INTRODUCTION

- **Composition.** The Book of Job is predominantly poetry (chapters 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])

- **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. 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

**Patriarchs**

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<th>Patriarch</th>
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<tr>
<td>Noah</td>
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<td>Shem</td>
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<td>Shelah</td>
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<td>Nahor</td>
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**Job**

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**Job’s Prophetic Message:**

- **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**

**Elihu**

- **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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job 1:1</td>
<td>The Test of Righteousness</td>
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<td>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</td>
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**Can We Be Confident About Our Own Righteous Standing Before a Holy God? ..........Absolutely YES**

- **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 need ...... Hebrews 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**

- 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

**Summary of Passages**

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**Pennant**

- ‘Worthless physicians and miserable comforters are ya’ll!’

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| 1:2-20  | **Round #1 – The Wealth Test**  
• 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!  
• v6. The sons of God ➔ godly Angels, in this context  
  **“Sons of God”** are those beings (Human or Angelic) who practice righteousness ……… see 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  
  According to this passage, God has given Satan:  
  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  

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| 1:21-22 | **What else can Satan and his Minions Do?**  

According to Scripture, Satan can do the Following:  
• Genesis 3:1 Satan deceives the naive  
• Exodus 7 and 8 Pharaoh’s magicians worked wonders  
• Isaiah 47:9 Babylonian sorceries & spells worked “great power”  
• Daniel 2:2 Nebuchadnezzar had “magicians, conjurers, sorcerers” on his staff to ply their skills  
• Matthew 24:24 For 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,  
• 2Thess 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/signs  
• Rev 16:14 The spirits of devils work miracles & signs  
• Rev 18:23 …all the nations were deceived by sorcery  

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| 2:1-10  | **Round #2 – The Health Test**  
• v6. For the 6th time, “The Lord said to Satan”  
  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 seems to be at her wits end. She has lost all of her kids and her husband seems to be on his death bed  
  So 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?”*  
  We can only pray for such faith  

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| 2:11-13 | **Effective Sympathy**  
• Job’s 4 friends show up  
  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 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.

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