



Review

The Book of Job

Let's concentrate on...



The many important lessons
we can learn from this book

A Sobering Reality

- Life doesn't always turn out the way we planned. Job thought he would die in his own home after a long life—that his root would spread out to waters, that dew would be on his branches all night, that he would remain strong (29:12–20).
- He went from having these hopes and dreams to wishing he had never been born (“may the day perish on which I was born...” (Job 3:3).

Of Utmost Importance

- Job lost his possessions, his family, his health, and the love and respect of seemingly everyone. His speeches reveal the tremendous wear and tear on him—emotionally and physically.
- And yet, what seems to have caused him the most suffering was his belief that God was against Him, that God had made him an enemy. It is clear His relationship to God (fellowship) mattered more to him than ANYTHING else.

A Good Man Gets Even Better

- **Prior** to this intense period of suffering, Job was blameless and upright, a man who feared God and shunned evil (1:1, 8; see ch. 31 for details). There was “none like him on the earth” (1:8).
- Job emerged from this suffering an even better man, with a deeper understanding of God, and therefore an even stronger faith in God (“I have heard of You...but now my eyes SEE you” (42:5).

What Job “Saw” and Learned

- Job saw “the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful” (James 5:11). He couldn’t help but learn from God’s speeches that His overruling providence over all creation has a beneficial design.
- Too, Job learned he was in no position to ever question God, much less charge God with wrong (a point also made very strongly by Elihu).

“Well, Shut My Mouth”

- “Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth...I will proceed no further” (40:4–5, ESV).
- “I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know” (42:3).
- When grief is heavy (6:2–3), and bitterness and anguish of spirit take root (7:11; 10:1), it’s easy to speak rashly (6:3).

The Patience of Job

- The New Testament commends Job for his patience, or endurance (James 5:11).
- NOT because he never expressed pain and grief over His suffering—because He did.
NOT because he never questioned God, or complained against Him—because He did.
- He is commended, because through it all, even when things were at their darkest, he remained steadfast in his relationship to God.

The Patience of Job

- His commitment to God is perhaps best expressed in this statement: “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him” (13:15; also 23:11–12).
- For us then, Job is a great example of faithfulness and constancy in a relationship.
- What we must learn is that first and foremost, we serve God because of who He is, and so if stripped of seemingly every earthly blessing, we will continue to be faithful to Him.

The Blessings That Really Matter

- Yes, God rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked, but those rewards/punishments are not always evident in THIS life, at least not in our outward circumstances (despite what the “prosperity preachers” say).
- What we MUST do, then, is develop a deeper appreciation for the spiritual blessings He gives us. These blessings are **CONSTANT**, if we continue to live by faith.

Satan can be “whupped”

- Satan is a formidable adversary (cunning, powerful resources, walks to and fro, persistent), but he does have limitations.
- Suffering presents a great opportunity to shut Satan up, to silence his accusations (which is exactly what Job did).
- God may allow you to go through suffering, not because He’s against you, but because He has confidence in you.

Miserable comforters?

- “Miserable comforters are you all!” (16:1).
- “You are all worthless physicians” (13:4).
- “To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend...” (6:14).
- “Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has struck me” (19:21).

Speak God's Wisdom

- Dreams, visions, the wisdom and tradition of forefathers—none of these are a substitute for divine wisdom. “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God” (1 Peter 4:11).
- “Will you speak falsely for God and speak deceitfully for Him?...Will it be well with you when He searches you out?...” (ESV) (13:7, 9).
- We best be careful when speaking for God. “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God” (1 Peter 4:11).

Does wisdom come with age?

- “Does not the ear test words and the mouth taste its food? Wisdom is with aged men, and with length of days, understanding” (12:11–12).
- “Great men are not always wise, nor do the aged always understand justice” (Elihu, 32:9).
- Wisdom doesn’t necessarily come with age; it comes to those who “test” and “taste” (see also 34:3)— “those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:14).

Wisdom a precious thing indeed

- Job said, speaking of wisdom, “It cannot be purchased for gold, nor can silver be weighed for its price. It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, in precious **onyx** or **sapphire**. Neither **gold** nor **crystal** can equal it, nor can it be exchanged for jewelry of fine gold. No mention shall be made of **coral** or **quartz**, for the price of wisdom is above **rubies**. The **topaz** of Ethiopia cannot equal it, nor can it be valued in pure gold” (28:15–19).

Wisdom a precious thing indeed

- “Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding” (28:28).
- Job, in talking about how others stopped talking to hear what he had to say: “**Because** I delivered the poor...I caused the widow’s heart to sing for joy, I put on righteousness...” (29:12–14).
- “Who is wise and understanding among you? **Let him show by his good conduct...**” (James 3:13).

When do we call on God?

- “Because of the multitude of oppressions people cry out; they call for help because of the arm of the mighty. But none says, ‘Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night, who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?’” (35:9–11).
- Yes, let’s call on Him for help, but let’s also call on Him to offer praise and thanksgiving.
- Hebrews 13:15— “continually offer...praise”

Avoid a sense of entitlement

- “Who has preceded Me (“given to Me”—NAS) that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is mine” (41:11).
- “Who gave Him charge over the earth? Or who appointed Him over the whole world? If He should set His heart on it, if He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust” (34:13–15).

The Need for a Mediator

- “For He is not a man, as I am, that I may answer Him, and that we should go to court together. Nor is there any mediator between us, who may lay His hand on us both” (9:32–34).
- “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim 2:5).

The Wonders of His Creation

- Beautiful descriptions of God's handiwork found throughout the book, and these "are the mere edges of His ways...a small whisper" (26:14).
- These descriptions should produce the same effect on us they had on Elihu: "At this also my heart trembles, and leaps from its place" (37:1).
- "He seals the hand of every man, that all men may know His work" (37:7).

The Hope Which Sustains Us

- “Oh that You would hide me in the grave, that You would conceal me until Your wrath is past, that You would appoint me a set time, and remember me! **If a man dies, shall he live again?** All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my **change** comes. You shall call, and I will answer You; **You shall desire the work of Your hands**” (14:13–15).
- “We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be **changed...**” (1 Cor. 15:51; see also Phil. 3:21).

The Hope Which Sustains Us

- “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. **How my heart yearns within me!**” (19:25–27).
- May we all yearn for our heavenly home!