

STOP 18: Job

PURPOSE: To demonstrate God's sovereignty and the meaning of true faith. It addresses the question, "Why do the righteous suffer?"

AUTHOR: Unknown, possibly Job. Some have suggested Moses, Solomon, or Elihu.

SETTING: The land of Uz, probably located northeast of Palestine, near desert land between Damascus and the Euphrates River

DATE WRITTEN: Unknown. Records events that probably occurred during the time of the patriarchs, approximately 2000-1800 B.C.

KEY VERSE: **Job 2:3** "And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause."

KEY PEOPLE: Job, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, Zophar the Naamathite, Elihu the Buzite

SPECIAL FEATURES: Job is the first of the poetic books in the Hebrew Bible. Some believe this was the first book of the Bible to be written. The book gives us insights into the work of Satan. Ezekiel 14:14, 20 and James 5:11 mention Job as a historical character.



OUTLINE:

- A. JOB IS TESTED (1:1—2:13)
- B. THREE FRIENDS ANSWER JOB (3:1—31:40)
 - 1. First round of discussion
 - 2. Second round of discussion
 - 3. Third round of discussion
- C. A YOUNG MAN ANSWERS JOB (32:1—37:24)
- D. GOD ANSWERS JOB (38:1—41:34)
- E. JOB IS RESTORED (42:1-17)

Job 19:25-27

"For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth: And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me."

CHRIST IN JOB:

The coming Redeemer of Job 19:25-27



MEGATHEMES

THEME	EXPLANATION	IMPORTANCE
Suffering	Through no fault of his own, Job lost his wealth, children, and health. Even his friends were convinced that Job had brought this suffering upon himself. For Job, the greatest trial was not the pain or the loss; it was not being able to understand why God allowed him to suffer.	Suffering can be, but is not always, a penalty for sin. In the same way, prosperity is not always a reward for being good. Those who love God are not exempt from trouble. Although we may not be able to understand fully the pain we experience, it can lead us to rediscover God.
Satan's Attacks	Satan attempted to drive a wedge between Job and God by getting Job to believe that God's governing of the world was not just and good. Satan had to ask God for permission to take Job's wealth, children, and health away. Satan was limited to what God allowed.	We must learn to recognize but not fear Satan's attacks because Satan cannot exceed the limits that God sets. Don't let any experience drive a wedge between you and God. Although you can't control how Satan may attack, you can always choose how you will respond when it happens.
God's Goodness	God is all-wise and all-powerful. His will is perfect, yet he doesn't always act in ways that we understand. Job's suffering didn't make sense because everyone believed good people were supposed to prosper. When Job was at the point of despair, God spoke to him, showing him his great power and wisdom.	Although God is present everywhere, at times he may seem far away. This may cause us to feel alone and to doubt his care for us. We should serve God for who he is, not what we feel. He is never insensitive to our suffering. Because God is sufficient, we must hold on to him.
Pride	Job's friends were certain that they were correct in their judgment of him. God rebuked them for their pride and arrogance. Human wisdom is always partial and temporary, so undue pride in our own conclusions is sin.	We must be careful not to judge others who are suffering. We may be demonstrating the sin of pride. We must be cautious in maintaining the certainty of our own conclusions about how God treats us. When we congratulate ourselves for being right, we become proud.
Trusting	God alone knew the purpose behind Job's suffering, and yet he never explained it to Job. In spite of this, Job never gave up on God—even in the midst of suffering. He never placed his hope in his experience, his wisdom, his friends, or his wealth. Job focused on God.	Job showed the kind of trust we are to have. When everything is stripped away, we are to recognize that God is all we ever really had. We should not demand that God explain everything. God gives us himself, but not all the details of his plans. We must remember that this life, with all its pain, is not our final destiny.

HOW GOD'S PEOPLE ARE TESTED & TRIED

- I. It is **ALWAYS** and **ONLY** with God's permission.
- II. The Devil is the accuser of the brethren.
- III. God will test our faith by allowing hard circumstances.
- IV. In the testing we must trust God and believe in His sovereign goodness to us.
- V. Friends may be of no help at this time.
- VI. God is patient with our doubts and questions as well.
- VII. Our faith in the risen, living Redeemer is what sustains us.
- VIII. After the test we are better than before.