

TRUSTING GOD WHEN LIFE MAKES NO SENSE

The Book of Job

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THIS STUDY

- It will encourage you to deepen your trust in God during difficult times.
- You will learn why suffering exists and how God can use it for His purposes.
- Gain a greater appreciation for God's wisdom, greatness, and sovereignty.
- See how true faith trusts God not only when He gives, but also when He allows suffering—and ultimately discover that God Himself is the greatest blessing.

HOW DID JOB DO IT?

- Job lost his wealth, children, and health in a very short time.
- His future appeared ruined, and his suffering was overwhelming.
- Instead of turning from God, Job responded with worship.
- Job declared, "The LORD gave me what I had, and the LORD has taken it away. Praise the name of the LORD!" (Job 1:21, NLT).

BACKGROUND

- The human author is unknown; Job, Solomon, and Moses have all been suggested, with many scholars favoring Moses.
- The events likely occurred during the Patriarchal period (about 2000–1800 BC), around the time of Abraham.
- Some scholars consider Job the oldest book in the Bible because of its ancient setting.
- The central question is: Will Job continue to trust God if all his blessings are removed?
- A major lesson is that a strong faith is developed through a long pattern of devotion and trust in God.

SETTING AND THEME

- The story unfolds in both heaven and on earth.

- In heaven, Satan challenges Job's integrity and motives for serving God.
- On earth, Job lives in the land of Uz, likely south-east of Israel.
- God permits Satan to test Job but places limits on what he can do.
- The book explores faith, suffering, God's sovereignty, and trust during difficult times.

FIVE MAIN SECTIONS OF JOB

- Chapters 1–2: Job is tested but remains faithful.
- Chapters 3–31: Job and his friends debate the meaning of suffering.
- Chapters 32–37: Elihu points to God's wisdom and purposes.
- Chapters 38–41: God reveals His greatness and sovereignty.
- Chapter 42: Job is humbled, restored, and blessed

JOB CHAPTERS 1 - 2

- Job is introduced as a godly man who fears God and enjoys great blessings.
- An unseen spiritual conflict begins as Satan challenges Job's integrity.
- Satan claims Job serves God only because of God's protection and blessings.
- God permits Job to be tested through the loss of his possessions, servants, children, and health.
- Despite overwhelming suffering, Job remains faithful and refuses to blame God.
- These chapters raise a crucial question: Will we trust God when life no longer makes sense and everything seems to be taken away?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is there often a tendency to think God is punishing us for our sins when we experience difficult times?
2. How can a person know if the difficult situation they are experiencing is simply part of living in a fallen world or a test of faith that God is using for spiritual growth?

Next Week: Read or scan chapters 3–31 and identify a few reasons Job's friends believed he was experiencing such severe suffering.