

# The Book of Job

Hard  
Questions

in Tragic

Times

Old  
Testament  
Vistas



Hard  
Questions  
in Tragic  
Times





# Setting the Stage

Job 1-2

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# The Best of the Best

**Job 1:1 NIV** In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.



# A Bulls-eye on Job's Forehead

**Job 1:6-8 NIV** One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."



# A Cynical View of Righteousness

Job 1:9-12a NIV "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."



# Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

It's not always their fault

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Times



# The Book of Job is a Theodicy

- Defense of God's goodness & justice in the face of the existence of evil
- World believes in payback: Pain & suffering are always due to sin
- Job teaches: God allows pain even where there is no sin
- God is free to do as He chooses — even if we don't understand or think it is fair



# Can I Trust God No Matter What?

Even if I suffer unjustly?

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Times



# Deeper Than a Theodicy

- Is God worthy of trust even if we are not blessed?
- Satan: Would Job be so good if he were not so blessed?
- Can I believe in God even if I do not receive any benefit?
- Will I trust God, even if I suffer?
- Will I trust God even if I don't understand?



# Satan Has His Way With Job

Job 1:21-22 NIV "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.



## Double or Nothing

**Job 2:4-7 NIV "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.**



## **Job's Wife: "Just Get it Over With!"**

**Job 2:9-10 NIV His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.**



**With Friends Like These,  
Who Needs Enemies?**

**Job 3-31**

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## **Their View: Pain is the Result of Sin**

**Job 4:7-9 NIV "Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed? As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it. At the breath of God they are destroyed; at the blast of his anger they perish.**



# Job Maintains His Faith for Awhile

Job 6:8-10 NIV "Oh, that I might have my request, that God would grant what I hope for, that God would be willing to crush me, to let loose his hand and cut me off! Then I would still have this consolation— my joy in unrelenting pain— that I had not denied the words of the Holy One.



## Then Something Changes

**Job 13:3 NIV** But I desire to speak to the Almighty and to argue my case with God.

**Job 13:15 NIV** Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face.

**Job 19:6-7 NIV** ... God has wronged me and drawn his net around me. Though I cry, 'I've been wronged!' I get no response; though I call for help, there is no justice.



**Elihu Weighs In**  
**Job 32-37**

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# Job is Justifying Self at God's Expense

**Job 34:5-6 NIV** "Job says, 'I am innocent, but God denies me justice. Although I am right, I am considered a liar; although I am guiltless, his arrow inflicts an incurable wound.'

**Job 34:10-12 NIV** ... Far be it from God to do evil, from the Almighty to do wrong. ... It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice.



# God Answers Job's Challenge

Job 38-41

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Questions  
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Times



# God Knows What He's Doing

**Job 38:2-5 NIV** "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it?"



# What God Does is Always Right

**Job 40:1-8 NIV** The LORD said to Job: "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!" Then Job answered the LORD: "I am unworthy—how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. I spoke once, but I have no answer— twice, but I will say no more." Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm: "Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. "Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself?"



# The Rest of the Story

Job 42

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Times



# Repentance & Restoration

**Job 42:1-6 NIV** Then Job replied to the LORD: "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."



# Can You Really Trust God No Matter What?

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# Is Job's Question Ever Answered?

- **No – He is never told why he suffered**
  - Satan's determination to destroy him
  - God's confidence in Job
- **Yes – He gets a glimpse of God**
  - Job 42:5-6 NIV My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."



**God is Worthy of Our Trust**

**Even when we do not  
understand & life hurts**

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# My Near Job Experience

February 21, 1991 was the worst  
day of my life!

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TRUST GOD  
NO  
Matter What!

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