

# **“JOB”**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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1. Job is a strange book.
    - a. It is called the most quoted (by men)
    - b. And least read book of the Bible.
  2. The book stands by itself, it is not connected with any other.
  3. We can be certain of its inspiration, though we are not certain of the penman.
    - a. It is quoted in N.T.
    - b. James 5:11; I Cor. 3:19.
  4. DATE: Ancient, though we cannot fix the exact date.
  5. PURPOSE: The purpose of the book is to justify the wisdom and goodness of God in matters of human suffering and especially to show that all suffering is not punitive. Also the book shows that although man cannot understand fully the purpose of God, he can trustingly submit to His care
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## **BRIEF OUTLINE**

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1. Job's character - A God-fearing man.
  2. Job's family and wealth...wife and children.
  3. Job's loss...of all that he had...then terrible suffering.
  4. Trials by his "friends".
  5. Final restoration.
  6. Can be seen in a series of Questions.
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## **NUMBER ONE**

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### **A. DOES ANY MAN SERVE GOD FOR NOUGHT?**

1. Who raised the question....Satan.
2. What were the circumstances which led to asking the question?
  - a. Sons of God presented themselves before Him.
  - b. Satan also presented himself.
3. What is Implied:
  - a. If Job lost all...he wouldn't serve God.
  - b. In other words he is being bribed.

### **B. LET EACH PERSON ASK HIMSELF:**

1. If I lost all of my material wealth and all my family, would this result in the open proof that my alleged faith and piety had been (all along) merely hypocritical?
  2. Would I forsake God if I lost them?
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### **QUESTION TWO**

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- A. Why AM I (A Righteous Man) SUFFERING SO INTENSELY? (3:1-26)
  - B. By whom was the question asked? (Implied by Job).
    - 1. Why was I even born (3:3-10).
    - 2. Being born, why did I live? (3:11-19).
  - C. What were the circumstances in which question was asked?
    - 1. Job had lost all.
    - 2. Physical suffering.
  - D. Significance of the Question:
    - 1. If God is just (righteous) God, then He will protect all righteous men from suffering.
    - 2. But God is not protecting me (Job, a righteous man).
    - 3. Therefore is it not the case that God is NOT a righteous God.  
(Job is not affirming an Answer....Just raising question).
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### **QUESTION THREE**

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- A. COULD A JUST GOD allow a Righteous man to suffer Intensely?
  - B. BY WHOM WAS THE QUESTION ASKED?
    - 1. Job's three friends.
    - 2. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar (4:1-31:40).
  - C. CIRCUMSTANCE OF QUESTION:
    - 1. Friends came to comfort.
    - 2. Saw his condition.
  - D. Their conclusion...God is Righteous...Job is suffering....THEREFORE Job is not righteous.
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### **QUESTION FOUR**

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- A. IS IT NOT THE CASE that suffering has a value in Spiritual Discipline? (32:1-37; 24).
  - B. WHO ASKED THE QUESTION.
    - 1. Elihu...a younger man who has held back til this time.
  - C. CIRCUMSTANCES:
    - 1. He was not pleased with either Job or his three friends. ‘
    - 2. Says Job tries to justify himself rather than God.
    - 3. Three friends fail in their answers.
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### **QUESTION FIVE**

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- A. CAN A MERE man be a true judge of God’s Creative Activity? (38:1-42:6)
  - B. WHO ASKED.....God asked this question Himself.
  - C. CIRCUMSTANCES:
    - 1. JOB HAD LOST ALL...possession, wealth, family, health. Etc.
    - 2. Every thing upon which men may “prop” themselves has been swept away.
    - 3. Job has raised question...but not been “answered”
  - D. Job’s platform...”You did wrong in creating the world and man. You ought not to have created them!
  - E. This suggests the final question (from God for Job) “WILL YOU CONDEMN ME IN ORDER THAT YOU MAY JUSTIFY YOURSELF?”  
Job is expected to deduce that he (Job can trust in God to act perfectly every occasion in regard to everything which may be involved.
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### **LESSONS FOR MEN TODAY**

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- A. Some men do “serve God for nought.”
    - 1. Some men will remain faithful even it they suffer terribly during earthly life.
  - B. SUFFERING MAY BE A MYSTERY OF GOD’S PROVIDENCE.
    - 1. If we can know that God is concerned with trees and animals, we know He is concerned with man.
    - 2. If God can control the universe around us, then He certainly can control (direct) the lives of men.
    - 3. If He gave men the greatest possible gift...His Son Jesus Christ, He would not with hold from men the lesser things they truly need.
  - C. SUFFERING MAY BE A TEST OF REALITY:
    - 1. Suffering may be a time when the reality of religious profession is being proved.
    - 2. Both to the world and to the church itself.
    - 3. Suffering is not punitive.
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### **Lesson's For Men Con't.**

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- D. IT IS POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE IN THE FAITH EVEN AFTER ALL “props” upon which Humans ordinarily lean (Material Possession, Family, Friends, Physical Health) have been broken and swept Away.
- A. Hypocrites make a pretense of serving God so that they may receive the praises of man (Matt. 6:1,4)
- B. But adversity such as that endured by Job will ordinarily make manifest such hypocrisy.
- E. THE PROPER REACTION TO SUFFERING IS TO TRUST GOD.
- A. Even When one does not know the answer to every question he can ask.
2. The book of Job explains them for men today, but Job did not know them.
- F. THERE ARE SOME LIMITS TO MAN’S LEGITIMATE QUESTIONING OF THE CREATIVE ACTIVITY OF GOD.
- G. A Just God can allow a righteous man to suffer intensely.
- H. SUFFERING CAN HAVE VALUE IN SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE.
- A. Suffering helps the sufferer to better know himself.
- B. Helps the sufferer to attain a proper set of values. ‘
- C. Suffering can help the sufferer to be thankful and to avoid self-pity.
- D. Suffering can help the sufferer not to despair. (Darkest hours may precede those which are the brightest.
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### **Book Preserved Because ...**

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- A. The one who questions (or challenges) God and His actions always get the wrong answer.
- B. PATIENCE = STEADFASTNESS: *“Be patient therefore, brethren until the coming of the Lord.”* (James 5:7).
1. Be like the prophets (James 5:10).
2. BE LIKE JOB *“Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy”* (James 5:11).
3. After the terrible affliction and suffering were over, God blessed Job with a double prosperity (that is, in comparison with the past). Those who truly trust in the Lord “shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, house, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecution; and in the world to come eternal life Mark 10:30).
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