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# SG021801

## The Whole Counsel of God – Job Introduction

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### Introduction

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Tonight we are going to begin the book of Job. Job is the first book in the section of the Old Testament known as the Books of Poetry, which also contain Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon. Although Job is Hebrew poetry it is a real story about a real person and it teaches us how the righteous are supposed to suffer much more than the “why” of suffering.

**Author:** Moses

**Reasons we believe Moses wrote the Book:** UZ, the city where Job lived was located near Midian where Moses spent a good portion of his life both before and after the Exodus. He may have heard the stories of Uz’s greatest citizen while living in the area and compiled the book from notes and oral stories, and of course under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Jewish Talmud, the original scholars of the Old Testament also ascribe the authorship to Moses.

**Location & Date of Writing:** The Jewish tradition is that the book was written in Midian, around 1485 to 1445 BC taken from records of the conversation by Elihu.

**Reason for Writing:** The book of Job gives us the answer to how we are to suffer as followers of God. Usually we think of the theme of Job as “Why the righteous suffer” and although we can learn that lesson looking at the book from the scope of history, Job was never told why he went through what He did. He was only exhorted on how to respond.

### Overview of the Book

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#### Job – How we are to suffer

##### The Prologue – Job 1-2

The opening chapters of Job set the scene for the book telling us the story of Job’s wealth, walking with God and the account of the warfare sent his way.

##### The Dialogue – Job 3-37

After Job loses everything his four friends come and give their opinion on why Job is suffering. They have no Bible to base their opinion on and so they give a bunch of very rational, good sense arguments but God will call them “Words without Wisdom”

##### The Monologue – Job 38-42

After 34 chapters of arguing about why Job is suffering, God steps in and asks Job a series of questions. These questions are designed to make Job and his friends see that they have no idea how to answer the great questions of life, let alone “why Job is suffering”. God shows Himself to be strong, and far above the weak intellect of man.

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**Calendar of Studies** (subject to change due to leading of the Holy Spirit, unforeseen sickness, Pastor Rob’s wishes, my mood swings or congregational disobedience resulting in a “special study” ☺)

3/13 – Job 1-2

3/20 – Job 3-37

3/27 – Job 38-42

#### Theme Verse – Job 1:21

“The Lord gives, the Lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord.”

## **Job 1-2**

### **Job's Wealth, Walk and Warfare**

#### **Introduction**

- A read a time magazine article not too long ago that did a study as to why tabloid magazines are so popular in America and really all over the world
  - And their findings were interesting – most people interviewed said, “We read those magazines about famous people going through trials and heartaches because it makes us feel better about our trials, and lives.
  - If that is truly the case with our hearts – that we feel better to learn that others suffer like we suffer - than you are going to feel great tonight!
- Because we are going to begin our look at the book of Job who experienced trials that you and I will never imagine having to go through

**Now as I mentioned when we finished the book of Genesis, we are doing Job before we move on to Exodus because (and I find this interesting and you will learn whatever I find interesting is what we talk about, sorry) but many scholars believe the book of Job happened around the time of Abraham or maybe as late as his grandson Jacob, but somewhere in that history.**

- Many Bible scholars believe this book of Job is the oldest in the Bible
  - Now Genesis deals with subjects that are older – like creation and the flood
  - But most date the book as written around 1,500 BC – Job could have been written 500 to 1,000 years before Genesis

**Now the reasons that Bible scholars lean this way, well there are many, so I will just mention 4 reasons**

#### **Why do we date the book of Job around the time of Abraham or Jacob?**

##### **#1 – The lifespan**

- the life span of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are very similar to the lifespan of Job mentioned in this book
  - remember before the flood people were living 500, 600, up to 969 year old
  - and the reason for that is many scholars believe there was a water canopy that surrounded the earth blocking out the UV rays of the sun that cause aging
- but after the flood, people started living shorter lifespans
  - from 180-140 in the time of Abraham
  - 120 in the time of Moses
  - and by the time we get to David we have the more recognizable life spans of today, David, Solomon both died at 70 years of age
- Job's lifespan matches the time of the patriarch Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

##### **#2 – Job's wealth was measured primarily through his possessions of animals and land, not coins or precious metals**

- around the time of Abraham and his son and grandson, wealth was primarily accounted through how many goats you owned, how much land do you possess
  - later wealth would be measured in precious metals and coins
  - but the way wealth was measured in Job's day was the same it was with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

### #3 – The Book of Job mentions the Chaldeans as a nomadic tribe. (Job 1:17)

- Later in world history they would settle in the city of Babylon and become a great world power
  - But at the time of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, they were a nomadic tribe.

### #4 – The possible mention of the name of Job in the time of Abraham or Jacob (Gen 10:29, 36:34)

- Genesis chapter 10, mentions a son of Shem by the name of Jobab, and though we don't know for sure, most scholars believe this guy and the Job of our story are the same guy or Genesis 36 another Jobab as a descendant of Esau, who had an uncle who was a Temanite, we will find that one of Job's friends, was Eliphaz the Temanite – could be????
  - So from this evidence what we know is Job was either a contemporary of Abraham or Jacob, in that period of time, which is why we are studying this book now

### Job is also the first book in the section of the Bible known as Poetry

### Just as your Bible is divided up into two main sections, the Old and the New Testaments, so too, the Old Testament is divided up into sections – 4 Sections of the Old Testament

- **The Law – (Genesis – Deuteronomy)**
  - Gives the account from Creation until the death of Moses and the entry into the promise land
- **The History – (Joshua – Esther)**
  - Gives the account of from the entry into the promise land all the way until the nation of Israel comes back from captivity and sets up the nation once again (400 years before Jesus)
  - That last section is known as
- **The Prophets – Isaiah thru Malachi**
  - These are prophets, some written to the Northern Kingdom, some the southern kingdom
  - But in between the history and the prophets is a section of the Old Testament known as
- **The Poetry – Job thru Song of Songs**
  - It contains Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon- They were written during various times of Israel's history – their poetry was different, not rhyming but contrasting ideas
- The first one in this section is our book that we are studying tonight – the book of Job

## **The book can be divided into 3 sections**

### **The Book of Job**

#### **The Prologue – Job 1-2**

- Where we are introduced to Job and the situation surrounding his severe trial

#### **The Dialogue – Job 3-37**

- where Job and 4 of his friends discuss why he is going through such trials
  - We are going to look at this whole section in one study next week and just overview what each friend felt and why it was not biblical idea

#### **The Monologue – Job 38-42**

- God speaks, Job listens and then God restores Job

**So tonight we consider the prologue, We are going to follow this outline to introduce us to our man Job and what he was going through**

#### **Job 1-2 – The Prologue**

#### **Job's Wealth – Job 1:1-3**

#### **Job's Walk – Job 1:4-5**

#### **Job's Warfare – Job 1:6-2:10**

- Let's look at these one at a time

#### **Job 1-2 – The Prologue**

#### **Job's Wealth – Job 1:1-3**

- Job is not a fictional character to teach some kind of allegorical lesson
  - Both Ezekiel 14:14-20 & James 5:11 make mention of this man as a real person
- However past knowing that he was a real person there are not many other details other than where he lived – the land of UZ, not OZ where Toto and Dorothy went, but UZ
  - Abraham lived in Ur – so I guess they like to keep the name of the town short
  - Where do you live – Ur, great and you – UZ, awesome – takes too long to say San Diego
- Most Bible scholars believe UZ was in the land of Edom, just East of Israel in modern day Jordan

**So we know that Job lived in UZ, and we know he was a wealthy man**

- I mean in his day if you had 3 sheep you were considered well to do, and Job has seven thousand sheep
  - He was the greatest man of the East
  - So in our day if we consider wealthy as Bill Gates or Warren Buffet
  - This would be who Job would have been in his day
- Now, normally when you have that kind of wealth you stop walking with God if you ever did at all
  - But not so with Job
  - We are not only told about his wealth but his walk with God is described as well

#### **Job 1-2 – The Prologue**

#### **Job's Wealth – Job 1:1-3**

## **Job's Walk – Job 1:4-5**

### **Job had a genuine walk with God – he is called blameless and upright in verse 1**

- Now blameless doesn't mean perfect, but it means that Job's walk effected every area of his life
  - There was not one area that was godly and then another area of his life where he was worldly
- He was not one of those people who put on a good face on Sunday, said the right things, "God bless you brother" – but then lived like the devil the rest of the week
  - His walk with the Lord effected how he talked, what he watched, how he worked

### **And friends, this is something we need to take to heart, and bring before the Lord for examination**

- a hypocrite is not someone who goes to church, hears the truth and sees a gap between the truth and their life

### **A hypocrite is one who pretends like there is no gap**

- a genuine believer is one who hears the truth, and then seeks God that that truth might be real in their lives
  - we need, by the work of the holy Spirit in our lives to be blameless – to have every area of our lives (especially the men who are so good at compartmentalizing – this is my work, this is my home, this is my church) – they are interconnected
  - and they are to be inter effected – that's not a word, I just made it up – but it should be

### **Job's walk effected his work, his speech, his thoughts, his marriage, and notice this parents, again especially those of you who are fathers, or will be fathers some day – it effected him as a Dad**

### **Verse 5 tells us – Job would often get up and do a sacrifice for each of his kids, interceding for them that perhaps they might blaspheme the Lord**

- now this challenges me as a Father

### **This challenges me because..**

#### **#1 – He found time to do this regularly**

- Oh how the enemy works on us – "there isn't time to pray for, intercede for each of my kids and my wife on a regular basis" – so I throw up a cover prayer for all of them once in a while – but individually, and often
  - Hey – how long do you think it would take to sacrifice a bull – you have to bring it in from the field, kill it, drain the blood, remove the entrails, anoint it with oil and then put it out on an alter and light it on fire – that sounds like most of the morning – and remember he would do it for each kid
  - Now I understand we are in a different culture and for most of you, you can't take the morning off to intercede for your kids

**But that's not what I'm talking about – what I'm saying that in light of this, in light of all that Job went through regularly for each of his kids individually, we have time to pray, individually for a few minutes – (maybe talk about what you do?)**

- In fact you don't have time not to pray for your kids
  - Because there is a battle raging for them, and we read reports all the time of witch covens fasting for the breakup of Christian marriage, praying to Satan for the defilement of our children
  - And it should wake us up to the reality – learn from Job who took the time to intercede for his kids and notice...

**This challenges me because..**

**#1 – He found time to do this regularly**

**#2 – He did it before they were in sin**

- It wasn't that he was a parent crying out for his child who was walking away from the Lord
  - Which is what we so often do – we don't cry out, we don't take the time, we don't see the need
  - But then our kids get into trouble, and then we become prayer warriors
- Now I'm not saying it isn't good to pray for our kids when they are in sin – it is
  - But I'm saying that we need to wise up and pray, intercede for them before that point
  - Job did – and God holds him up as a blameless man – whose walk had infiltrated and effected every areas of his life

**Job was a man with a great walk, and a man with much wealth**

- But of course what we really remember about Job was he was a man who had to endure great warfare

**Job 1-2 – The Prologue**

**Job's Wealth – Job 1:1-3**

**Job's Walk – Job 1:4-5**

**Job's Warfare – Job 1:6-2:10 (Read verses 6-19)**

- This whole thing comes about as the “sons of God” came to present themselves before the Lord
  - Now who are they???? – Every time they are mentioned in Scripture – it is a term used for angels
- And among the angels presenting themselves before the Lord was Satan
  - And God begins to question him – where have you been
  - “I have been walking to and fro on the earth”

**This first statement gives me some important insight**

- Sometimes we have in our mind this picture of Satan in Hell – ruling his lake of fire
  - But friends you need to understand this – Satan is not in hell – not yet – the book of Revelation tells us that one day he will be – but for now

he dwells here and occasionally makes an appearance in heaven of all places

**In II Chronicles we are told that the eyes of the Lord go to and fro over the whole earth, looking for one to show Himself strong**

- The eyes of the Lord are here tonight looking for those who desire to be loyal to Him, because He wants to show Himself strong on their behalf

**Now that we consider that we understand that Satan, I Peter chapter 5 also goes around the earth also, but as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour**

- So you see the contrast – both God and the enemy of your soul are not far afar in some distant universe, they are on earth
  - God is looking for someone to empower
  - Satan is looking for someone to devour
- And we see that is the case here in Job chapter 1

**Satan is going back and forth on earth and God asks him if he has considered His servant Job**

- Consider is a military term which means to spy out, to size up, to gather intelligence on
  - And this was Satan's intelligence gathering on Job, - that he was a mercenary and not a missionary
- That Job was in this relationship with God for what he could get out of it, not for bringing glory to God's name – Satan believes the same thing about you

**We are not in it for just a relationship with God, we are in it for what we think God can give us**

- And if you take the things away that God has blessed us with, we are going to walk away from the Lord
  - God knows Job's heart and so to teach a great lesson, God lets Satan do what he wants
  - And notice the brutality of our enemy

**Satan takes everything away from Job**

- And in one moment everything in Job's life changes
  - I can't image losing my kids
  - I can't image going from being Bill Gates and then living in a dump
- And yet – after losing all of those things
  - Job worships
  - That blesses me and challenges me – Job understands that it is only his relationship with that is eternal – oh his kids were – but he knew he would see them again – but his money, his house, his stuff – what really matters to Job was loving and serving God
  - And it was a direct slam in the face to Satan
- Who then in chapter 2, changes his opinion
  - [Read Job 2:1-8](#)

**Satan takes away all that Job has, and when God confronts him on the fact Job did not curse him, Satan becomes the first psychoanalyst in history**

- Man will trade anything for his own personal health – take away his health and he will curse You to Your face

**And so for the second round of trials, Satan once again is allowed by God to strike Job – and this time he takes his health**

- His body begins to break out in boils
  - Can you image your whole body – how do you stand or sit or sleep

**We are told later in the book more of his condition**

- Loss of appetite in chapter 3
  - Worms in the boils – chapter 7
  - Trouble breathing – chapter 9
  - Blackened peeling skin and fever – chapter 30
- Then Job goes to the dung heap, and his only comfort is to scrape his boils with a broken pot
  - And again Job is brought low
  - But He does not curse God, He does not charge God foolishly
- Job experiences intense warfare

**Round One – Satan takes his possessions**

**Round Two – Satan effects his health**

**Round Three – Enter Job's wife – read 2:9-10**

- the one thing Satan did not take from Job was his wife and in verse 9 I see why

**She comes over and says “why don't you curse God and die” – nice lady**

- And in her defense – she may be saying this because she is just mean spirited
  - Remember she has just lost everything too
  - She also may be saying this because she is concerned – you have suffered so much, you are hurting so badly – why are you standing firm any longer – curse God and die
  - But in either case she was wrong – she did not have God's heart – and men, before we end tonight – I want you to notice what He did

**His wife is emotionally moved by the situation for obvious reasons – and she begins to utter things that are not right, that are contrary to the truth**

- and Job – notice this men, Job – see this guys, who are married and who will become married – Job corrects his wife

**He does not ignore her sin, Nor does he excuse her sin – He confronts her sin**

- “Oh I love this – I'm glad I'm here are you listening honey????”

**Hold on – stay with me, don't misunderstand**

- Yes – Job doesn't over look it, Yes Job does not excuse it
  - However notice how Job does it – He lovingly corrects his wife with the truth
  - He doesn't scream and yell – I would be tempted – thanks a lot for your support
  - Nor does he ignore it – just quietly thinking - “oh I'm tired of the way she is...”
- No – he corrects her with the truth



## **And men – listen to me – this is your God given responsibility**

- I hear way too often from men – my wife is this way, my wife does this..., complain, complain

## **When I hear that, I have to lovingly share – Men – whose fault do you think that is???? - hers**

- Well, and we have talked about this before but I Corinthians 11:7 says the wife is the glory of the man – do you know what that literally means? – it means reflection – she is your reflection – if you don't like what you see – guess what?? – you are seeing you
  - It is our job to teach our kids, it is our job to be salt and light with our friends, and certainly there are times biblically you need to shut your mouth and listen to your wife
  - However there are also times, when your wife is speaking or acting contrary to the word of God – and it is your responsibility, it is your job to lovingly, humbly speak truth to your wife

And listen, I know what I'm saying, I know it is easier, but we are called to be godly leaders in our home, men

## **Well – wait – if sometimes I need to listen to my wife and shut my trap – and sometime I am called to speak truth to my wife, lead my wife – how do I know which time is which**

- Job corrected her with the truth, you must be familiar with this book, and what it has to say about life situations

## **Because when you correct – you are not to do it with your opinion, because that can be wrong, you are not to do it with your attitude because that can be flawed, you are do it with the Word of God**

- “Honey – I know you feel this way – and your feelings are certainly justified – but this is what the Word says, and I think we need to pray about that, consider that”

## **Men – no more excuses – no more complaining about my wife is this way, my wife is that way**

- Until you are daily interceding for her, and actively leading her in the word, reading the Word (Eph 5 – washing her in the water of the word) – see how I am using the word to show you this is biblical, get in the word personally, get in the word together – Men, it is your responsibility

## **And ladies – I want to share something with you – that is his responsibility – but it is hard responsibility**

- it is not easy to share with someone you love, with someone who is our precious bride, hey – let's pray about this, let's see what God has to say about this
  - it is not easy to say those things to you
  - But it is the job God has given
- And so as He tries, be easy on Him – don't be so quick to run to one of us pastors– can you believe he used that verse, that is so out of context

Pray it in – David in II Samuel 16 when he was escaping Jerusalem, there was a man by the name Shemi who followed him and cursed him, and one of David's generals

said, do you want me to go kill him – and David in maturity, said, no – let me pray it in, because what he has to say may be from the Lord

### **Families – this is such an important lesson**

- As we grow in the Lord together, God calls us to share with one another, to encourage one another
  - And we at the same time are humans – I have had ideas that were not the Lord's – and God has called me to listen to my wife
  - And she has wanted to move in directions that weren't the Lord – and she needed to listen to me

### **But we know the truth as we listen, pray it in, God, what are you trying to show me**

- But Job did not shy away from this, He did not excuse it – he fulfilled his responsibility

### **Job was a great, great man**

- and it is why it is so hard to understand why he is suffering, why God allows it?
  - Job must have thought that

### **For Job, we are never told during his life that he was given an answer to why these things took place in his life**

- he did not have the benefit to reading Job 1-2 and see the cosmic battle between good and evil being waged in his life
  - he didn't understand that God was using him to silence the hordes of hell
  - he didn't understand that for generation upon generation – people would suffer and draw strength from this ancient – knowing there must be a reason and I will trust like Job
- He didn't, he couldn't know that at all – until he went to heaven, until he was in the presence of God

### **And friends, I bring this important truth up tonight – because neither do you – you don't know what God is doing in you, in your family, for your future, you don't know**

- And when you are faced with what you don't know, you have to fall back on what you do
  - That God loves you – we see it in the cross
  - That He has a plan for you
  - He is working all things for good, not that all things are good, but for God

### **All of us face the problem of why - It reminds me much of what the psalmist spoke of in Psalm 73:1-16**

- He knows God is good, but then life starts to go by
  - And it seems that those who have no heart for God, things are easy
  - And for him who wanted to serve God there were such trials and struggles
- Why God – this causes such a problem in my theology – I don't get it

- Until – v 17 – “until I went into the sanctuary and understood their end”
- Until he considered the final chapter, until he had an eternal perspective

**All of us need to consider the answer of heaven**

- because often times there will be no good answer here and now, there will be no good information of why given to you and me
- But I know that I know, that I know – that there is coming a day when all things will make sense
  - Just, as just finished studying with Joseph, there came a moment as he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt and was told you are going to rule – it clicked, it made sense – that is why

**So too for you and me – things don’t come together, things don’t make sense – but one day when we stand before the King of kings, and he appoints us to this position, to this duty – oh then it will click, then it will make sense**

- Right now – the temptation is to think – why not live for the world – nothing seems to go right living for the Lord
  - Oh, like the psalmist, consider the end
  - It is about heaven

There is a great story of a missionary couple who had been serving the Lord in Africa for many years. They were arriving back in America on the same boat that was carrying then President Teddy Roosevelt who had been in Africa a few weeks big game hunting. As the ship pulled in thousands gathered to welcome the president home. There were great parades and many cheers. But no one had come to welcome the couple home. Fighting back tears, the wife asked, “why when the President has been gone a few weeks hunting does he receive a hero’s welcome, and yet we who have given our lives to Africa and the Lord, no one comes to meet us” And the husband wisely responded. Honey – we are not home yet!

- and until we are there is much that will not make sense, there is much that will go unanswered

**Paul who knew quite a bit about trials, wrote this in II Cor. 4, “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” – II Corinthians 4:17-18**

- it is about eternity
  - it will make sense in eternity
  - and wise is the Christian man or women that understands this
- Now – that said – we see the problem, we understand the answer – heaven – now the question remains of how you and I are to live in the meantime

**And friends this is the real lesson of the book of Job – Job is not given the answers why – we learn that in the New Testament**

- Job is not so much about why we suffer, as it is about how we are to suffer as believers

### **Job is in this horrible place, so what does he do – 2 things**

- He worships, and He does not accuse God foolishly
  - He worships – to worship is to exalt something as higher than yourself
  - And worship finds its fullest expression, not when things are going well – anyone can worship then
- But it is in the time of darkness, when nothing seems to make sense – when all we can do is cry out, your ways and not my way, but your ways are higher than mine – blessed be the name the Lord

### **He worships and He does not accuse God foolishly**

- He does not curse Him or spot out all these falsities about him
  - And understand what happens as he holds his tongue
- Remember Satan had a theory about Job, and it is the same theory Satan has about you and me
  - They are not missionaries, they are mercenaries, they are in it for the reward, for what you give them
  - They don't really love You, in fact take it away and they will curse You
- Don't heal him – he'll curse You
  - Don't give him the promotion – he'll spit in Your face
  - Take away things that are dear to him – and his love for You will be over

### **But friends understand this – Job submission to the sovereignty of God – God gives, God takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord – That submission silenced Satan**

- And God was glorified
  - And can you imagine – your life has the ability to bring glory to God in front of his enemies

### **As Job was silent and worshipped – that was what happened - And friends again you have no idea that the same thing isn't going on with your life as well**

- oh come on
  - do you think Job thought that was the case?
  - it wasn't until heaven – and then I bet the praise of his heart when he realized what the implications were, what the reason was
- God, thank you for not letting me charge you foolishly

### **Unfortunately the trials are not over yet for Job - The final wave of trial comes from Job's friends**

- and we will study them more closely next week
  - get to know them
  - see what their opinion was
  - And see how it lines up with the word of God
- Important because so much of what they believed is still held to today – God never does this, this is why God does this
  - So important stuff next week

- **Let's stand**