



**THE BOOK OF  
JOB**

**SUFFERING & THE CHARACTER OF GOD**



**WHY DO  
GOOD PEOPLE  
SUFFER?**

# THE CHARACTERS OF JOB



**YAHWEH**

The sovereign Lord who tests Job and reveals His power and wisdom.



**JOB**

A righteous and blameless man who fears God and turns away from evil.



**SATAN**

The adversary who challenges Job's faith and seeks to bring suffering.



**ELIPHAZ**  
THE TEMANITE

Believes suffering is always the result of sin and calls Job to repentance.



**BILDAD**  
THE SHUHITE

Asserts God's justice and reminds Job of human frailty and deserving judgment.



**ZOPHAR**  
THE NAAMATHITE

Insists that the wicked always reap what they sow and urges Job to confess his sin.

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. <sup>2</sup> There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. <sup>3</sup> He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, **so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east.** <sup>4</sup> His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

## JOB 1:1-4

<sup>5</sup> And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, **“It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.”** Thus Job did continually.

<sup>6</sup> Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. <sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” <sup>8</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, **“Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?”**

## **JOB 1:5-8**

A quote graphic with a person sitting on a rock in a mountainous landscape. The person is on the left, looking towards the right. The background shows a range of mountains under a blue sky with some clouds and birds flying. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

“

“This highlights an element of this story that is worth emphasizing: Job is not representative of everyone. We cannot automatically identify with Job when we suffer because both the narrator of Job’s story and God himself highlight Job’s uniqueness—there is no one like him.”

————— MARTIN A. SHIELDS —————

<sup>9</sup> Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? <sup>10</sup> Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. <sup>11</sup> But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and **he will curse you to your face.**” <sup>12</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

## JOB 1:9-12

<sup>13</sup> Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, <sup>14</sup> and **there came a messenger** to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, <sup>15</sup> and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” <sup>16</sup> While he was yet speaking, **there came another** 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 1:13-16

<sup>17</sup> While he was yet speaking, **there came another** and said, “The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”<sup>18</sup> While he was yet speaking, **there came another** and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,<sup>19</sup> and behold, 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, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

## JOB 1:17-19

# THE FOUR ATTACKS

JOB 1:13-19

**1** THE SABAEANS  
TOOK THE OXEN  
(v. 13-15)



The Sabaeans raided and stole the oxen and donkeys, killing the servants with the sword.

**2** FIRE FELL FROM  
HEAVEN AND  
CONSUMED THE SHEEP  
(v. 16)



Fire from heaven struck and consumed the sheep and the servants in the fields.

**3** THE CHALDEANS  
TOOK THE CAMELS  
(v. 17)



The Chaldeans attacked and carried off the camels, killing the servants with the sword.

**4** A GREAT WIND  
STRUCK AND  
DESTROYED THE HOUSE  
(v. 18-19)



A great wind struck the house where Job's sons and daughters were dining and it collapsed, killing them all.



<sup>20</sup> Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. <sup>21</sup> And he said,

“Naked I came from my mother's womb,  
and naked shall I return.

The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away;  
blessed be the name of the Lord.”

<sup>22</sup> In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

## JOB 1:20-22

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” <sup>3</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? **He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason.**”

## JOB 2:1-3

<sup>4</sup> Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. <sup>5</sup> But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and **he will curse you to your face.**” <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.” <sup>7</sup> So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. <sup>8</sup> And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.

## JOB 2:4-8



“

Then Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.’

JOB 2:4-5

<sup>9</sup> Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.” <sup>10</sup> But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?”

In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

**JOB 2:9-10**



# LIVE THE TEXT





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01

Be careful when comparing yourself or others to Job.

02

When you face trials of any kind, trust God. When you fail at this, repent and return to trusting God. See **Luke 22:31-34**

03

Commit yourself to learning the lessons Job is led by God to learn. This is the ultimate purpose of the book! See **James 5:7-11**

<sup>31</sup> “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, <sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

<sup>33</sup> Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”

**LUKE 22:31-34**



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<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

## **JAMES 5:7-11**