

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 06 June 2021	Job 01-02	Faith Tested
2) 13 June	Job 03-14	Hope Defined
3) 20 June	Job 15-21	Redemption Found
4) 27 June	Job 22-28	Wisdom Gained
5) 04 July	Job 29-31	Justice Sought
6) 11 July	Job 32-37	Power Displayed
7) 18 July	Job 38-42	Dependence Declared
8) 25 July	Ecclesiastes 01-02	What's the Use?
9) 01 Aug	Ecclesiastes 03-05	What Time Is It?
10) 08 Aug	Ecclesiastes 05-06	Why Listen?
11) 15 Aug	Ecclesiastes 07-08	Where is the Balance?
12) 22 Aug	Ecclesiastes 09-10	Facing Death?
13) 29 Aug	Ecclesiastes 11-12	What is Life About?

INTRODUCTION

• **Composition.** The Book of Job is predominantly poetry (chap's 3-41) for easy memorization. The prologue (Chapters 1-2) and the epilogue (Chapter 42) are in prose (narrative)

• **Date Written and Authors: Unknown.** Potential writers include Job, Elihu, Moses, Solomon, and Ezra

• **Time of Events: Unknown.**

However, the historical markers are during the time of the Patriarchs. Some historical markers include the following:

- Job was a family priest much like Abraham & Melchizedek
- Job lived about 200 years, which places him near Abraham (He lived 140 years after the recorded events [42:16], then add 60 years for time to produce 10 kids and have the youngest one reach adulthood to be able to attend his older siblings' birthday parties [1:4])

Patriarchs	Age
Noah	950
Shem	600
Arphaxad	438
Shelah	433
Eber	464
Peleg	239
Reu	239
Serug	230
Nahor	148
Terah	205
Job	~200
Abram	175
Ishmael	137
Isaac	180
Jacob (Israel)	147
Moses	120

• **Main Theological Themes:**

1. God is still sovereign over all events, people, and time
2. Retributive justice (aka the "Deuteronomic formula"), where good people are blessed and the wicked are punished for their deeds, is not guaranteed. Often times, good people suffer and the wicked prosper ("you will be persecuted" – 2Timothy 3:12)

• **Other Interesting Topics:**

1. Satan can invoke extreme weather, political events (war), and diseases – only with God's permission, of course
2. Please note, Satan may inflict us individually with illnesses, but it is always God that inflicts nations and the world with plagues and pestilences (see study on "Plagues & Pestilences")
3. Prehistoric-like creatures (e.g., sauropods) lived alongside man

• **Book's Conclusion:** It is still profitable for us to keep fearing God and to keep obeying His commands; and the most important thing in life for us is not our wealth or our health – But God Himself

Speakers	Summary of Passages						
	1-2	3-14	15-21	22-28	29-31	32-37	38-42
	Intro	1 st Cycle	2 nd Cycle	3 rd Cycle	Job's Lament	Elihu Speaks	God Speaks
God	✓						✓
Satan	✓						
Job	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Eliphaz		✓	✓	✓			
Bildad		✓	✓	✓			
Zophar		✓	✓				
Elihu						✓	

Speakers	Friend or Foe
God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God groomed Job for special attention, and He allowed events to transpire as they did for his benefit and ours
Sons of God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These "sons of God" were godly angelic beings who reported on their assigned activities • They are not to be confused with the "sons of God" in Genesis 6 who had evil intents (This is the only other such reference to "sons of God in the Old Testament). - See study on Genesis 6 for more details on this topic
Satan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satan comes on the scene early in Job 1, again in Chapter 2, but has no part in the rest of Job • The Apostle Paul calls him the Adversary, a roaring lion who looks to devour people (1Peter 5:8) • In Genesis 3, Satan is a snake who deceived Eve • Revelation 12:9 calls him the great dragon, the serpent of old, the devil, and Satan • Satan, throughout the Bible, is portrayed as our enemy and accuser, a murderer, and a liar whose powers are granted and limited by God
Job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In hindsight, God singled out Job, a truly righteous man in all his ways, to show forth God's principles on suffering, and God's sovereignty over everything
Eliphaz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three friends who meant well, but their wrong perspective of God and their rush to judgment turned them into "miserable comforters"
Bildad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not everything they said was wrong. We have to dutifully study their dialogues to accurately determine what is biblically truthful and what is not
Zophar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This 4th friend comes out of nowhere and continues accusing Job of sin and warranting God's discipline • Like the other 3 friends, we have to carefully discern the good principles Elihu addresses from the bad

Passage	Comments
Job 1:1	<p>The Test of Righteousness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Job is viewed as righteous both by God and by his self-proclamation. Only his 3 friends and Elihu doubted his righteous life. BUT in the end, it is God's opinion that counts
	<p>Can We Be Confident About our Own Righteous Standing Before a Holy God?..... Absolutely YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are commanded to examine ourselves (2Cor 13:5) and to confess our sins (1John 1:9) • And we are commanded to come boldly to His throne of grace to seek help in time of needHebrews 4:16 And we can only come boldly if we are confident in knowing whether or not we are in God's will
Typical Reasons for Curses or Blessings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diligence or Laziness Proverbs 20:13 • God's blessings or testing Job • A sign of God's judgment Deuteronomy • It rains on the just & unjust (Cause & Effect).... Mat 5:45 • The godly are promised persecutions 2Timothy 3:12



Passage	Comments
1:2-20	<p>Round #1 – The Wealth Test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v4. "The sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day..." – probably a birthday party for each sibling as it came around each year v5. "...thus, Job did continually" – Job took his faith seriously. Was he legalistic? When it came to the core matters of his faith, YES! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What would be an applicable practice for us today in lieu of "...sending for them and consecrating them, rising up early in the morning to offer a sacrifice"? - Probably Intercessory Prayers v6. The sons of God → godly Angels, in this context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ "Sons of God" are those beings (Human or Angelic) who practice righteousnesssee 1John 3:10 ♦ Some equate "sons of God" to be demonic angels in Genesis 6 who took the "daughters of men" – but that is pure speculation v7. "Satan" → literally, "The Adversary" who walks about seeking whom he may devour see 1Peter 5:8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ According to this passage, God has given Satan: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Power to influence armies to attack and kill 2. Power over the environment (rain, lightening, storms, tornadoes, etc.) to devastate and kill 3. Power over one's health to inflict diseases, pain, and even death
What else can Satan and his Minions Do?	<p>According to Scripture, Satan can do the Following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis 3:1 Satan deceives the naïve • Exodus 7 & 8 Pharaoh's magicians worked wonders • Isaiah 47:9 Babylonian sorceries & spells worked "great power" • Daniel 2:2 Nebuchadnezzar had "magicians, conjurers, and sorcerers" on his staff to ply their skills • Matthew 24:24 False christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect • Luke 4:6 Satan had power from God and could give it to whomever he wished • Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John depict demonic possessions as painful and destructive • Acts 8:9-19 Simon the magician, called the "Great Power of God" astonished the people with his sorceries • Acts 16:16-19 A damsel possessed with a spirit of divination brought her clients much gain • 2Cor 11:14 Satan disguises himself as an angel of light • 2Cor 11:15 Satan's servants disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, • 2Thes 2:9 The coming of the lawless one is according to Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders • Rev 13:3-14; 19:20 The False Prophet performs great signs, including healing the 'dragon' or the antichrist of a mortal head wound, and bringing fire out of heaven to the earth, & he deceives by miracles and signs • Rev 16:14 The spirits of devils work miracles & signs • Rev 18:23 ...all the nations were deceived by sorcery
1:21-22	<p>To Job's credit, after losing his children, his hard working servants, & his health & wealth he blessed God anyway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not only did Job suffer, but his wife also grieved over the loss of all her children she birthed and raised • Plus, the death of most of Job's servants, who were heads of households, affected the whole community

Passage	Comments
2:1-10	<p>Round #2 – The Health Test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v6. For the 6th time, "The Lord said to Satan..." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We sort of get the impression God was picking a fight with Satan, but in actuality, in God's wisdom, He was setting both Satan and Job up for a reality check of God's sovereignty ♦ Satan did not have God's permission to slay Job, so he did the next best thing – and that was to inflict Job with such horrible pain, deformity, and torturous suffering that he wished for death v9. Job's wife seemed to be at her wits end. She has lost all her kids and her husband seems to be on his death bed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Out of frustration she apparently tells her husband to just get it over with – "curse God and die" v10. But Job responds back with a quip that shows his strong inner faith toward his God "Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We can only pray for such faith
2:11-13	<p>Effective Sympathy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job's 4 friends show up <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliphaz the Temanite 2. Bildad the Shuhite 3. Zophar the Naamathite 4. Elihu the Buzite (he doesn't talk till Chapter 32) • Sometimes the best sort of comfort to give to a grieving friend is a shoulder to cry on – and few words • The 4 amigos did great, till they opened their mouths

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Job was beaten to a pulp, but his focus was still on God
- Job's emotions are raw, his thoughts are troubled, and his actions were not to work, not to play, not to engage in anything – but to just sit
- What will bring comfort and hope to such a deplorable situation?

NEXT WEEK: Job 3-14. The 1st cycle of discussions between Job and his so-called friends who came to comfort him in his tribulation.



"What have I got?"