

The Book of Job

1. Believed to be the oldest book in the Bible. Some think that Job may have been a contemporary of Abraham, or even predated Abraham.
2. Job is the first of the Poetic books in the Bible
The name 'Job' literally means 'hated'
3. This book deals, head on, with the problem of pain and of man's suffering. God's ways are mysterious.

Throughout scripture we are told believers will experience suffering.

Suffering is a method that God deals with us.

The answers to the ‘whys’ and ‘ways’ of God aren’t found in the book of Job.

No attempt is made to explain the ‘why’ of suffering.

In other words, God isn’t going to explain any of the reasons why **we** suffer.

In this book, Job asks many questions. But God answers none of them

God seems silent and He offers no explanation for suffering.

Things get so bad for Job, that he curses the day he was born, and begs God to take his life.

Matthew 23:34 ³⁴ Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: *some* of them you will kill and crucify, and *some* of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city,

Matthew 24:9 ⁹ “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.

Romans 8:36 ³⁶ As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

2 Timothy 3:12 ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

James 1:2 *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,*

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Conversely, when we do understand things, or we can figure our way out of the problem, then we don't trust God.

Trials are God's way of bringing us back to Him.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

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When is it that we trust in the Lord with our whole heart?

Isn't it when we don't understand and there's no option?
That's when we trust Him because we don't understand.

On the **Flip-side**, when we DO understand things happening to us, that's when we don't acknowledge Him, because we say, "I've got this, Lord. I can handle this problem."

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In this verse, we do three things:

- Trust in the Lord with all our heart
 - Lean not on our own understanding
 - In all our ways we acknowledge Him
- God does = He will direct (make straight) our paths

Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus...

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In these verses, again we do three things:

- Pray about everything**
- Give thanks in everything**
- To be anxious (worry) for nothing**
- God's peace that passes 'understanding' will guard our hearts and minds**

*Job 1:1-5 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the **East**.*

Job 1:1-5 And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify 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 sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did regularly.

This concept is key to understanding this book.

Satan tries to tell Job (and us):

If a person is good, then God will allow ‘good’ in their life. If a person is bad, then God will allow ‘bad’ in their life.

In other words, the reason that God has blessed him is because the person is very good.

1 Peter 5:8-10 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.*

James 5:11 *Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the **perseverance** of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.*

Job 1:6-12 *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?” So Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.” Then 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, one who fears God and shuns evil?”*

Job 1:6-12 *So Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? **Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”** And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.*

Satan can ONLY do what he's allowed to do.

He is on a leash, and God holds the other end.

Satan is NOT co-equal with Jesus.

Satan must request the things he wants to do.

Luke 22:31-32 *And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”*

Satan accuses God

Job 1:11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!

Job is the subject of this accusation,

God is the object of his accusation.

Satan is saying: If God were to allow adversity (suffering) against Job, then Job would curse God.

Satan implies that:

Job worships God, NOT because he loves the Lord, but because of how he's been blessed.

Satan is accusing God, not Job

And the Lord said to Satan: Game on.

Job 1:12 ¹² And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has *is* in your power; only do not lay a hand on his *person*.”

1 John 4:4 *Greater is He that is IN us, than he that is in the world.*

Satan cannot do anything to us unless God allows it.

God will never allow anything to happen to us unless:

1. It brings God glory
2. It is for our good

If it doesn't bring God glory and it isn't for our good:

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If it doesn't bring God glory and it isn't for our good,

IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN

Job 1:13-19 ¹³ Now there was a day when his sons and daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house; ¹⁴ and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ when the Sabeans raided *them* and took them away—indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" ¹⁶ 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!"

Job 1:13-19 ¹⁷ While he *was* still speaking, another also came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!” ¹⁸ While he *was* still speaking, another also came and said, “Your sons and daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, ¹⁹ and suddenly 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 are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

When we accept the pain and suffering that comes our way in life, as being permitted by God for our benefit, then our lives will become “easier” because we’re not fighting against God.

Satan is NOT the opposite of God. Satan is a created being.

God knew what was in Job’s heart. Job didn’t.
God may allow us to go through adversity to show us what’s in our heart.

1 Cor. 10:13. God will not allow us to be tempted/tested above what we’re able to bear, and He provides a way of escape.

Job 2:1- 7 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. And the LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.” Then 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, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause.”

*Job 2:1- 7 So Satan answered the LORD and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and **struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes.***

Job 30:17 My bones are pierced in me at night, and my gnawing pains take no rest.

Job 30:20 My skin grows black and falls from me; my bones burn with fever.

Job 7:5 My flesh is caked with worms and dust; my skin is cracked and breaks out afresh.

Job 19:20 My bone clings to my skin and to my flesh

Job 19:17 My breath is offensive to my wife

Job is so hideous being covered in these boils, that his friends don't even recognize him.

Depression

turmoil

sleepless

weeping

nightmares

putrid breath

failing vision

rotting teeth

difficulty breathing

no relief

Job 2:9 Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!”

Don't be too hard on Mrs. Job

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Don't be too hard on Mrs. Job

- She's lost her family
- She's lost her status and wealth
- She has to watch her husband suffer, whom she loves.

*Job 2:10 But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” **In all this Job did not sin with his lips.***

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Ecclesiastes 7:14 *In the day of prosperity be joyful, But in the day of adversity consider: Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, So that man can find out nothing that will come after him.*