

Job

Read the 1st chapter of Job.

What happened here?

First the text establishes that Job was doing very well and that he wholeheartedly worshipped God. It also relates that Job's children were having wild parties. No, it does not say it that way, but when it tells of Job's concern about the parties--that he thought there was a good possibility that they sinned--it tells me that Job considered the parties out of order. And it also tells me that Job must not have considered them to be wholehearted God worshippers. **Job 1:5, 5:4** When it says Job did this continually, I learn that this had been going on for years. That's important to what I'm about to show. God is patient, but there comes a time when the price must be paid. **1 Sam. 3:13, Zech. 11:6**

The narration goes on to reveal that Satan and the angels are given audience with God. During that audience, God bragged on Job. Satan replied that it was just because Job was blessed and that if he were deprived and suffering he would not be so faithful to God. God said, Behold--look, all that he has is in your power; only upon himself put not forth your hand. **Why were his goods in Satan's hand?** Because God tore his hedge down?--No! **Job 36:7, 37:23** Because his children were sinning over a long period of time and all his goods were under the control of the eldest son. Satan attacked while they were at the eldest son's house, behaving in a way that put them under Satan's power instead of God's protection.

Why did God bring attention to Job?

Because he deemed it time to deal with the matter. For the disobedient--it was time for the inevitable result of their disobedience. For Job, God's servant, it was time to take him and all those who need to know into a spacious place where faith cannot be crowded out. Notice that Satan had one disaster follow another without respite. He didn't want Job to catch a breath--he wanted to bring him down--he is totally ruthless. But Job did not curse God. He spoke righteously. He trusted God.

Read 2nd chapter.

What happened here?

It was the day to have audience before God again and God brags on Job. Satan answers that if Job were suffering in his body he would curse God. God says Behold--look, Behold, he is in your hand; but save his life. Satan had given up on getting Job to curse God and hadn't even noticed that Job begun to fear--the enemies territory. **Job 3:35, 16:17, 23:15, 30:26-27**

What was God's motive in revealing Job's vulnerability to Satan?

As stated above, he wanted Job to have an unshakable faith. He wanted to get rid of all double-mindedness. **Why was it so important as to cause Job this trouble?** So that Job would never be vulnerable to the enemy again as long as he worshipped God. And so that he could teach those who study the book of Job to trust him no matter what and to know that if the God worship-per is not disobeying him there is some other reason for the calamity and that their game plan is to trust God to work it out. **Job 36:16, 42:5**

What part did Satan play in Job's bodily suffering?

Satan put doubt in Job's mind. When Job said, "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away, it gave the enemy opportunity to play with his mind. Job became perplexed as to why God would do this to him. Job becomes fearful. What had he done? What was God doing? Why would God tear down his hedge. Could God really be trusted? While he was in that turmoil, Satan got his wife to tempt him to curse God and die and Job replies, "What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" It says he didn't sin, but he spoke without knowledge or understanding and his own words again caused further turmoil. Why had God dealt evil to him? He got so agitated that he broke out in big sores all over his body. **Note Job 9:28, 17:1, 38:1** He was in fear and turmoil because of what he was thinking. Those thought are revealed in **Job 9-10**.

Job's three friends came to comfort him and they are so astounded at the sight of him and at all that has befallen him that they sit seven days in sackcloth and ashes with him--all of them trying to make sense of it all.

Read the 3rd chapter.

Job bewails his plight and shares his reaction to it.

Read the 4th chapter.

What happened here?

Eliphaz had a dream. The dream was from Satan. How do I know? Number one, it was the cause of his friends becoming his accusers. God is not the accuser. Second, when the being approaches Eliphaz in the dream, Eliphaz is terrified. The being did not reassure him. Everywhere in scripture where God approaches people and they became afraid, he reassured them of their safety. The being suggests that since God has to be right, Job has to be wrong. Eliphaz begins to doubt his friend's uprightness.

Read the 5th chapter.

Eliphaz is speaking to Job. Now remember he went there to comfort and encourage Job as did the other two Bildad and Zophar. Because of the dream, he now is fairly certain that Job has a secret sin. In his narration, he speaks, they all speak in their narrations, a lot of truth. The problem lies in their conclusion. Eliphaz starts his accusation in 5:3-9. He now realizes that he saw trouble coming for Job. In the Amplified Bible the text is more clear. He said that he observed Job's foolishness pertaining to his children and that he saw that the household was cursed. He goes on to extol the virtues of God.

Read the 6th and the 7th chapters.

Job is now more vexed than before. He knows he is innocent before God. He does not know why he has been so sorely afflicted, but to have his friend suggest that he had behaved foolishly and that was the reason for his calamity held no comfort. It only further antagonized a very oppressed man. Job feels as if he is losing hope. Vs 11-14 He needs someone to encourage him to hope yet in God. He begs Eliphaz to help him understand what's going on. Vs 24 In chapter seven Job turns to God with his dilemma and pleads for understanding and mercy.

Read the 8th chapter.

Bildad gets on board. Notice in verse 4 that Bildad also knows that Job's children were the reason for his first trouble. He does try to encourage Job by reminding him that God is just and will hear his case and judge righteously.

Read the 9th and the 10th chapters.

Job answers his friends. He says that he reveres God, but he is

afraid of him and is having trouble trusting him because he feels he is innocent in the whole matter and that God should comfort him and help, heal, and restore his life. In **9:33-35** Job cries out for a mediator and tells of the benefits it would bring. **I have good news--God fixed that problem by giving us Jesus. He is our mediator and in Hebrews 4:16 we are assured that we can now come boldly to the throne and obtain the help and grace that we need. He fixed the next problem too by giving us Jesus.** In **10:4** Job asked if God has eyes of flesh--does he see as man sees? Job says, do you, God know what it is like to be finite and human and flawed? **God can answer, "yes" because Jesus became flesh and blood and went through it all.** Job wanted to know why God was being so hard on him. **Remember that God didn't do this thing to him, fear and distrust did it to him and God is the one who is going to bring Job to a place where he will no longer get into fear and distrust. Halleluiah!**

Read the 11th chapter.

Zophar joins in. He had become impatient with Job's complaining against God. **Vs 3** He goes on to defend God and to suggest that Job repent so God can help him. **Vs 13-20.**

Read the 12th through the 14th chapters

Job is getting very put out with his friends. To paraphrase, he says, so you are wise and I'm not, I suppose. He feels as if he has become a laughingstock to them. **12:1-4** In chapter **13**, he assures them that he knows all the same wisdom that they know. In **13:3**, he expresses his deep desire to communicate with the Almighty. As he defends himself before his friends, he become more confident that he has a case to present to God and in verse **15** he declares his determination to wait for and trust in God. **Vs 18** He asks God to withdraw his hand and help him understand where he missed it. **Vs 21-23** He, again, says he is only human and is bound to make mistakes--why is God so mad at him? **Chapter 14**

Read the 15th chapter.

Eliphaz feels he has to speak again and now he is put out with Job. He says Job is engaged in unprofitable talk. **Vs 3** Job was stating his dilemma and Eliphaz is indignant with him. He says Job is being arrogant. **Vs 6** He goes on to warn Job not to cover his sin--to quit deceiving himself. **Vs 31-35**

Read the 16th and the 17th chapters.

Job tells his friends that they are wearisome and miserable comforters. **Vs 1** He says if he were in their place and they in his, he could say the same things to them, but that he would rather find words to strengthen and encourage them. **Vs. 4-5** He now decides that it is man's adversary who had torn him up. **Vs 9-13** He again declares his innocence and his confidence that God knows he has not intentionally sinned. **Vs 19** In verse **20**, he cries out for someone who can plead his cause to God. **Again, God provided this by giving us Jesus, our High Priest forever. Praise the Lord!** In chapter **17:3**, Job asks for one who will stand in the gap for him. **God has given us Jesus to stand in the gap for us. This means that Job's need for an intercessor has been met in Jesus and all those who are his, need never go through Job's dilemma--they have representation before God--if they are in right standing with God their sins are forgiven, their bodies are healed, and their lives are restored. Halleluiah!**

Read the 18th chapter.
Bildad is still accusing Job.

Read the 19th chapter.
Job asks them how long they are going to torment him. They have, for the moment, pushed their friend over the edge and he speaks foolishly. **Vs 6-9** In verse **23**, he expresses a desire to have his words written in a book forever, **because he knows that his redeemer lives and vindication will one day be his. I believe wherever you find Job rallying in faith that the Holy Spirit encouraged him because God had said to Satan, "You cannot take his life."**

Read the 20th chapter.
Zophar take another shot at Job.

Read the 21st chapter.
Job refutes them by declaring the vanity and irony of life.

Read the 22nd chapter.
Eliphaz comes right out and accuses Job of great sin. **Vs 5-14**

Read the 23rd and the 24th chapters.
Job again cries out for an audience with God. **Vs 3** In verse **10** Job is again encouraged by the Holy Spirit and his confidence that God will declare his innocence becomes strong. But then he

immediately loses heart and subsides back into fear and distrust.

Read the 25 chapter.
Bildad rebukes Job.

Read the 26th through the 31st chapters.

Job had been harassed into speaking foolishly again. **Vs 2** He then repeats some truths that they all four know. In chapter **28** Job yearns for the good old days when he felt God's approval and he prospered. In chapter **30** he laments the present. Verse **28** shows why he got into turmoil. When he looked for good, evil came. In chapter **31** he shares how he revered and obeyed God and abhorred evil. In verse **23** he reveals that he feared calamity and that is why he carefully obeyed God. He is totally bewildered as to why calamity befell him and he is at his wits end with the whole thing.

Read the 32nd through the 37th chapters.

The three friends cease to answer Job because he is rigidly righteous in his own eyes. **32:1** There was a fourth person listening to the whole exchange. Elihu had not spoken because he was younger, but now that everyone has said their piece he feels impelled to share what he sees of the situation. **Vs 6-22** I believe God anointed him to speak because when he is finished, the storm in Job subsided and God is able to deal with him. **Vs 6, 20, 33:4, 38:1** In chapter **33** Elihu talks of God's ways and purposes in dealing with men. In chapter **34, 35, and 36** he establishes God wisdom, righteousness, and trustworthiness in his dealings with man. In **34:17** he asks, "Shall even he that hateth right govern? and wilt thou condemn him that is most just?" In **34:35** Elihu accuses Job of speaking without knowledge and wisdom, and God agrees **38:2**, but he does not accuse Job of sin as the other three did. He shows in **35:13** that a man must ask as James teaches--ask in faith, not being double-minded. **James 1:6** In chapter **36** he declares God's fairness or justice and in chapter **37** he declares some of God's mighty acts ending with **23-24** where he says that men revere God because he is excellent in power, justice, and righteousness and that he does not regard any who are wise in their own eyes and thus declare the opponent wrong--in this case, God. This is what Job repents of in **40:4, 42:3-5**.

Read the 38th and the 39th chapters.

God finally answers Job. He had Elihu prepare his mind--calm him down and get his mind on God's trustworthiness, now he rebukes

Job. He lists a very impressive list of his achievements born of love, wisdom, and understanding. Then asks Job, Where were you when I did all these great things, Job? In chapter 39, God continues to show by his acts his knowledge and might.

Read the 40th and the 41st chapters.

Job repents. **40:4** Verse 6 says, then God answered Job out of the whirlwind *i.e.* storm. This time God rebukes Job for condemning his creator. **Vs 8, 41:10** He asks Job if he can tame or control the large and violent animals, such as the behemoth and the leviathan. In chapter 41 God goes on about the leviathan's might and daring throughout the whole chapter. He finishes with, "He beholds all high things: he is a king over all the children of pride." **41:34** I really think God is referring to Satan and the tongue as he teaches about the leviathan. That theory is based upon the following scriptures and the fact that God goes on and on about the ways of the leviathan. I think he wants us to understand the ways of the devil and of the tongue when the devil gets a hold of it. **Isa:27:1:** In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea. **Job 41:19** Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire leap out. Out of his nostrils goes smoke, as out of a seething pot or caldron. **Job 41:34** He beholds all high things: he is a king over all the children of pride. **James 3:2-8** For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor lists. **Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasts great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.**

Read the 42nd chapter.

Job repents of his prideful ness--that's what causes man to speak against the Almighty--pride. Apparently, he had counseled so many

that he thought he knew more than he did know. Then God rebukes the three friends. **42:7-12** And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, **My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends:** for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; **and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept:** lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job. So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the LORD commanded them: the LORD also accepted Job. And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, **when he prayed for his friends:** also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. **(Notice that the prayer of the righteous avails much and God did not have to deal the three friends according to their folly. We need to pray for one another.)**

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