

# JOB: A MESSY FAITH

There is no testimony without a test

## INTRODUCTION

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY?

Who wrote it? \_\_\_\_\_

What is it about? Job's testing, response, \_\_\_\_\_, and understanding of his situation

Where does the story take place? According to [Job 1:1](#), "The land of \_\_\_\_"

When did it occur? Commentators disagree, but most likely within 200 years of \_\_\_\_\_

Why was it written? To show the sovereignty and incomparable \_\_\_\_\_ of God in all things

## OUTLINE

Act 1: Job 1:1-2:10  
(Prologue)

Act 2: Job 2:11-Job 42:6  
(Dialogue)

Act 3: Job 42:7-16  
(Epilogue)

## SCHEDULE

Week 1: Job 1:1-2:10: Job's \_\_\_\_\_

Week 3: Job 38:1-42:6: Jehovah's Comeback

Week 2: Job 2:11-37:24: Job's  
\_\_\_\_\_

Week 4: Job 42:7-16: Job's Conclusion

## KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

1. To be prepared in the day of calamity not to curse God
2. To illuminate God's perspective
3. To see that God does not behave as a man
4. To know that God is in charge

## ACT 1: JOB 1

SCENE 1: JOB AND HIS FAMILY IN UZ

Verse 1: Job's name means \_\_\_\_\_

David Guzik: Sin is vertical, blameless is \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 4: "appointed day" perhaps means \_\_\_\_\_

Ron Keck: God graciously pulls back the curtain to reveal the unseen and shows how deeply it impacts our stories. . . . In so many ways life is more complicated than we realize. We play a part but we don't always know what part or how it fits with all the others.

## SCENE 2: SATAN ATTACKS JOB'S CHARACTER

Verse 6: "sons of God" most likely means \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 9: "hedge": Jesus gives Peter a similar story in [Luke 22:31-32](#)

Organizational Structure of the Universe

**Ray C. Stedman:** [The book of Job] is given to us to reveal the relationship of Satan and God, so that we are not confused about the power of this vicious enemy against whom we all wrestle. Satan is not the equivalent of God. We do not have two gods, a good god and a bad god, struggling against each other. This book helps us to understand right from the start that God is in control of all things. All forces are at his command, and nothing ever takes him by surprise—nothing goes beyond his word and his will, including Satan.

## SCENE 3: JOB LOSES HIS PROPERTY AND CHILDREN

**Ron Keck:** The enemy is real and uses live ammunition

Verse 21: After round 1, the score is God \_\_\_\_, Satan \_\_\_\_

Verse 22: Job's response here may seem too good to be true—he doesn't sin at all. The bigger our view of God, the easier it is to \_\_\_\_\_ to Him

## JOB 2

## SCENE 4: SATAN ATTACKS JOB'S HEALTH

Verse 4: Satan's philosophy is that man is self-centered and can be turned if the right switch is flipped

## SCENE 5

Verse 7: "boils"

Verse 9: **Shepherd's Notes:** The focus of this text is not on the disposition of his wife but on the faithfulness of \_\_\_\_\_ against all odds.

Verse 10: After round two, the score is God \_\_\_\_, Satan \_\_\_\_

## CLOSING PRAYER

**Ray C. Stedman:** Our heavenly Father, help our hearts to be filled with gratitude for what we have. Help us to know that your heart of love is watching over us, and protecting us from a vicious and evil being who would destroy us in a second if he could. Father, we are sobered by this book. Our understanding is so limited. We pray that as we go through this book we will have our eyes opened to the kind of a God we deal with, and to the ways you work, and what the ultimate meaning will be in our own lives. Teach us now by your Spirit, in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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Week 4: **Job 42:7-16**: Job's Conclusion

### KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

1. To value the ministry of \_\_\_\_\_
2. To understand that we do not \_\_\_\_\_ [Ron Keck: **God doesn't have a problem with messiness. We're the only ones that have a problem when faith gets messy.**]
3. To witness the importance of accurate theology (specifically, an accurate view of \_\_\_\_\_) [Duane Olcsvary: **When things turn from bad to worse, sound theology helps us remain stable.**]
4. To see that discernment is needed to detect \_\_\_\_\_ advice from well-meaning people
5. To learn the \_\_\_\_\_ of quoting verses out of context from the book of **Job**

### REVIEW OF LAST WEEK:

1. Job was a \_\_\_\_\_ man (not sinless, but blameless), and sinless to this point in the story (**Job 2:10**)
2. Job has lost his \_\_\_\_\_ (no matter his relationship with God, his loss was real and painful)
3. Job was in tremendous \_\_\_\_\_ (afflicted with boils)—see **Job 2:12; 7:3, 5; 19:17, 20; 30:17, 30**

## ACT 2: JOB 2:11-13

### INTRO: JOB'S THREE FRIENDS

**11 When Job's three friends, Eliphaz** [my God is (fine) gold] **the Temanite, Bildad** [confusing (by mingling) love] **the Shuhite and Zophar** [sparrow] **the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize** [literally, to waver, to show grief, to mourn] **with him and comfort** [comfort, console] **him. 12 When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled** [sprinkled, scattered] **dust** [dust, ashes] **on their heads. 13 Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great** [exceedingly and abundantly magnified] **his suffering** [pain (mental and physical), sorrow] **was. Question: What have his friends done right at this point?**

Read through two chapters to see what you can determine about these men and their theologies.

JOB 3-37 (NEW KING JAMES VERSION CHAPTER HEADINGS)

SCENE 1: JOB 3-14:

- 3: Job Deplores His Birth
- 4: Eliphaz: Job Has Sinned
- 5: Eliphaz: Job Is Chastened by God
- 6: Job: My Complaint Is Just
- 7: Job: My Suffering Is Comfortless
- 8: Bildad: Job Should Repent
- 9: Job: There Is No Mediator
- 10: Job: I Would Plead with God
- 11: Zophar Urges Job to Repent
- 12: Job Answers His Critics
- 13-14: Job's Despondent Prayer

Chapter: \_\_\_\_

Verses with good theology: \_\_\_\_\_

Verses with questionable theology: \_\_\_\_\_

SCENE 2: JOB 15-21:

- 15: Eliphaz Accuses Job of Folly
  - 16: Job Reproaches His Pitiless Friends
  - 17: Job Prays for Relief
  - 18: Bildad: The Wicked Are Punished
  - 19: Job Trusts in His Redeemer
  - 20: Zophar's Sermon on the Wicked Man
  - 21: Job's Discourse on the Wicked
- SCENE 3: JOB 22-37:
- 22: Eliphaz Accuses Job of Wickedness
  - 23: Job Proclaims God's Righteous Judgments
  - 24: Job Complains of Violence on the Earth

Chapter: \_\_\_\_

Verses with good theology: \_\_\_\_\_

Verses with questionable theology: \_\_\_\_\_

25: Bildad: How Can Man Be Righteous?

26: Job: Man's Frailty and God's Majesty

27: Job Maintains His Integrity

28: Job's Discourse on Wisdom

29-31: Job's Summary Defense

32: Elihu Contradicts Job's Friends

33: Elihu Contradicts Job

34: Elihu Proclaims God's Justice

35: Elihu Condemns Self-Righteousness

36-37: Elihu Proclaims God's Goodness and God's Majesty

**Closing Prayer: Ray C. Stedman: Father, thank you for the sufferings of Job. . . . help us to be understanding about the nature of life. . . . Help us to accept . . . what is happening to us as your hand works out vast and wonderful patterns in our lives. . . . Help us also to cry, with Job, "But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold." . . . What a marvelous Being you are. . . . Teach us . . . to accept what comes from your hand. . . . We ask in Jesus' name, Amen.**

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Week 3: **Job 38:1-42:6**: Jehovah's \_\_\_\_\_

Week 2: **Job 2:11-37:24**: Job's \_\_\_\_\_

Week 4: **Job 42:7-16**: Job's \_\_\_\_\_

### REVIEW OF PRIOR WEEKS:

1. Job was a \_\_\_\_\_ man (not sinless, but blameless)
2. Job has lost his \_\_\_\_\_
3. Job was in tremendous \_\_\_\_\_
4. Job's friends were accusing him of \_\_\_\_\_
5. Job did not \_\_\_\_\_ God during his testing

### KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

1. To know our \_\_\_\_\_ before a holy God
2. To value God's sovereignty more than human \_\_\_\_\_
3. To understand the difference between asking and \_\_\_\_\_
4. To see that having all the answers does not fix all the \_\_\_\_\_

### LESSON

**If you could face God and ask two questions, what would they be?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_?
2. \_\_\_\_\_?

*Whirlwind*

**What do we do when we don't get the answers we are hoping for?**

## ACT 2: JOB 38:1-42:6

### SCENE 4: GOD ANSWERS

Part 1: **Job 38:1-40:2**: The LORD Reveals His Omnipotence to Job

**Shepherd's Notes: These creatures are proverbial for being unmanageable.**

Part 2: **Job 40:3-5**: Job's Response to God

**3 Then Job answered the LORD and said: 4 "Behold, I am vile [slight, of little account, trifling]; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth. 5 Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further."**

**Warren Wiersbe: Job was not quite broken and at the place of sincere repentance. He was silent but not yet submissive; so, God continued His address.**

Part 3: **Job 40:6-41:34**: God's Challenge to Job

**Shepherd's Notes: God's speeches are perhaps not what the reader expected. They have almost nothing to say about justice, sin, or punishment. They do not, in fact, seem to address the fundamental questions of Job at all.**

Part 4: **Job 42:1-6**: Job's Repentance

**2 "I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. 3 You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 4 Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.' 5 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. 6 Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes."**

**J. Vernon McGee: Job did not recognize that he needed to repent—until God dealt with him.**

**Warren Wiersbe: Job thought he knew about God, but he didn't realize how much he didn't know about God. . . . Knowledge of our own ignorance is the first step toward true wisdom. (page 145)**

**Rob Bell: Wisdom knows when to speak and when to be silent.**

**Rob Bell: Your story is not over. The last word has not been spoken. And there may be way more going on here than any of us realize.**

Closing Prayer: (paraphrased from Rob Bell's closing words in *Whirlwind*): Father, please help us to understand that we do not always have to understand why things happen the way they do. Grant to us freedom from the added stress and anxiety of trying to figure every aspect of your great and marvelous plan of redemption out. May we have the wisdom to know when to say, "I spoke once, but now I will say no more." In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

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Week 2: **Job 2:11-37:24**: Job's Conversations

Week 4: **Job 42:7-16**: Job's \_\_\_\_\_

### REVIEW OF PRIOR WEEKS:

1. Job was a \_\_\_\_\_ man (not sinless, but blameless) and did not curse God
2. Job lost his \_\_\_\_\_ (no matter his relationship with God, his loss was real and painful)

**Warren Wiersbe: The fundamental reason for Job's suffering was to silence the blasphemous accusations of Satan and prove that a man would honor God even though he had lost everything. (page 16)**

3. Job was in tremendous \_\_\_\_\_ (afflicted with boils)
4. Job's friends had accused him of \_\_\_\_\_
5. God showed up and overwhelmed Job with questions, but no \_\_\_\_\_

**Ron Keck: How does accepting that you're not the central figure in the story—that it's not all about you—affect the way you approach life? (page 35)**

6. Job repented of his \_\_\_\_\_

### KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

1. What we say about \_\_\_\_\_ is important
2. Praying for our \_\_\_\_\_ (especially for those that are wrong) impacts our relationship with God
3. Job did \_\_\_\_\_ get back the things that he lost
4. We will experience seasons of loss in our lives. We will experience seasons of gain in our lives. God is just and sovereign through all the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. God's \_\_\_\_\_ is not dependent upon our observation of it
6. No one can be compared to God when it comes to \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON

Ron Keck: Theology is not just theory, and the Bible's stories are not whimsical accounts. The unseen reality deeply affects our lives. (page 43)

## ACT 3: JOB 42:7-17

7 And so it was, after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me *what is right*, as My servant Job *has*. 8 Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you. For I will accept him, lest I deal with you *according to your folly*; because you have not spoken of Me *what is right*, as My servant Job *has*."

9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite *and* Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the LORD commanded them; for the LORD had accepted Job. 10 And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. 11 Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the LORD had brought upon him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and each a ring of gold.

[Even in seasons of loss, we still have much for which to be thankful]

12 Now the LORD blessed the latter *days* of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. 13 He also had seven sons and three daughters. 14 And he called the name of the first Jemimah, the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-Happuch. 15 In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers.

16 After this Job lived one hundred and forty years [if God gave Job twice as much age as he had before, then this makes Job 210 when he died], and saw his children and grandchildren *for four generations*. 17 So Job died, old and full of days. [The Biblical equivalent of, "And they lived \_\_\_\_\_ ever after. THE END"]

Ron Keck: What Job received at the end of all his suffering was the most precious gift of all—He got God! (page 111)

Ron Keck: Our relationship with God is not fragile! He cares deeply about each one of us. Working through the raw stuff of the heart is faith. Being careful and covering up is fearful and faithless. (page 85)

Ron Keck: God is always focused on \_\_\_\_\_. (page 111)

Question: Would you still serve God if you went through what Job went through (and never had the answer)? Why or why not?