

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

PERIOD FIVE

JOB

LESSON 23

In this lesson we want to study the life of Job. We want to see

- *one reason for trials*
- *right and wrong ways of comforting*
- *what trials do for a person who loves God*

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon are called books of wisdom. These five books are placed close together in the Bible. They are placed close together because they are much alike.

These five books were not written at the same time. It is believed that Job was written sometime when Abraham, Isaac or Jacob lived. We do not know who wrote the book of Job.

Since people have lived in this world, they have asked, "Why do the good people suffer?" The book of Job gives an answer to this question. Trials clean us like fire cleans gold (Job 23:10).

"All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness" (Hebrews 12:11 New American Standard version).

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials; knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing (James 1:2-4 New American Standard version).

Hebrews 12:11 tells us that discipline or trials give us

What do trials do in us (James 1:2-4)?

Trials will make us perfect and

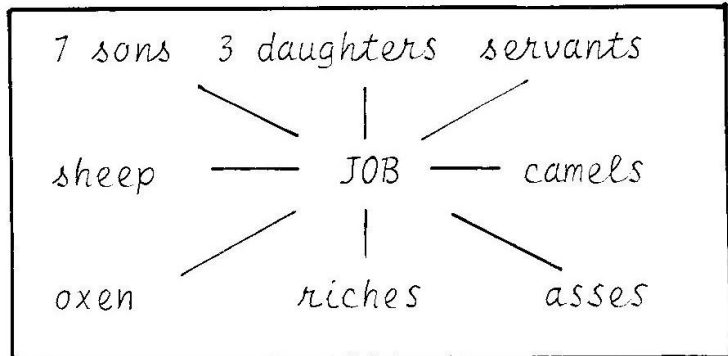
1. INTRODUCTION, Job 1:1 - 2:10.

READ JOB 1:1 - 2:10.

A. Job, the man, Job 1:1-5.

The Bible tells us that Job was (Job 1:1)

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How many children did Job have (Job 1:2)?

What else did Job have (Job 1:3)?

Job was the greatest of all the men in the east.

What did Job do for his children after each feast (Job 1:4,5)?

B. God and Satan - one reason for trials, Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6.

These verses in the book of Job teach about God and the spirit world. They tell of the sons of God coming to God. In the Old Testament the sons of God are thought to be angels created by God (Job 38:7). There is a difference between the Son of God and the sons of God. The Son of God is Jesus Christ. See Hebrews 1:1-14. In the New Testament Christians are sometimes called sons of God or children of God (John 1:12). But Christians are not angels (Hebrews 1:14; Hebrews 2:6-8).

God said,

"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,

"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. But put forth Thy hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse Thee to Thy face."

God answered,

"Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him!"

God talked to Satan. Satan came to stand in front of God when the sons of God came to God. God told Satan about the faithfulness of Job. (Quotes from New American Standard Bible, Job 1:8,9,10,11,12).

What did Satan think about the faithfulness of Job (Job 1:9-11)?

Revelation 12:9,10 tells us that Satan stands in front of God and accuses the believers.

C. Job and Satan, Job 1:13-19; 2:7-10.

What did God let Satan do to Job (Job 1:12)?

Job 1:14,15

Job 1:16,17

Job 1:18,19

What did Job have left when Satan was finished?

What did Job say (Job 1:21)?

Did Satan think right about Job?

Again, Satan tried to get Job to curse God. What did he do to Job this time (Job 2:7)?

What did Job's wife tell Job (Job 2:9)?

What did Job say to her (Job 2:10)?

2. THREE MEN VISIT AND TRY TO COMFORT JOB, Job 2:11 - 31:40.

A. Visitors came to comfort, Job 2:11-13.

Three men came to visit Job. At first they could only sit and watch Job. His suffering was too great for them.

It is hard to talk to someone who is suffering much. It is hard to talk to someone who has great sorrow. At such times it is better to be quiet than to say the wrong thing.

B. First visit, Job 3 - 14.

Job started to talk in chapter 3. He cursed the day he was born. This means he wished he had never been born. Those who are in great sorrow or who suffer much, often wish they were never born. Notice that Job cursed the day he was born, but **he never cursed God.**

<p>Eliphaz -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- God would not let good people suffer- God punished Job for his sin.	<p>Bildad -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- God is just.- Job suffered because of his sin .	<p>Zophar -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- God is wise.- God knows all sin.
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Who was the first visitor to speak to Job (Job 4:1)?

This man reminded Job that God is pure and clean. He said that God would not let the good people suffer (Job 4:7). This man said that God was punishing Job for sin. Job believed that his suffering was greater than his sin (Job 6:2,3). Job asked where he had sinned (Job chapters 5 and 6).

Who spoke in chapter 8?

He told Job that God is just. This means that God does what is right. Because Job suffered, he must have sinned (Job 8:3-6).

Job answered him in chapters 9 and 10. He said he could not argue with God (Job 9:3).

Who spoke in chapter 11?

He told Job that God is wise (Job 11:7,8). God knew about sin even if others did not know about it (Job 11:11).

Job answered him in chapters 12 to 14. He told his visitors that he knew as much as they knew (Job 12:1-3). These men were not good comforters. They did not know how to feel sorry for Job.

C. Second visit, Job 15 - 21.

Eliphaz- A wicked person loses everything.	Bildad - Wicked people suffer because of their sin.	Zophar - Wicked people lose riches quickly.
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Eliphaz told Job what would happen to the wicked person. He said that the wicked person would lose everything he had (Job 15).

These men thought that all suffering was caused by sin. They did not know that God used suffering for other reasons too.

What did Job call the visitors who wanted to comfort him (Job 16:2)?

Job spoke to his comforters. He told them that he was discouraged (Job 16:7).

Bildad again told Job that wicked people would suffer.

The words of Job's comforters discouraged him. Yet, he trusted God (Job 19:25-27).

Zophar told Job that wicked people lose their riches quickly (Job 20). Job quietly answered him. Job felt he had no friends left. This was another way Satan tested Job. Have you ever felt you had no friends? Where could this feeling come from?

D. Third visit, Job 22 - 31.

Eliphaz did most of the talking. He told Job, "your sin is great" (Job 22:5). Then Job began to wonder if God was really just (Job 23, 24).

Bildad told Job of the greatness of God (Job 25). God is so great that no one can stand in front of Him.

Eliphaz - Job 's sin is great.	Bildad - God is great - no one can stand before Him.
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Then Job told his friends about God's greatness (Job 28). He told them how he lived before the suffering came to him (Job 29). Then Job told the men, "If what you say is true, then I am willing to take the punishment" (Job 30,31).

3. ELIHU, ANOTHER COMFORTER, VISITS JOB, Job 32 - 37.

The three men who visited Job said that Job had done wrong. They said that God was punishing Job. But they never really said what Job had done wrong. This made Elihu angry. He told the visitors they were wrong. He said they were wrong because they did not tell Job where he sinned.

Elihu was also angry with Job. He told Job, "Do you say, 'My righteousness is more than God's?'" Job 35:2 (The New American Standard Bible). He believed Job thought too much about himself.

Elihu - Comforters did not tell Job where he sinned. Job thought himself too righteous.
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4. THE LORD SPOKE TO JOB, Job 38:1 - 42:6.

READ JOB 38:1 - 42:6.

God asked Job many questions. When God finished asking questions, Job answered Him. What did Job say to the Lord (Job 40:3-5)?

GOD -

Asked Job questions.

Showed His own greatness.

The Lord told Job more about His great power. He told him of His power to take care of the things He created (Job 40,41). All Job could say was, "*Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know*". Job 42:3 (The New American Standard Bible).

What did Job do when he saw the Lord (Job 42:5-6)?

Job -

Repented.

Saw the greatness of God.

Job did not see God as we see a man. But Job saw how great God was by what he did. This made Job know that he was not as good as he thought he was.

When we see how great the Lord is, we see that we are not so good ourselves.

5. THE LORD SPOKE TO JOB'S VISITORS, Job 42:7-9.

READ JOB 42:7-9.

Was the Lord happy with what the visitors had told Job (Job 42:7)?

Why?

6. THE LORD BLESSED JOB, Job 42:10-17.

READ JOB 42:10-17.

What did the Lord do for Job (Job 42:10-17)?

7. IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

WHAT TRIALS DO FOR A PERSON WHO LOVES GOD.

- The book of Job shows us that trials help us to see ourselves as we are.
- The book of Job also shows us how God uses trials to bring us to Himself. Sometimes the Lord may seem far away. He really is not far away. He is waiting for us to come to Him for help.
- The book of Job shows that a person can stay true to God even when he has many trials.
- Job's friends tried to comfort Job. But they did not understand why God let Job suffer. **They did not try to understand Job.** Because they did not understand Job's suffering, they hurt Job.
- The first part of the book tells about the suffering of Job. The last part of the book tells why God allowed Job to suffer.

WORDS TO LEARN

1. accuse - to blame someone, example - to tell the teacher on another student, to accuse the other student.
2. comfort - to give someone help or rest in time of sorrow or trouble.
3. discipline - to punish with the wish to teach what is right.
4. righteous - a person who is right with God.
5. trial - a test - something hard, like sorrow or suffering, or having little. These things test a person's faith.