

BIBLE READING FOR 2023

WEEK #25

JOB 1-21

06-18-23

Monday - Job 1-5

Wednesday - Job 10-13

Friday - Job 18-21

Tuesday - Job 6-9

Thursday - Job 14-17

Job is one of five writings that make up the section in the Old Testament known as the books of poetry. The rest of the group includes Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon. Among the books of poetry, Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are considered to be in a special category referred to as wisdom literature. They are called that because of their reflective tone and the way they wrestle with critical issues of life. Job is an excellent example of this as he and his friends try to understand why he was being exposed to so many problems and experiencing so much grief.

The author and date of writing are, as with Esther above, unknown. However, it is assumed that Job probably lived around or prior to the time of Abraham, about the year 2000 B.C.. One reason this assumption is made is the length of his life was comparable to that of Abraham's period. According to Job 42:16-17, Job lived 140 years after the events took place that are recorded in the book bearing his name. Secondly, in the book of Job there is no mention of the covenant with Abraham, the Law of Moses or of any other specifics related to the Jewish nation that would indicate it was in existence yet. So even though we are not told when Job lived, these things at least give us an idea of when that might have been.

The theme of the book deals with the problem of suffering and its relationship to good and evil. Even though Job does not fully understand all that he is going through, and at times is impatient and very clearly frustrated with his circumstances, he remains steadfast in his commitment to God and in the end is rewarded for his perseverance. Knowing this, we can see why many translators feel the meaning of the Greek word in James 5:11, that is rendered "patience" in the King James Version, is better communicated with words like "steadfastness" or "perseverance."

An outline of the book of Job: 1.) Job's suffering begins 1-2
2.) He debates with his friends 3-37
3.) God speaks and restores Job 38-42

Questions for Job 1-21:

- 1.) What are we told Job owned in 1:3?
- 2.) In 2:9 what did Job's wife say that he should do?
- 3.) What do we learn Eliphaz thinks about the righteous and suffering in 4:7?
- 4.) Job says in 12:2 what will die with his friends?

5.) What two things does Job compare life to in 14:2?

Answers to questions for Week #24 – Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther

- 1.) They were considered unclean and excluded from the priesthood?
- 2.) The house of God, the temple.
- 3.) Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo.
- 4.) He went to Jerusalem and inspected the walls.
- 5.) Nothing had been done to reward Mordecai.