

Study Guide to

Job

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Job

To the Teacher

Study Guide to Job is a Bible study guide for teenagers and adults to be used in Bible classes in local congregations. This workbook is not intended to replace the word of God as the class text. Nor is it a commentary. Rather, it consists of questions within the framework of an analytical outline designed to help the student study properly, so he can discover for himself what the Bible teaches.

My experience is that adult and teenage classes generally do not like graded lessons. Thus, this book has no grading system.

However, these same classes have a tendency to “bog down” or stray from the lesson unless some time goals are established and followed. Thus, this study guide is designed to lead the student through the the book of Job in thirteen lessons.

The workbook contains several types of questions: terms to define, discussion questions, thought questions, and maps to fill in. Each question has a purpose. There are no pointless, filler questions, trick questions or true-false questions.

Although a particular word may appear many times in the Bible text, it will be given as a term to define only once, unless it is later translated from a different Hebrew word, used in a different sense, or has a special importance in a later context. The same principle is true of places to locate and people to identify. These questions are designed to help the student understand the language of the text and place the events in their historical and geographical settings.

There is a glossary in the back of the book which defines the terms.

There is a map in the back of the book for the student to find each place to locate.

Discussion questions are for the purpose of checking the student’s knowledge of what he read.

Thought questions are designed to measure the student’s understanding of and ability to apply the text.

Because the lessons call for a fast overview Job, it is crucial that each student study his lesson and complete the questions outside class.

In addition to reading the entire biblical text to be studied in each lesson, the student should read each passage again separately as he comes to it in the analytical outline. Finally, in order

to answer the discussion and thought questions, every student must read the passage that answers each question. If the student will follow the suggested steps in the lesson, he will read each verse of the lesson three times: beginning with the longest for overall grasp, then shorter reading for outline, and finally shortest reading for analysis.

The questions are based on the **New King James Version** of the Bible. It minimizes confusion over the text when the teacher and all the students study from the same translation.

No work book can even begin to replace a competent teacher, with a good working knowledge of the Scriptures, an unswerving love of and loyalty to truth, a deep faith in God and His word, a pure life, an humble opinion of himself, an understanding of and love for his students, and the ability to communicate.

I hope and pray this volume is useful to you to learning about the problem of human suffering. We face no greater practical challenge to our faith. May it deepen your faith, help you to learn more of God's Word, and enliven your interest for deeper study and more diligent service to the Lord. - The Author

Course Plan

Lesson One: Introduction - chapters 1 - 3

Lesson Two: Eliphaz' First Speech and Job's Reply - chapters 4 - 7

Lesson Three: Bildad's First Speech and Job's Reply - chapters 8 - 10

Lesson Four: Zophar's First Speech and Job's Reply - chapters 11 - 14

Lesson Five: Eliphaz' Second Speech and Job's Reply - chapters 15 - 17

Lesson Six: Bildad and Zophar's Second Exchanges with Job - chapters 18 - 21

Lesson Seven: Eliphaz' Third Speech and Job's Reply - chapters 22-24

Lesson Eight: Bildad's Last Gasp and Job's Reply - chapters 25 - 28

Lesson Nine: Job's Summary - chapters 29 - 31

Lesson Ten: Elihu's Speech (Part 1) - chapters 32 - 34

Lesson Eleven: Elihu's Speech (Part 2) - chapters 35 - 37

Lesson Thirteen: The Lord Replies and Job Confesses Ignorance - 38:1 - 40:5

Lesson Fourteen: The Lord Replies Again, Job Repents, and God Restores Job - 40:6 - 42:17

Lesson One Introduction to Job

Job is doubtless one of the more difficult books of the Bible, both to read and to comprehend. The entire book seems to be shrouded in obscurity. The author and the date of the story are unknown. Nor is there certain evidence when Job himself lived. The body of the book is primarily a series of speeches by uninspired, groping, oft-mistaken men seeking to answer questions they did not begin to comprehend (This is not to say the author of Job was uninspired when he recorded their speeches. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.” - 2 Timothy 3:16) Their language is the highly figurative speech of Near Eastern poetry, as obscure to Western minds as computer terminology would be to a wandering bedouin in the Arabian desert (which is where Job lived). The speeches of God near the end of the book even name some creatures as illustrations that cannot be certainly identified today. The orations are long, wordy, tedious, and repetitious.

But all this fits precisely the theme of the book - **the Problem of Human Suffering**. Affliction is as timeless as the existence of man, its causes and reasons are often completely obscure (Why me?!), and the worst of suffering seems to its victims to stretch on and on endlessly.

Job was a real man (cf. Ezekiel 14:14; James 5:11). He was a Gentile patriarch who worshiped and served God (1:1,5). He was a man of remarkable righteousness (1:1-5), in fact, there was none other as righteous in his day (1:8; 2:3). He was blessed with a large family (1:2) and was the wealthiest man of all the East (1:3). Job became of all mere mortals the ultimate example and standard of perseverance in suffering (James 5:11).

The author uses the affliction of Job to address two questions, one from the heavenly viewpoint and one from the earthly. The heavenly inquiry is, will a man serve God if he has nothing temporal to gain? The earthly is, why do people suffer?

The first question is answered quickly and emphatically. Satan charged, “Does Job fear God for nothing?” (1:9; 2:4) He contended that if God removed Job’s material blessings, Job would curse God. God allowed Satan to horribly afflict Job, and Job proved Satan wrong. There are people who will continue to serve God even though they have no earthly blessings to show for it.

The second inquiry, which is debated throughout the human speeches of the book, is never answered. Job’s “friends” contended that the righteous prosper in this life (5:19-26) and that all human suffering is the direct result of one’s own sins (4:7-9) and is disciplinary (5:17). Job did not understand why he was suffering so terribly (He was not privy to Satan’s conversation with God, as we are), but he maintained his righteousness (13:15).

Rather than revealing why the righteous suffer, the book draws a lesson from Job’s affliction of priceless value. It shows us how to handle suffering that seems too awful to endure and completely inexplicable. The great, practical lesson of Job, the truth that Job himself learned in the crucible of unbearable affliction, is that, when the suffering of this life is overwhelming and its causes are beyond our comprehension, we must trust God. We must believe that He is just, that He rules all, and that, although the affliction is unrelenting, agonizing, and without apparent reason, He will see us through and even use it to make us better people. This beautiful lesson is found in Job’s remarkable statements of faith in the midst of his tremendous anguish:

“Though he slay me, yet will I trust him...” (13:15).
*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* (19:25-27).

As the story begins, God could assert of Job, “there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil” (1:8). But when the story ends, Job’s trust was immeasurably deepened, and this depth of faith was the result of bearing unbearable suffering (cf. Romans 5:3-4; Hebrews 12:1-13; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 4:1-2).

Story

God allowed Satan to afflict Job to prove whether or not this righteous man would maintain his integrity in adversity (1:6-12). In a horrific series of satanic blows, Job lost his wealth, children, and health (1:13 - 2:8). His wife turned against him (2:9). His friends came to visit him and only added to his affliction (2:11-13). When they finally spoke to him, they viciously charged him with awful sins. Yet in all this “Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong” (1:21-22; 2:10).

The body of the book is a series of speeches. Job first bemoans his birth, then his friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, begin to accuse him of suffering because of his sins (“With friends like these, who needs enemies?”), and Job answers each one in three cycles of exchanges. Job’s faith at times wavers, and he sometimes speaks foolishly of God, but at last his faith returns stronger than ever, and he silences his three antagonists. The young observer Elihu (the brash youth who arrogantly thinks he can solve the mystery which has stumped the aged wise men) tries unsuccessfully to untangle the problem. Finally, God Himself appears to Job in the midst of a violent storm and reprimands him for questioning divine providence. Job confesses this sin and repents.

At the last, God reprimands the “friends” for falsely accusing Job and instructs them to seek Job to offer sacrifice for them. Job is justified. The Lord restores Job’s prosperity and even increases it, and Job lives to great age with his dignity restored and increased.

Time of the Story

Apparently Job lived sometime in the age of the patriarchs. Job acted as a priest, in the manner of patriarchs (Genesis 8:20; 12:7) by offering sacrifices for his family (Job 1:5) and praying for his penitent friends (Job 42:8-9). The Sabeans (1:15) and Chaldeans (1:17) were bands of raiders rather than settled nations. Job’s extreme old age argues for a time somewhere close to that of Abraham (Job 42:16; Genesis 25:7), Isaac (Genesis 35:28-29), and Jacob (Genesis 47:28).

Brief Outline

- I. Introduction - chapters 1 - 3
 - A. Job's Righteousness and Prosperity - 1:1-5
 - B. Job's Calamity - 1:6 - 2:13
 - C. Job's Despair - chapter 3
- II. The Accusations of Job's Friends and Job's Replies - chapters 4 - 31
 - A. First Round of Speeches - chapters 4 - 14
 - 1. Eliphaz - chapters 4 - 5 ("Those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same.")
 - 2. Job - chapters 6 - 7 ("What is my sin?")
 - 3. Bildad - chapter 8 (Earnestly seek God.)
 - 4. Job - chapters 9 - 10 (How can a man contend with God?)
 - 5. Zophar - chapter 11 ("God exacts from you less than your iniquity deserves.")
 - 6. Job - chapters 12 - 14 ("Will you speak wickedly for God?")
 - B. Second Round of Speeches - chapters 15 - 21
 - 1. Eliphaz - chapter 15 ("What is man, that he could be pure?")
 - 2. Job - chapters 16 - 17 ("Miserable comforters are you all!")
 - 3. Bildad - chapter 18 ("The light of the wicked indeed goes out.")
 - 4. Job - chapter 19 ("How long will you torment my soul?")
 - 5. Zophar - chapter 20 ("The triumphing of the wicked is short.")
 - 6. Job - chapter 21
 - ("How then can you comfort me with empty words,
Since falsehood remains in your answers?")
 - C. Third Round - chapters 22 - 31
 - 1. Eliphaz - chapter 22
 - ("Is not your wickedness great,
And your iniquity without end?")
 - 2. Job - chapters 23 - 24 ("I have not departed from the commandment of His lips.")
 - 3. Bildad - chapter 25 ("How can man be righteous before God?")
 - 4. Job - chapters 26 - 31
 - a. How have you helped? - chapter 26
 - b. My righteousness I hold fast. - chapter 27
 - c. The fear of the Lord is wisdom. - chapter 28
 - d. Summary - chapters 29 - 31
 - (1) once honored
 - (2) now despised
 - (3) maintains integrity
- III. Elihu Speaks - chapters 32 - 37
 - A. Though Young, Demands to Be Heard - chapter 32
 - B. Job Wrong to Contend with God - chapter 33
 - C. God Righteous and Job Rebellious - chapter 34
 - D. Condemns Job's Self-Righteousness - chapter 35
 - E. God's Righteousness - chapter 36
 - F. God's Greatness - chapter 37
- IV. God Answers Job (Man Not Capable of Questioning God) - chapters 38 - 41
- V. Conclusion - chapter 42
 - A. Job Repents of Challenging God - verses 1-6
 - B. God Rebukes Job's Friends - verses 7-9
 - C. Job's Prosperity and Honor Restored - verses 10-17

Questions

I. Discussion Questions

1. Why is Job a difficult book?
2. What is the theme of Job?
3. What kind of man was Job?
4. What two questions does the book address?
5. What answer does the book give to the first question?
6. What about the second?
7. How did Job's friends answer the second question?
8. What answer does the book give?
9. What lesson should we learn from this?
10. When did Job live?

II. Special Report

Give a brief overview of the book of Job.

Lesson Two Book's Introduction

Reading Assignment: Job chapters 1-3

I. Job's Righteousness and Blessings

Please read Job 1:1-5.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. blameless | 5. sinned |
| 2. upright | 6. cursed |
| 3. sanctify | 7. hearts |
| 4. burnt offerings | |

B. Places to Locate

- | | |
|-------|-------------|
| 1. Uz | 2. The East |
|-------|-------------|

C. Discussion Questions

1. Describe Job's character (verse 1)
2. What blessings did he have? (verses 2-3)
3. What was his relationship to his children? (verses 4-5)

II. Job's Calamities

Please read Job 1:6 - 2:13

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. sons of God | 7. foolish |
| 2. worshiped | 8. adversity |
| 3. Blessed | 9. Temanite |
| 4. integrity | 10. Shuhite |
| 5. skin for skin | 11. Naamathite |
| 6. potsherd | |

B. People to Identify

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Satan | 3. Chaldeans |
| 2. Sabeans | |

C. Discussion Questions

1. Describe the first meeting between the Lord and Satan. (1:6-12)
2. What calamities then befell Job? (1:13-19)
3. What was Job's reaction to these tragedies? (1:20-22)
4. Relate the second meeting of the Lord and Satan. (2:1-6)
5. What afflictions happened to Job this time? (2:7-9)
6. What was Job's response? (2:10)
7. What did Job's three friends do? (2:11-13)

D. Thought Questions

1. What does this narrative reveal about:
 - a. Satan?
 - b. temptation?
 - c. the cause of suffering?
2. Are there people with such integrity that they will serve God even if they cannot see anything to be gained by it?

III. Job's Despair

Please read Job chapter 3.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. cursed | 3. quiet |
| 2. Leviathan | 4. oppressor |

B. Discussion Questions

1. How did Job curse the day of his birth? (verses 1-10)
2. For what did he wish? (verses 11-19)
3. What question troubled him? (verses 20-26)

C. Thought Question

What was Job's concept of the state of the dead?

Job

Lesson Three

Eliphaz' First Speech and Job's Reply

Reading Assignment: Job chapters 4 - 7

I. Eliphaz' First Speech

Please read Job chapters 4 - 5.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. reverence | 7. holy ones |
| 2. iniquity | 8. counsel |
| 3. visions | 9. despise |
| 4. spirit | 10. famine |
| 5. mortal | 11. scourge |
| 6. wisdom | 12. covenant |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What was the first accusation Eliphaz made against Job? (4:1-6)
2. What was Eliphaz' philosophy of suffering? (4:7-11)
3. What lesson did he claim to have learned? (4:17-21)
4. Did Eliphaz give Job any hope of finding out the answer to his question from God? (5:1-2)
5. What did Eliphaz assert would happen to the foolish? (5:3-6)
6. What did he concede about men in general? (5:7)
7. What did he advise Job to do? (5:8)
8. What reasons did he give for this? (5:9-16)
9. According to Eliphaz, what is the value of suffering? (5:17; cf. Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:5-6)
10. What blessings did He promise for enduring suffering? (5:18-26)

C. Thought Questions

1. If someone suffers, does that prove he is guilty of sin? (4:7-9)
2. Can we say what we would do if we were in another person's place? (5:8)

3. From what sources did Eliphaz take his philosophy? (4:8,12-16; 5:27)
4. What truths did Eliphaz express?
5. Did he teach any errors?
6. Did his speech solve Job's problem?

II. Job's Reply

Please read Job chapters 6-7.

A. Term to Define

- | | |
|-----------|------------------|
| 1. spirit | 2. righteousness |
|-----------|------------------|

B. Places to Locate

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 1. Tema | 2. Sheba |
|---------|----------|

C. Discussion Questions

1. What reasons did Job give for speaking rashly? (6:1-7)
2. What was Job's desire? (6:8-9)
3. What comfort would he have in death? (6:10)
4. Could Job endure suffering without end? (6:11-13)
5. What was Job's complaint against his friends? (6:14-23)
6. How did he challenge them? (6:24-30)
7. How did Job describe his lot? (7:1-6)
8. What plea did Job make to God? (7:7-10)
9. What was his complaint to God? (7:11-21)

C. Thought Questions

1. What should we do when a friend is suffering?
2. At this point, what was Job's concept of life after death?
3. Did Job claim he had not sinned at all?

Job
Lesson Four
Bildad's First Speech and Job's Reply

Reading Assignment: Job chapters 8 - 10

I. Bildad's First Speech

Please read Job chapter 8.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. justice | 4. papyrus |
| 2. transgression | 5. hypocrite |
| 3. supplication | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What did Bildad accuse Job of doing? (verses 1-3)
2. Bildad makes three conditional statements (they begin with "if"). Explain each of them. (verses 4-7)
3. On what source of wisdom did Bildad rely? (verses 8-10)
4. He draws three analogies. What is the point of each? (verses 11-18)
 - a. papyrus/reed (verses 11-14a)
 - b. spider's web (verses 14b-15)
 - c. vine (verses 16-18)
5. What hope did he extend to Job? (verses 19-22)

C. Thought Question

What was wrong with Bildad's speech?

II. Job's Reply

Please read Job chapters 9 - 10.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. righteous | 6. mercy |
| 2. the Bear | 7. perverse |
| 3. Orion | 8. mediator |
| 4. Pleiades | 9. oppress |

5. chambers of the south

10. indignation

B. Discussion Questions

1. Did Job disagree with Bildad concerning the justice of God? (9:1-2)
2. What great problem with man's relationship to God did Job state? (9:2-3)
3. What is there in the nature of God that makes this so? (9:4)
4. How did Job illustrate the power and wisdom of God? (9:5-10)
5. Can man hinder or question God in the carrying out of His purpose? (9:11-13)
6. Did Job believe he was able to present His cause to God? (9:14-20)
7. How did Job describe the brevity of life? (9:25-26)
8. Why could Job not forget his complaint and be cheerful?(9:27-28)
9. Did he think he could be righteous in the sight of God? (9:29-31)
10. What did Job think would make it possible for him to speak with God? (9:34-35)
11. How did Job complain to God? (10:1-7)
12. Could Job understand why God would destroy His marvelous handiwork? (10:8-12)
13. How did Job think God was treating him? (10:13-17)
14. What did Job wish had happened to him? (10:18-20)
15. What did he plead with God? (10:20-21)

C. Thought Questions

1. Did Job deny the righteousness of God's rule? (9:21-24)
2. What does man need in order to face God? (9:32-33; cf. 1 Timothy 2:5)
3. How can we explain the amazing development of a baby in the womb? (10:8-12; cf. Psalm 139:13-16; Ecclesiastes 11:5)
4. What was Job's concept of death? (10:21-22; cf. 3:13-19; 7:9-10)

Job Lesson Five Zophar's First Speech and Job's Reply

Reading Assignment: Job chapters 11 - 14

I. Zophar's First Speech

Please read Job chapter 11.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. vindicated | 4. prudence |
| 2. mock | 5. Sheol |
| 3. doctrine | 6. steadfast |

B. Discussion Questions

1. How did Zophar characterize Job's speech? (verses 1-3; cf. Proverbs 10:19; Ecclesiastes 5:3,7)
2. For what did he wish?(verses 5-6)
3. What did Zophar teach about "the deep things of God"? (verses 7-11; cf. Romans 11:33-36)
4. What did Zophar call upon Job to do? (verses 13-14)
5. What blessings did he promise Job if he would repent? (verses 15-19)
6. What did he say would happen to the wicked? (verse 20)

C. Thought Questions

1. What accusations did Zophar make against Job? Were the accusations fair? (verses 2-4, 6,12)
2. According to Zophar, how may a sinner receive forgiveness? Was he correct? (verses 13-14)
3. What was Zophar's concept of divine blessings to the righteous and punishment for the wicked?
4. Did his speech help unravel the problem of Job's suffering?

II. Job's Reply

Please read Job chapters 12 - 14.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. bonds | 4. proverbs |
| 2. counsel | 5. trust |
| 3. platitudes | 6. countenance |

B. Discussion Questions

1. Job Reproaches His Accusers for False Accusations - chapter 12

- a. What did Job think of the wisdom of Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar?(verses 1-3)
- b. How had Job been mistreated? (verse 4)
- c. Were his friends in any position to appreciate Job's dilemma? (verses 5-6)
- d. What evidence is there that God controls the world? (verses 7-10)
- e. Should the wisdom of the aged be accepted uncritically? (verses 11-12)
- f. In what ways is the power of God displayed? (verses 13-25)

2. Job Reproaches Them for Defending God with Falsehoods - chapter 13

- a. Was Job inferior to Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar in wisdom? (verses 1-2)
- b. How useful were their speeches? (verses 3-12)
- c. In what did Job place his confidence? (verses 13-19)
- d. How did Job present His case to God? (verses 20-28)

3. Job Laments to God of the Troubles and Brevity of Life - chapter 14

What is the life of a man like? (verses 1-6)

C. Thought Questions

1. Is it ever right to use false arguments to defend God and His ways?
2. Does Job teach that man is inherently wicked? (Job 14:4)
3. Does he teach that God has predetermined how long each of us will live? (Job 14:5)
4. Now what is Job's attitude concerning life after death? (Job 14:7-22)

Job

Lesson Six

Eliphaz' Second Speech and Job's Reply

Reading Assignment: Job chapters chapters 15 - 17

I. Eliphaz' Second Speech

Please read Job chapter 15.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. east wind | 3. embossed |
| 2. prayer | 4. futile |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What accusation did Eliphaz make concerning Job's speech?(verses 1-6)
2. How did he ridicule Job? (verses 7-9;cf. 12:1-4)
3. What authority did Eliphaz claim to uphold his position? (verses 10,17-19; cf. 8:8-10)
4. What was Eliphaz' view of man's purity? (verses 14-16)
5. What did he claim was the lot of wicked men? (verses 20-35)

C. Thought Questions

1. Were Eliphaz' views of purity before God correct?
2. What about his picture of the lot of wicked people?
3. Did he solve the problem of why Job suffered so?

II. Job's Reply

Please read Job chapters 16 - 17.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. ungodly | 2. sackcloth |
|------------|--------------|

B. Discussion Questions

1. How did Job characterize all the words and actions of his friends? (16:1-3; 17:4-5,10)
2. How would he have acted if their roles had been reversed? (16:4-5)
3. How did Job describe his condition? (16:6-16,20; 17:2,6-7)
4. Did Job believe he deserved such treatment? (16:17)
5. For what did Job wish? (16:18,21)

6. How did Job view his future prospects? (16:22; 17:1,11-16)

7. How did Job think righteous men would react to his situation? (17:8)

C. Thought Questions

1. Whom did Job believe was responsible for his condition? (16:7-14)

2. Did Job think his cause would be vindicated? (16:19)

3. How will the righteous man react to slander? What will be the result? (17:9)

Job
Lesson Seven
Bildad and Zophar's Second Exchanges with Job

Reading Assignment: Job chapters chapters 18 - 21.

I. Bildad's Second Speech

Please read Job chapter 18.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. firstborn of death | 3. Brimstone |
| 2. king of terrors | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What charges were implied in Bildad's opening questions? (verses 1-4)
2. What was his position concerning suffering? (verses 5-21)

C. Thought Questions

1. Did Bildad here offer any fresh thoughts?
2. Did he give any proof for his position?

II. Job's Reply

Please read Job chapter 19.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. ten times | 4. Redeemer |
| 2. skin of my teeth | 5. persecute |
| 3. pity | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What did Job think of all the speeches of his antagonists? (verses 1-4)
2. What was his answer to their charge? (verses 5-6)
3. How did Job believe God had wronged him? (verses 7-12)
4. What had happened with Job's relationships with his relatives, friends, and servants? (verses 13-19)
5. How did he describe his physical condition? (verses 17,20)
6. What plea did he make to his friends? (verses 21-22)
7. What did he wish concerning his words? (verses 23-24)

8. How did he threaten his friends? (verses 28-29)

C. Thought Question

Explain Job's great statement of faith (verses 25-27).

III. Zophar's Second Speech

Please read Job chapter 20.

A. Term to Define

- 1. quietness
- 2. portion

B. Discussion Questions

- 1. What reasons did Zophar give for replying to Job? (verses 1-3)
- 2. What position did he take? (verses 4-11, 20-29)
- 3. How did Zophar describe the results of the deeds of an evil man? (verses 12-19)

C. Thought Questions

- 1. Did Zophar supply any new thoughts?
- 2. Did he offer any evidence for his position?

IV. Job's Reply

Please read Job chapter 21.

A. Terms to Define

- 1. consolation
- 2. established

B. Discussion Questions

- 1. How did Job ask for the attention of his friends? (verses 1-6)
- 2. How did he describe the lot of the wicked? (verses 7-13)
- 3. What did he say is their attitude toward God? (verses 14-15)
- 4. Did Job approve their conduct? (verse 16)
- 5. How did Job challenge his friends' position on the lot of the wicked? (verses 17-26, 29-34)
- 6. What motives did Job ascribe to the friends? (verses 27-28)

C. Thought Question

Was Job entirely correct about the lot of the wicked?

Job

Lesson Eight

Eliphaz' Third Speech and Job's Reply

Reading assignment: Job chapters 22-24

I. Eliphaz' Third Speech

Please read Job chapter 22.

- A. Term to Define
wickedness
- B. Place to Locate
Ophir

C. Discussion Questions

1. What points did Eliphaz try to make with his questions to Job? (Verses 1-5)
2. With what sins did he charge Job? (Verses 6-9)
3. What did he claim was the result for Job?(verses 10-11)
4. What attitude toward God did he accuse Job of having? (Verses 12-15)
5. How did he admonish Job? (Verses 16-22)
6. What did he promise Job if he would harken? (Verses 23-30)

D. Thought Questions

1. Did Eliphaz prove his accusations against Job?
2. Did he bring any new thoughts to the discussion?

II. Job's Reply

Please read Job chapters 23-24.

A. Discussion Questions

1. What does Job desire? (23:1-9)
2. What did Job claim concerning his own life? (23:10-12)
3. What was Job's problem in trying to present his case to God? (23:13-17)
4. What problem with God did Job express? (24:1)
5. What actions of the wicked demonstrated this problem? (24:2-4)
6. What sufferings did they bring upon others? (24:5-12)
7. What kinds of men shun the light and prefer darkness? Why? (24:13-17)

8. What is their proper reward? (24:18-21)

9. Did God always cause it to happen this way? (24:22-24)

10. Was Job confident of his position? (24:25)

B. Thought Questions

1. What does Job express about the nature of God? (23:13-14)

2. Job expresses a basic problem of accepting the existence of a righteous God in 24:12.

a. What is the problem?

b. What is the answer to the problem?

Job
Lesson Nine
Bildad's Last Gasp and Job's Reply

Reading Assignment: Job chapters 25 - 28

I. Bildad's Last Gasp

Please read Job chapter 25.

A. Terms to Define

1. Dominion
2. fear

B. Discussion Questions

1. How did Bildad describe God? (verses 2-3)
2. How did he picture man? (verses 4-6)

C. Thought Question

Did Bildad's speech shed any light on Job's problem?

II. Job's Reply

Please read Job chapters 26 - 28.

A. Terms to Define

1. counseled
2. Destruction
3. thunderbolt

B. Place to Locate

Ethiopia

C. Discussion Questions

1. What did Job think of Bildad's last speech? (26:2-4)
2. Did Job agree with Bildad about the greatness of God? (26:5-14)
3. What was Job's determination concerning his own words? (27:2-6)
4. What did Job wish for his enemies? (27:7-10)
5. How did he chide his friends? (27:11-12)
6. What did Job say would be the end of the wicked? (27:13-23)
7. How relentlessly do men seek treasure from the earth? (28:1-11)

8. Can man by searching diligently find true wisdom? (28:12-22)

9. Where can real wisdom be found? (28:23-27)

D. Thought Questions

1. How did Job's concept of existence after death evolve? (3:13-19; 7:8-10,21; 10:21-22; 14:10-15; 16:22; 19:25-27; 21:23-26; 24:19-20; 26:5-6)

2. What understanding of nature did Job demonstrate? Is this evidence of inspiration by God? (26:7)

3. Did Job contradict what he had previously said about the lot of the wicked?

4. How can we be truly wise? (28:28)

Job Lesson Ten Job Summarizes His Case

Reading Assignment: Job chapters 29 - 31

I. Once Honored

Please read Job chapter 29.

Discussion Questions

1. For what did Job long? (Verses 1-6)
2. How respected had he been? (Verses 7-11, 21-25)
3. What good did he do? (Verses 12-17)
4. What had he thought the future would hold? (Verses 18-20)

II. Now Despised

Please read Job chapter 30.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. mallow | 5. taunting |
| 2. broom tree | 6. abhor |
| 3. brayed | 7. rabble |
| 4. vile | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What kind of people now mocked Job? (Verses 1-7)
2. How did they mistreat him? (Verses 8-15)
3. Describe Job's affliction. (Verses 16-18)
4. How did he feel God was treating him? (Verses 19-23)
5. Could Job understand this? (Verses 24-26)
6. What was his condition? (Verses 27-31)

C. Thought Question

Was Job's accusation of God true?

III. Maintains His Integrity

Please read Job chapter 31.

A. Terms to Define

1. covenant
2. enticed

B. Discussion Questions

1. How did Job illustrate his moral integrity? (Verse 1)
2. Did he believe God would judge the wicked? (Verses 2-3)
3. Did he believe God knew how he lived? (Verse 4)
4. How did he want to be judged? (Verses 5-8)
5. Was Job an adulterer? (Verses 9-12)
6. Did he oppress his servants (verses 13-15)
7. Did he help or oppress the poor? (Verses 16-23)
8. Had he been greedy for riches? (Verses 24-25)
9. Had he been an idolater? (Verses 26-28)
10. Had he hated his enemies (Verses 29-30)
11. Had he been hospitable? (Verses 31-32)
12. Had been guilty of hidden sin? (Verses 33-34)
13. Whom did Job challenge to prove him guilty? (Verses 35-40)

C. Thought Questions

1. In what ways is Job an example to us of moral integrity and faithfulness to God?
2. Should we desire justice from God in judgment?
3. Did Job believe his servants were equal to him in God's sight?
4. Was Job self-righteous?

Job

Lesson Eleven

Elihu's Speech (Part 1)

Reading Assignment: Job chapters 32 - 34

I. Introduction to Elihu's Speeches

Please read Job chapter 32.

A. Terms to Define

1. Buzite
2. justified

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why did Job's friends cease speaking? (Verse 1)
2. Why did Elihu decide to speak? (Verses 2-3,5)
3. Why had he not spoken earlier? (Verses 4,6-7)
4. How did he justify speaking at this time? (Verses 8-13, 15-20)
5. How did he propose to speak? (Verses 14, 21-22)

C. Thought Questions

1. Was Elihu's anger with Job justified?
2. Was his anger toward the friends justified?
3. What does his introduction reveal about Elihu?

II. His Speech to Job

Please read Job chapter 33.

A. Term to Define

pure

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why did Elihu think Job should listen to him? (Verses 1-4, 31,33)
2. What did he invite Job to do? (Verses 5, 32)
3. How did he try to persuade Job to enter into discussion with him? (Verses 6-7)
4. What did he accuse Job of arguing? (Verses 9-11)
5. Why did he believe Job was not righteous? (Verses 12-13)
6. According to Elihu, in what ways did God reveal Himself to men? (Verses 14-16, 19-23)
7. Why did God speak to men? (Verses 17-18, 24, 29-30)

8. What blessings did Elihu claim would follow a proper response to divine revelation? (Verses 25-26,28)

9. How should men respond to God's revelation? (Verse 27)

C. Thought Questions

1. Was Elihu correct about Job?
2. Was he right about how God reveals Himself?
3. What more do we learn about Elihu from this chapter?

III. His Speech to All Four

Please read Job chapter 34

A. Discussion Questions

1. What did Elihu ask the four older men to do? (Verses 1-4)
2. What accusations did he make against Job? (Verses 5-9)
3. How did he answer Job? (Verses 10-30)
4. What did Elihu conclude concerning Job? (Verses 31-37)

B. Thought Questions

1. Was Elihu fair with Job?
2. Did he add anything to the discussion?

Job Lesson Twelve Elihu's Speech (Part 2)

Reading Assignment: Job chapters 35 - 37

I. Are You More Righteous Than God?

Please read Job chapter 35.

A. Discussion Questions

1. What position did Elihu accuse Job of taking? (Verses 1-2)
2. Why did he make this charge? (Verse 3)
3. How did he answer this position? (Verses 4-8)
4. Why did Elihu say Job's cries to God for help were not heard? (Verses 9-16)

B. Thought Questions

1. Did Elihu fairly represent what Job had said?
2. Was he correct in the reasons he assigned that God did not answer Job's pleas?

II. God's Righteousness

Please read Job chapter 36.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. perfect | 3. magnify |
| 2. despises | 4. canopy |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What reason did Elihu give Job to listen to him? (Verses 1-4)
2. According to Elihu, how does God use His power? (Verses 5-15)
3. Based on this premise, how did Elihu exhort Job? (Verses 16-24)
4. How did Elihu describe the greatness of God? (Verses 25-30)
5. How did he say God uses the great storms? (Verses 31-33)

C. Thought Question

Was Elihu's concept of God's righteousness any different from that of Job or his friends?

III. God's Greatness

Please read Job chapter 37.

A. Term to Define seals

B. Discussion Questions

1. What did Elihu affirm nature teaches about God? (Verses 1-11)
2. What lessons did he try to teach Job from this? (Verses 14-24)

C. Thought Questions

1. How is nature ultimately controlled? (Verse 12)
2. For what reasons does God employ the forces of nature? (Verse 13)
3. What kind of person was Elihu?
4. What did he add to the discussion?

(This brings to a close the speeches of men recorded in Job. Elihu's final words, apparently spoken as a violent storm approached [36:27 - 37:5], and calling upon Job to magnify God because of His majestic glory revealed in nature [36:24 - 37:24], have prepared the way for the Lord Himself to speak from the whirlwind [38:1].

The weakness of the disputants - Job, his friends, and Elihu - was that they were limited in their wisdom in dealing with the question to two realms; 1) creation and God's actions therein, and 2) experience. Beyond this, man must always learn through revelation. This has always been true, is true now, and ever shall be....

God, who alone is perfect in power, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, must speak the final word.... This we must realize and learn [as] the lesson from the book of Job: one's conclusions may be incorrect because of imperfect knowledge and understanding [Homer Hailey, **A Commentary on Job**. 329-30])

Job
Lesson Thirteen
The Lord Replies and Job Confesses Ignorance

Reading Assignment: Job 38:1 - 40:5

I. The Lord's First Speech

Please read Job 38:1 - 40:2.

(In 38:4-38, the Lord asks Job questions about the inanimate world, whereas in 38:39 - 39:30, He asks about the animate world.)

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. whirlwind | 4. Great Bear |
| 2. swaddling band | 5. ordinances |
| 3. Mazzaroth | 6. onager |

B. Discussion Questions

1. How did the Lord describe Job's speeches? (38:1-2)
2. What did He demand of Job (38:3-4)
3. What did the Lord ask concerning the creation of the earth? (38:4-7)
4. What about the creation of the sea? (38:8-11)
5. What did He ask about the beginning of day? (38:12-15)
6. What about the depths of the sea, the abode of the dead, and the breadth of the earth? (38:16-18)
7. What of the sources of light and darkness? (38:19-21)
8. What did He ask concerning the sources of weather? (38:22-30)
9. What did the Lord ask concerning the stars? (38:31-33)
10. Explain His question about clouds and wisdom. (38:34-38)
11. What were the Lord's questions about lions and ravens? (38:39-40)
12. What did He ask about the birth and growth of wild animals? (39:1-4)
13. Explain the question about wild donkeys. (39:5-8)

14. What of the wild ox? (39:9-12)

15. What did the Lord ask concerning the ostrich? (39:13-18)

16. What about the horse? (39:19-25. This is the only domesticated animal named. The bedouins have a “horse culture,” i.e., their culture is based on the use of the horse, especially in war.)

17. Explain the Lord’s question about the hawk. (39:26)

18. What of the eagle?(39:27-30)

19. What, then, did the Lord demand of Job? (40:1-2)

C. Thought Questions

1. Did the Lord reveal the answer to Job’s questions?

2. What was the point of the Lord’s questions to Job?

3. Can we give any better answers than Job could to God’s questions?

II. Job Confesses Ignorance

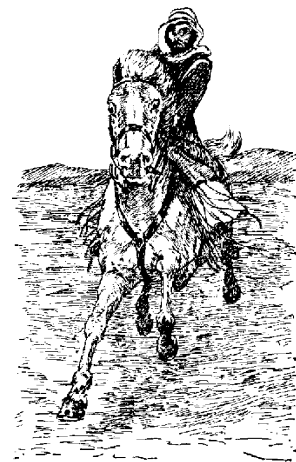
Please read Job 40:3-5.

A. Discussion Question

What did Job confess?

B. Thought Question

Did his confession go far enough?



Job
Lesson Fourteen
The Lord Replies Again, Job Repents, and God Restores Job

Reading Assignment: Job 40:6 - 42:17

I. The Lord Replies Again

Please read Job 40:6 - 41:34.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. annul | 4. covenant |
| 2. behemoth | 5. maidens |
| 3. lotus trees | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What did the Lord command Job to do? (40:6-7)
2. How did He challenge Job? (40:8)
3. How did He reveal Job's inadequacy to judge God and to save himself? (40:9-14)

4. Describe behemoth. (40:15-24)

5. Describe Leviathan. (Chapter 41)

C. Thought Questions

1. What creature is "behemoth"?
2. Why did the Lord describe him?
3. What is "Leviathan"?
4. Why did God tell about him?

II. Job Repents

Please read Job 42:1-6.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1. wonderful | 2. repent |
|--------------|-----------|

B. Discussion Question

What did Job confess?

C. Thought Questions

1. Why did the Lord accept Job's second confession but not his first?
2. What was the difference between Job's knowledge before his troubles and afterward?

III. The Lord Restores Job

Please read Job 42:7-17.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| 1. wrath | 4. Keziah |
| 2. folly | 5. Keren-Happuch |
| 3. Jemimah | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why was God angry with Job's friends? (Verse 7)
2. What did He command them to do? (Verse 8)
3. Did they obey? (Verse 9)
4. What did the Lord do for Job? (Verse 10)
5. What was the result? (Verses 11-17)

C. Thought Questions

1. Why did the Lord select Job to pray for his friends?
2. What special thing did Job do for his daughters?
3. Now that you have studied Job, what do you think is the great lesson of the book?
4. What principles can you apply to your life from your study of Job?

Glossary

A

abhor - detest
adversity - bad, evil
annul - frustrate, make ineffectual

B

the Bear - the constellation called “the Great Bear,” because it seems to migrate across the sky
behemoth - a huge beast, perhaps a dinosaur, such as a Diplodocus or Apatosaurus
blameless - complete, perfect, morally and ethically pure
Blessed - praised
bonds - power to restrain
brayed - cried out
Brimstone - burning sulphur
broom tree - common shrub in Arabian desert with very bitter roots
burnt offerings - animal sacrifice for sins
Buzite - Buz was the second son of Nahor, the brother of Abraham (Genesis 22:20-21), and a city in Arabia was later called Buz (Jeremiah 25:23)

C

canopy - pavilion
Chaldeans - inhabitants of lower Mesopotamia
chambers of the south - regions of the southern sky unseen from northern hemisphere
consolation - comfort
counsel
 - 5:13 - advice
 - 12:13 - purpose, plan
counseled - advised
counselors - advisors
countenance - appearance of the face
covenant
 - 5:23 - alliance, league
 - 31:1 - pledge
 - 41:4 - treaty, alliance of friendship
cursed
 - 1:5 - renounced
 - 3:1 - invoked evil upon

D

despise - reject, look with disdain upon
Destruction - Abaddon, place of destruction, cf. Revelation 9:11
doctrine - teaching of a body of information
Dominion - rule

E

east wind - the sirocco, a scorching wind off the desert that dries the land and kills vegetation
embossed - thick and curved
enticed - seduced
established - made to endure

F

famine - widespread hunger
fear - awe, terror
firstborn of death - severest disease that inevitably brings death
folly - senselessness, impiety, disgracefulness
foolish - stupid, wicked, impious
futile - vanity, emptiness

G

Great Bear - constellation Ursa Major

H

hearts - inner man, minds, wills
holy ones - angels
hypocrite - one whose heart is not right with God

I

indignation - anger, vexation
iniquity - disregard for right, turning to one's own way rather than God's
integrity - perfection

J

Jemimah - some authorities translate this "Day," some "Dove"
justice - what is right
justify - prove to be right

K

Keren-Happuch - literally, "horn of stibium," a paint or dye made from antimony, with which women tinged their eye-lashes, esteemed as an ornament of great beauty
Keziah - "Cassia," a bark resembling cinnamon, but less aromatic
king of terrors - death

L

Leviathan - a huge sea monster, perhaps the Nile crocodile (cf. chapter 41)
LORD - Yaweh (Jehovah), the Self-existent One, Old Testament holy name of God
lotus trees - a species of jujube tree; it has many spines and small globular fruit a little bigger than a pea. It is common in the Jordan valley. This plant has nothing to do with the Egyptian lotus.

M

magnify - extol, exalt
maidens - young girls
mallow - the tall shrubby orach, the so-called sea-purslain, the buds and young leaves of which are gathered and eaten by the poor
Mazzaroth - the twelve signs of the zodiac and their thirty-six related constellations
mediator - umpire, arbiter
mercy - favor, pity
mock - scoff, ridicule
mortal - man

N

Naamathite - inhabitant of Naamah

O

onager - wild ass
Ophir - land on Southwest coast of Arabia known for gold
oppress - to abuse or crush one of a lower station
oppressor - mighty one, who is violent and ruthless
ordinances - the perpetual and enduring laws of nature set in place by God
Orion - the constellation Orion the Hunter

P

papyrus - the rush or reed from which the ancients made paper was made
perfect - complete, entirely in accord with truth and fact

persecute - pursue, harass
perverse - crooked, guilty
perverted persons - homosexual, male, temple prostitutes
pity - favor, consideration, sympathy
platitudes - memorable sayings, maxims
Pleiades - "heap" or "cluster," a seven star constellation
potsherd - broken piece of pottery
prayer - meditation, devotion, speaking to God
proverbs - short, memorable, ethical sayings
prudence - wisdom

Q-R

quiet - at rest, untroubled
quietness - contentment
rabble - brood
redeem - ransom, rescue, deliver
Redeemer - near kinsman, whose duty is to avenge and ransom
repent - change the mind due to sorrow or regret
reverence - fear of God
righteous - just, in the right
righteousness - state of being just, right

S

sanctify - consecrate, hallow, make holy
Sabeans - predatory tribe from Southwestern Arabia, descendants of Sheba, grandson of Abraham and Keturah
sackcloth - rough, hairy garment worn next to the skin by those in mourning
Satan - the adversary, also called "the devil," spirit being, ruler of realm of evil and of evil spirit
 4:15 - immaterial being
 6:4 - inward, immaterial part of man
scourge - whip, lash
seals - closes, causes to be unable to work
Sheol - underworld, the abode of the dead
Shuhite - descendant of Shuah, son of Abraham through Keturah
sinned - missed the way, gone wrong, incurred guilt
skin for skin - proverbial expression indication man will do anything to preserve his life
skin of my teeth - barely, narrowly
spirit
 4:15 - immaterial being
 6:4 - inward, immaterial part of man
steadfast - firmly established, secure

supplication - a seeking favor, pleading for mercy
swaddling band - cloth used to tightly wrap young infant

T

taunting - mocking
Temanite - descendant of Teman, grandson of Edom, lived east of Edom
ten times - fullness, completeness
thunderbolt - lightning flash
transgression - rebellion
trust - wait for with expectation of help

U-V

ungodly - wicked, perverse, unjust
upright - just, correct, right
vile - nameless, trifling, insignificant, contemptible
vindicated - justified, made to appear to be right
visions - things seen in the mind

W-X-Y-Z

whirlwind - tempest, storm, tornado
wickedness - activity contrary to God's will, which usually begins by rejecting God
wisdom - understanding, comprehension, insight into underlying causes and consequences
wonderful - hard to comprehend
worshiped - bowed down, paid homage to deity
wrath - judicial determination to punish