

“Job” Learning Center
Class Two // Job Chapters 3-5 // September 8, 2019

I. Introduction

A. Class Schedule for Job

1.	9/1	Introduction & Ch. 1-2	What’s the Book About?
2.	9/ 8	Chapters 3-5	Speeches Round One Job/Eliphaz
3.	9/15	Chapters 6-8	Speeches Round One Job/Bildad
4.	9/22	Chapters 9-11	Speeches Round One Job/Zophar
5.	9/29	Chapters 12-15	Speeches Round Two Job/Eliphaz
6.	10/6	Chapters 16-18	Speeches Round Two Job/Bildad
7.	10/13	Chapters 19-20	Speeches Round Two Job/Zophar
8.	10/20	Chapters 21-22	Speeches Round Three Job/Eliphaz
9.	10/27	Chapter 23-25	Speeches Round Three Job/Bildad
10.	11/3	Chapters 26-32	Speeches Round Three Job Only
11.	11/10	Chapters 33-37	Speeches Round Three Elihu Only
12.	11/17	Chapter 38-41	God’s Response
13.	11/24	Chapter 42	Resolution

B. Review of Chapters 1-2

(10:45-10:50)

1. Job was “the greatest man of the east,” at Abraham’s time (2000 BC).
2. God permitted Satan to harm Job in incredible ways even though Job didn’t deserve it. However, God limited the sphere and extent of the harms permitted.
3. The reason Satan and God got into a discussion about Job was that God said Job was righteous and turned from sin and He wanted Satan to take note of his faith.
4. Satan said that if circumstances are bad enough, anyone (even Job) will pull away from their dependent walk of trust and faith in a God whom they can’t see and who doesn’t explain Himself.
5. Job is hit with the sudden, immediate, total loss of all his crops, livestock, servants and children. Then his body turns to painful, open boils from head to foot.
6. Job’s pain is increased socially as his wife turns aside from him and he is left at the end of the second chapter scraping boils silently on a refuse pile with three friends so stricken by his poor estate that they can say nothing for seven days and nights.
7. We can learn much about God’s purposes for us when suffering unjustly.

II. “Table Talk” — Discuss Last Week’s Introduction to the Book of Job

(10:50-11:05)

- A. Satan is allowed to “appear” before God and permitted to talk with Him. Where would you go in the Bible to discern what types of things he probably says when he talks?
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- B. Why does God permit Satan to wander about the earth and approach Him? Why doesn’t God just “chain him up” (Rev 20:1) or put him in the “lake brimming with fire” (Rev 20:10)?
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- C. What are Satan’s typical strategies with you? Tempt? Attack? Accuse? Frighten? Mock?

("We're not ignorant of his schemes." 2 Cor. 2:11b)? _____

- D. God gives Satan permission to hurt Job but limits how far it can go (Job 1:12; 2:6). Assuming this principle holds true for us, too, how does knowing that affect you?
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- E. People respond to the suffering of others in a variety of ways (e.g., *trying to solve or explain the problem, avoiding the one hurting, bargaining with God, sitting with the one hurt and sharing in their grief, etc.*) What is your most familiar response and why?
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IV. Read chapters 3-5 as a class

(11:05-11:15)

V. Job's Lament

(Chapter 3 // 11:15-11:35)

- A. Wishes he'd not been born or conceived (vv. 1-10)
1. Job curses the day of his birth (vv. 1-2)
 2. Job curses both his birthday and his conception night (vv. 3-7)
 - a. Job curses birthday (vv. 4-5)
 - b. Job curses conception night (vv. 6-7)
 3. Job wishes his curse could close his own mother's womb (vv. 8-10)
- B. Wishes he'd died at birth (vv. 11-19)
1. Job curses his birth itself (vv. 11-12)
 2. Job praises death as a place of quiet, rest for nobles whose lives ultimately came to nothing (vv. 13-15)
 3. Job extols death as place of ease for miscarried, wicked, prisoners and slaves whose sorrows eventually cease (vv. 16-19)
- C. Wishes he'd die now (vv. 20-26)
1. Job questions why God would even give life to those whose sufferings and bitterness are so great that the grave is a victory for its relief (vv. 20-22)
 2. Job questions why God would give life to a man whose life makes no sense, who is trapped by God in a life not asked for and accomplishing nothing but deep grief (vv. 23-25)
 3. Job contrasts his life with those who find the grave a place of rest: I have no ease, no quiet, and no rest— only turmoil (v. 26)
- D. Stress Chart
- The *Homes and Rahe Stresses of Change* (1967) chart rates the impact of loss on one's emotional health. Death of a spouse=100, Marriage=50, Mortgage=31, etc. "Researchers have found that an accumulation of 200 or more "life change units" in a single year is followed by a significant increase in psychiatric disorders." (p. 118, Happiness is a Choice, Drs. Frank Minirth and Paul Meier) Job rated 1700 + "life change units." And they took place not in a year, not in six months, but in the span of minutes.
- E. Others in the Bible who have wished to die
1. Elijah (I Kings 19:4)
 2. Jonah (Jonah 4:3)
 3. Paul (2 Cor. 1:8, Philippians 1:21-23)

F. Bottom Line

Job's pain is so deep that after a week of wordlessness, he cries out. And he does so not so much against his emotional and physical pain and his unbearable agony of soul, but just that God would have bothered to require him to live at all. He searches for ways to express the depth of his truth: I wish I'd never lived and I wish I could die now.

V. Eliphaz' Confrontation (Chapters 4-5 // 11:35-11:45)

- A. He rebukes Job (4:1-6)
1. Will you accept someone who responds to you? (vv. 1-2)
 2. You have helped others who have suffered. (vv. 3-4)
 3. You have a few problems and you lose your integrity and faith? (vv. 5-6)
- B. He explains suffering (4:7-11)
1. Suffering and judgment come from God on those who deserve it (vv. 7-9)
 2. Even lions can be broken — so can you (vv. 10-11)
- C. He shares a vision he had revealing that no man can say he's faultless (4:12-21)
1. I had a dream (vv. 12-13)
 2. I trembled as a formless spirit appeared before me (vv. 14-16)
 3. The voice said, "No man can stand and say he is faultless" (vv. 17-21)
- D. He advises Job that God is a deliverer of repentant fools and others (5:1-27)
1. It's foolishness that results in (your present type of ruin) (vv. 1-7)
 2. I'd pray if I were you; God will deliver (vv. 8-16)
 3. Accept God's discipline and He'll deliver you (vv. 17-18)
 4. Proverbs of God's deliverance for those in difficulties (vv. 19-26)
 5. Just ask us if this isn't so; we've been around the block a few times (v 27)
- E. Conclusion
- Suffering comes to those who deserve it because God knows things that the rest of us don't. To say that you are faultless is wrong on two counts: it is impossible for a man to be faultless and your problems prove that you have done something. Turn to God in repentance for whatever you've done wrong (and for saying you've done nothing wrong) and He will deliver you.

VI. Discussion/Homework 11:45-12:00

- A. What is Job's desire and why? Can you see feeling that way? Why or why not?
- B. What is Eliphaz' response to Job and why?
- C. How do you respond to Eliphaz' correction if you are Job?
- D. Have you ever "been" Eliphaz in this situation or could you see that happening?
- E. Read chapters 3-5 again, alone.

**FBC Learning Center
Book of Job / Fall 2019
Week Two**

OBSERVATIONS AND LESSONS

HOW THESE APPLY TO ME

WHAT SHOULD I ACCEPT, PRAY ABOUT, DO?
