

Job Chapter 1

Introduction:

- Job is the first of what are called the poetic books of the Bible. Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon are the 5 poetic books of the Bible.
- Turn to the table of contents in your Bibles - (Law, history, poetry, major, minor prophets)
- These poetic books are not in a chronological order, having just finished the last of the historical books of the OT, Job doesn't fit or come in right after Esther.
- Job was a real, historical person mentioned in **Ezekiel 14:14, 20** and **James 5:11**.
- Possibly the same as Jobab mentioned in **Genesis 10:29** who live in the "mount of the east" which would make him a contemporary of the Patriarch Abraham.
- Job is considered one of the oldest books of literature, contemporary with the book of Genesis, or possibly even pre-dating it in terms of when it was written.
- Now when we think of poetry we think of things that rhyme and go together:

Roses are reddish, and violets are bluish, Jesus is God, and He's definitely Jewish.

- We think of poetry as in rhythm and rhyme, but Hebrew poetry is more the association of related thoughts, or the building of progressive or repeated thoughts together. (Way to intellectual for me...)
- Often times it's the repetition of a thought with a slight change:

Psalm 9:9 "The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble."

- It's basically the same thought repeated with a slight modification or twist.
- So that's Hebrew poetry and Job is a form or sort of dramatic poem.
- This book raises that age old question: *why do bad things happen to good people?*
 - * We'll get two answers to that question: The first answer is short and might seem kind of flippant, but it's still true.

1. There are no good people.

Romans 3:10 "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one."

2. **“Trust me...”** We may not know why some things are or have happened, and when we come to those things that we don't understand, we have to fall back to what we do understand.

God is good. - God loves us. - God's Word is true. - God's will is perfect.

- God always has a reason, whether we know it or not.

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purposes.”

- Reading and studying through this book together should produce a couple of things in our lives:
 1. We will learn to be patient in our own trials.
 2. We will learn better how to help others in their trials.
- Job is divided up into three main sections:
 1. Chapters 1 & 2 - Job's dilemma.
 2. Chapters 3-37 - The debate about Job.
 3. Chapters 38-42 - Job's deliverance.

V: 1 We can't be certain where the land of Uz was actually located, we know that it was East of Israel (V:3) the fact that the Chaldeans and Sabeans fell upon Job's herds indicates that they were located possibly in the area of Damascus generally.

- Job: “He that Weeps” or “I will Exclaim.”
- Job is described with four words or phrases:

Perfect: This doesn't mean sinless perfection as we might normally think of this word. In the Hebrew it is a word that means a “total man”, or even a “man's man”, he's got it all together

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, (complete / mature) thoroughly furnished / equipped unto all good works.”

Upright: Literally means “straight” - he's honest, a straight shooter.

Fears God: According to God's Word, that means he's wise.

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

- To fear the Lord means to respect who He is, what He says, and what He does. It is not the cringing fear of a slave before a master but the loving reverence of a child before a father, a respect that leads to obedience.
- Oswald Chambers: “When you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you don’t fear God you fear everything else.”

Eschews / avoids evil: Because he fears God, he hates and avoids evil.

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.”

Later Job would sum it up and declare:

Job 28:28 “... behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.”

V: 2-3 Job was indeed a blessed man, 10 children, vast herds of sheep, camels, oxen, and asses (no goats...) - and a very great household - meaning he had many servants. It would take a lot of people to manage all his livestock.

Psalm 127:3-5 “³Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. ⁴As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. ⁵Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them...”

- Job was the greatest of all the men of the east. East of the land of Canaan or Israel.

V: 4 Job was blessed with a loving family, his kids liked each other and spent time with one another, taking turns feasting at one another’s houses.

V: 5 We see that Job has been blessed in seemingly every way, a man who loves his family and is concerned for their spiritual welfare, he’s praying for his family, interceding on their behalf.

Job is a good example for us to follow. Like Samuel’s prayer:

1 Samuel 12:23 “Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way.”

- Now the scene switches from Job and his family to what is happening behind the scenes, the spiritual realm, the heavenly scene.

V: 6 “The sons of God...” is a common reference to the angels of God, and Satan is among them.

- Satan: adversary, accuser.
- People will sometimes ask the question: “Why did God create Satan?” The answer is that God didn’t create Satan. God created Lucifer, an angel of light and beauty, who was in charge of worship - but he was lifted up in pride and became Satan, the forever mortal enemy of God, and man kind.

V: 7-8 The Lord asks Satan, “where have you been?” Kind of like what have you been up to? God already knows the answers to these questions and what the outcome will be, understand that this is all for our benefit.

- Satan responds by saying that he’s been going to and fro, walking up and down - no doubt looking for mischief.

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

- “Have you considered my servant Job...?” The word considered is a military term, for when the commander of an army “considers” or studies a city preparing for an attack, developing his strategy, looking for weak points to exploit, strong points to avoid.
- It seems like God is bragging about Job, He is obviously pleased with Job. It’s worth noting that God found no fault with Job, but Satan did.
- Satan had indeed been examining or “considering” Job - he had a ready answer for the Lord.

V: 9-11 Satan is smart, but he’s not all knowing, he is certainly an astute student of human behavior.

- Satan assumed that Job only served God because of the blessings God had poured out in his life, if these were removed he predicted that Job would “curse him to his face...”
- Generally Satan gives an accurate assessment of human nature, a great many “non-believers” spend a lot of time cursing the God they don’t believe in who holds their very breath in His hand. But Satan is mistaken about Job.
- Like Job, we need to simply love God for who and what He is, not just because of the blessings, because if the blessings disappear, He is still God and worthy of our love and adoration.

Psalm 18:3 “I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised...”

- Satan is wrong in his assessment of Job, he's not just in it for the blessings, the perks; but Satan is correct in one way - God has protected and blessed Job, otherwise Satan would long ago have sought to destroy this righteous man.

Proverbs 18:10 “The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.”

- All of this appears to be an assault on Job, but Satan is actually attacking God Himself. Satan is saying first that God is wrong, meaning he's fallible. Secondly that God has to pay for love and worship, that Job only loves God because God pays him to do so through the blessings he's received.
- As we've seen, at this point Satan does still have access to heaven, to the Throne of God, but there is a time coming when that will change.

Jesus speaking of His impending crucifixion said:

John 12:31 “Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.”

- Now the ruler of this world will be cast out. Cast out from where? Earth? No, he's still busy here.
- Cast out from Heaven, because the sins are paid for, no need to hear the charges anymore?
- Job – access to heaven: Presently no more, no accusations in Heaven.

Isaiah 14:12-16 “¹²How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High. ¹⁵Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. ¹⁶They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;”

Luke 10:18 “And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.”

Revelation 12:9-10 “⁹And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

V: 12 God allows this test in Job's life, allows Satan to take Job's stuff, but at the same time He limit's what Satan can do, he can't actually touch Job. He can only do what God allows him to do, and no more.

- God places His hedge of protection around us as well, Satan is limited in what he can do.

1 Corinthians 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

- So Satan goes forth to begin his work of destruction and murder.

Jesus, referring to Satan said:

John 8:44 "... He was a murderer from the beginning,..."

John 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but to steal, and to kill, and to destroy..."

V: 13-19 "There was a day..." Satan does his dirty work in a day's time. His sons and daughters are gathered together in the oldest brother's house, seemingly peacefully enjoying what God has given them.

- The enemy doesn't just steal the oxen and donkeys, they also kill the servants.
- After the Sabeans, the "fire of God..." the enemy loves it when we blame God for what the enemy has done.
- Again the servants are destroyed along with the sheep.
- The Chaldean's take the camels, and kill the servants.
- Seems like the servants are always being killed.

Romans 8:35-37 "³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, for thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

- Then the worst of all, the hardest loss, all of his children are killed.

Ecclesiastes 9:12 "For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them."

- "... a great wind..." in modern terms this would be described by the insurance company as "an act of God..."

But in reality: Paul identifies the enemy as:

Ephesians 2:2 "... the prince of the power of the air..."

- All of Job's possessions and his family are destroyed, except for his wife, and we'll see the enemies hand in that as well.
- Life can change in a moment, everything changes in a day.

V: 20-22 Job's response - he fell on his face and worshipped God.

- Naked I came into this world, and naked I'll go out... the Lord gives, and He takes away - blessed be the name of the Lord.
- It wasn't about the stuff, it wasn't even about his family, or the blessings - it was all about what a wonderful loving God He is - who deserves our praise and adoration.
- If we were in Job's shoes what would we be saying? Would we be accusing God? Questioning His love for us? Questioning why is God against me? Charging God foolishly?

Paul & Silas were in Philippi, Paul rebuked the demon in a certain soothsayer, and they ended up in jail.

Acts 16:23-25 "23And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely: 24Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. 25And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God..."

James 1:2-4 "2My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

V: 22 "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."

- Job had a real relationship, a living faith walk with the true and living God, Job trusted Him, and worshipped Him.

Ecclesiastes 9:12 "For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them."

- What if you were one of Job's kids? Are you ready?