job is mentioned in the Koran and is spoken of as *ever returning to God*

(Sura 38:44) He is seen as pious, not simply repentant

VIII) V1-3 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job

IX) As we begin, four character traits are revealed

FIRST: Blameless, which is integrity: Complete, not lacking in anything

X) It is not sinless perfection but that he did not have sins God was dealing with
2 Co. 4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

XI) This helps us to see that suffering may occur for reasons unconnected with any sins

Job was not being chastised for sins that he had committed

I) SECOND: He was Upright: Straight, pleasing, righteous; unblameable

He was a man who was conscious of living properly, and did so for God

Ps. 19:13 Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

II) THIRD: He Feared God (He was devoted to the Lord; had a holy life)

Pr 22:4 By humility *and* the fear of the LORD Are riches and honor and life.

III) FOURTH: He Shunned evil: He hated sin and turned away from evil

This would be the obvious fruit of fearing God

Pr 16:6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

Eph. 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

IV) V2 And seven sons and three daughters were born to him (interestingly, unnamed)

He was a loving father of *10 children*: Blessed of God

Ps 128:1-4 Blessed is every one that fears the LORD; that walks in his ways. For you shall eat the labor of your hands: happy shall you be, and it shall be well with you. Your wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of your house: the children like olive plants round about your table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that fears the LORD.

V) V3 Also his possessions were seven thousand sheep three thousand camels five

He had sheep, camels (a merchant), oxen (agriculture), female donkeys (dairy), and a large household of servants

VI) He was the wealthiest man in the East (which would include Jordan)

He knew that his wealth was the evidence of God's blessings in his life

Ps 112:1-3 Praise you the LORD. Blessed is the man that fears the LORD, that delights greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endures for ever.

VII) V4-5 And his sons would go and feast in their houses each on his appointed day

This is the fruit of his devotion to God: He had a family filled with love for one another

On the son's birthday, each would invite his brothers and sisters to celebrate w/him

VIII) V5 In case they forgot God, Job would arise *early* and make an offering on their behalf

Gen 8:20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.

I) The easiest place in which to be spiritual is in public; the most difficult is at home.

II) NOTICE: They *may have sinned* and cursed God in their hearts

They may have forgotten God in the midst of their celebrating

III) V6-12 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before

IV) God orders his angels to *present* themselves to Him:

Sons of God are another way of referring to angels (38:7; Dan 3:25, 28)

This speaks of their resemblance to Him in power, dignity and holiness

V) This speaks of a Military presentation: Giving an account of what they've seen and done

They are also receiving directions and commands

VI) V6 Satan also came among them

SATAN: Literally, One who withstands

VII) He is also called the Accuser of the brethren, and is among the angels (Rev 12:10)

VIII) V7 And the Lord said to Satan From where do you come

God is ordering him to give an account of himself

He does this before the angels, so that they may be aware of what he has been doing

IX) This shows God's sovereignty: Satan gives an account to Him: They are not equal

X) V7 So Satan answered the Lord and said From going to and fro on the earth

He is Never resting, never ceasing in his search to destroy and corrupt

XI) He never rests but is constantly searching for someone to destroy, or to tempt

1 Pe. 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour:

XII) V8 Have you considered my servant Job? Lit., have you set your heart on Job?

Have you noticed him? Have you seen his righteous life and how he lives?

He is my true servant and is faithful in all that he does

XIII) He is Righteous and loving to Me? There is none like him on the earth

You are looking for defects: Have you set your heart on finding any in him?

XIV) V9-10 So Satan answered the Lord and said Does Job fear God for nothing

Yes, I surely have made a note of him but you will not let me near him

I) You are protecting him, his family, and all his possessions

Ps 34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.

II) He lives on an island of security: It pays to fear you

Who wouldn't, if they were constantly blessed and protected from me?

He only serves you because it pays off: His motives are impure

III) V11-12 But now stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has and he will surely curse

Remove all his possessions and see how he responds to You

IV) Let's check out his true motives: He will curse you to Your face

He will renounce You and will walk away from any appearance of true faith

V) V12 And the Lord said to Satan Behold all that he has is in your power

Evil is held in check by God, and He allows Satan to work against Job

God does not take them away, but allows Satan to

VI) V13-19 Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine

This speaks of a day of joy and celebration, a birthday

VII) Satan moves when the heart would be most tender: On a Child's birthday

He progressively sends disasters, one after another

VIII) REMEMBER: Job already fears that his children might forget God on these days

IX) EACH DISASTER BUILDS ON THE PREVIOUS ONE:

Sabeans: People of Sheba, Arabians: Fall on his servants, and destroy and steal

Fire of God: Lightning strikes, killing the sheep and the servants

Chaldeans raid: Steal the camels and kill the servants

FINALLY: Your beloved children have all been killed in the home of your eldest son

X) V20-22 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head and he fell to the ground

Tearing his robe and shaving his head are signs of grief: And worshipped God

XI) QUOTE: I believe that Satan intended to make Job feel that it was God who was at work when his messenger said, "The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and has burned up the sheep." "Ah," said Satan, "he will see that God is against him!" The devil did not succeed as he thought, for Job could see that it was God's hand, and that took away the sting of the stroke. "The Lord has taken away."

I) Ch 2:1-3 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves

- II) Satan once again appears before God and God renews His challenge
You have seen how Job responded after the things that he went through
You intense hatred provoked you to incite Me to allow this, but he remained faithful

- III) V4-6 So Satan answered the Lord and said Skin for skin Yes all that a man has he will

- IV) A man will do anything he will to survive
Touch his health, and he will curse you to Your face

- V) Though he has no wealth, he is still healthy and could once again gain wealth and family
Take that away from him and he will curse you

- VI) The two things that people desire and protect: wealth, and health
He uses these things to entrap people and to move people to reject God
Both were taken from Job

- VII) V7 So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and struck Job with painful Elephantiasis: An intense heat, a burning and ulcerous swelling, or leprosy in its most terrific form, taking its name from the appearance of the body, which is covered with a knotty, cancerous bark like the hide of an elephant; the whole frame is in a state of progressive dissolution, ending slowly but surely in death.

- VIII) V8 And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in
His children and servants were gone and none whom he had helped came to his aid
He is left to use broken pottery to relieve the pressure of the boils

- IX) V9 Then his wife said to him Do you still hold fast to your integrity Curse God and die
He has lost everything, and now the one who should have helped him rejects him
In her advice, she is echoing what Satan said Job would do

- X) It is not unusual for the devil to use those who are closest to us, against us
Are you holding fast to your faith, seeing that it has gotten you no where?
If you tell Him He hates those whom He should love, He will put you out of misery!

XI) V10 But he said to her You speak as one of the foolish women speaks Shall we accept

I do not serve God only in good times, but also in the times when I hurt

Hab. 3:17-18 Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

I) V11-13 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him

II) Apparently traveled long distances: Job has been suffering for months (7:3)

Temanites: From the land of Edom, in NE Arabia

Shuhite: Unknown, perhaps from ancient Mesopotamia

Naamathite: Unknown, perhaps Judea

III) THEY ARE SILENT: The best part is the first seven days

Silence is often the best comfort we can offer