

Job Adult Learning Center
Class One // Unanswered Questions
Job 1-2 // September 1, 2019

Introduction

(10:45 - 11:00)

I. Introduction

A. Our purposes as a class will be threefold:

1. To understand the *biblical content, purpose and message* of the book of **Job**.
2. To personally learn from Job's experience and the scriptures how we can respond better to undeserved suffering and the apparent silence of God.
3. To help others find solace, hope and support in the Lord during trials.

B. We will be unable to cover in detail all 1070 verses and 42 chapters in 13 weeks. So we will read and study selected passages while covering the book in sections. Today's goals will be to:

1. Briefly cover the history and themes of the book of Job;
2. Meet each other;
3. Consider a few of the purposes we can expect covered in the book;
4. See the structural flow of the book;
5. Read chapters one and two to set the stage for the class.

C. I ask each of you who know Christ:

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to teach you what He wants you to learn;
2. Keep a running log of specific things you learn (see sample sheet handout, p. 7);
3. Pray for people the Lord puts in your path who are experiencing silence from Him or undeserved suffering and look for ways to encourage them;
4. Read the book of Job and any additional readings I may give you this fall.

D. My perspective of Learning Centers is that each of us should try to be in a setting where we are being taught more about the Lord and our lives with Him and with each other which:

1. Increases our knowledge of and personal application of all the Bible teaches;
2. Increases our dependency upon, trust in, love for and knowledge of Jesus Christ;
3. Equips us to be more useful to the Lord in whatever ministries He has in mind for us (Ephesians 2:10, I Corinthians 12:7, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21);
4. Addresses the areas of our greatest need for learning and growth;
5. Facilitates our getting to know and fellowship with others in the Body of Christ.

II. Getting to Know You -- Share with those at your table the following.

(11:00 - 11:10)

- A. Your name and a little about your family;
- B. What you do for a living and one hobby/area of interest;
- C. How long you've come to FBC and why you would take a class on JOB.

III. **Setting, Preview, History of the Book of Job** (11:10- 11:25)

A. Chapter 1:1-5 Where, Who, What kind of man

1. Land of Uz: Probably between “Fertile Crescent” of Mesopotamia (Syria/Iraq) and northern reaches of Saudi Arabia/trans-Jordan desert region
2. Man named Job - a common name, but “**greatest of all in the east**” (1:3)
3. Blameless, upright, God-fearing, turning from evil
4. Possessions: 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys
5. We don’t know who wrote it. Job and “Elihu” (ch. 32-37) are possible authors.

B. Date

Job is the oldest book in the Bible. Its account is from a period about the time of Abraham and the other patriarchs (around 2000 BC). Some indicators of such a date include a) his wealth is counted in livestock (as it was for Jacob), b) no national history of Israel, no Mosaic law or “promised land” in the story, c) Job makes sacrifices in chapter 1 which implies no priests, so likely before Israel, d) he was perhaps 200 years old when he died (42:16), nearly the same as Terah (205 years) and Abraham (175 years); e) the use of Shaddai for God instead of Yahweh (the name He used to reveal Himself to Moses in Exodus), f) Sabeans and Chaldeans are pictured as “nomadic marauders,” suggesting their nations are not well-fixed in a land as they were later, and g) some of the animals mentioned in the story may be pre-historic animals – possibly types of dinosaurs.

C. Comments About the Book and Story

“More magnificent and sublime than any other book of scripture.” M. Luther
“Perhaps the greatest masterpiece of the human mind.” Victor Hugo
“The greatest poem, whether of ancient or modern literature.” A. L. Tennyson
“Certainly it is unmatched in the writings of the Old Testament for its artistic character, its grandeur of language, depth of feeling and the sensitivity with which the meaning of human suffering is explored.” R.K. Harrison, Introduction to the Old Testament

Beautiful language, with over 100 words used nowhere else in OT. Heavily influenced by Aramaic and Arabic. He is even referred to in the Qur’an. Only book in Bible with the prose/poetry/prose style and only one written so plainly like a play with a narrator’s monologue, and dialogues between God and Satan, man and man, man and God. It is part of “Wisdom Books” with Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

D. Theme of the book - *Job* essentially asks three questions

- Why do the righteous suffer?
- Is God fair?
- How do I go on believing & trusting God when I am suffering?

IV. **Job: Purpose and Structure** (11:25-11:35)

A. Purpose of the book

1. To teach that in this fallen world, God permits bad things that do not necessarily imply God’s judgment or discipline.
2. To show that fallen people try to make sense out of difficult things for which there is no earthly answer **rather than** trusting God.

(This was true of Job as well as his friends.)

3. To show that God has given Satan power in this world to wreak havoc, but he's on a leash. He can do no more than our sovereign God allows.
4. To show that trusting the character, heart and person of our sovereign and good God is always right, even when we don't understand.
5. To show that it is always impudent to insist that God explain Himself.
6. To remind us that we live in a perpetual spiritual battle in which God is displaying us before the angelic host. His goal in the battle is for our faith to honor Him, and Satan's goal is to get us to believe that God is not trustworthy and worthy of our obedience.

B. Structure of the Book

WHERE

Chapters 1-2
Chapters 3 - 31
Chapters 32-37
Chapters 38-41
Chapter 42

THE PLAYERS

Satan, God, Job & his wife
Job, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar
Job, Elihu
God, Job
God, Job, everyone else

THE ACTION

Satan tries to destroy Job's faith
Discuss Job's suffering & God
Elihu responds to Ch. 3-31
God answers Job (*et al*)
Conclusion

V. JOB Chapter 1-2

(11:35 – 11:45)

As a class, read the first two chapters from the scripts on pp. 4-6 (NAS)

VI. Table discussion, if there is time (or Homework to think through if there is not)

- A. What are a few things you can tell about Job?
- B. What can you tell about Satan?
- C. What can you tell about God?
- D. What can you tell about Job's wife?
- E. What can you tell about Job's friends?
- F. What questions arise for you when you read these chapters?

Narrator

¹ There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God, and turning away from evil. And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men of the east. ⁴ And 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. And it came about, when the days of feasting had completed their cycle, that Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually. ⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD and Satan also came among them and the Lord said to Satan,

"From where do you come?"

Then Satan answered the LORD and said,

"From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."

And the LORD said to Satan,

"Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."

Satan answered the LORD,

"Does Job fear God for nothing? "Hast Thou not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ "But put forth Thy hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse Thee to Thy face."

The LORD said to Satan,

"Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

Now it happened on the day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ that a messenger came to Job and said

"The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans attacked and took them. They also slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

While he was still speaking, another also came 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."

While he was still speaking, another also came and said

"The Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and took them and slew the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you."

While he was still speaking, another also came and said

"Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ and behold, a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people and they died; and I alone have escaped to tell you."

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. ²¹ He said,

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."

Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

¹Again 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. ² And the LORD said to Satan,

"Where have you come from?"

Then Satan answered the LORD and said,

"From roaming about on the earth, and walking around on it."

And the LORD said to Satan,

"Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to ruin him without cause."

And Satan answered the LORD and said,

"Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. {5} "However, put forth Thy hand, now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse Thee to Thy face."

So the LORD said to Satan,

"Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life."

Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among the ashes. Then his wife said to him,

"Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!"

But he said to her,

"You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?"

In all this Job did not sin with his lips. Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, they came each one from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite; and they made an appointment together to come to sympathize with him and comfort him. And when they lifted up their eyes at a distance, and did not recognize him, they raised their voices and wept. And each of them tore his robe, and they threw dust over their heads toward the sky. ¹³ Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights with no one speaking a word to him, for they saw that his pain was very great.

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

OBSERVATIONS AND LESSONS

HOW THESE APPLY TO ME

WHAT SHOULD I ACCEPT, PRAY ABOUT, DO?
