

JOB

Background

Historically – patriarchal time period, maybe around 2,000 B.C.

Author – unknown, but possibly Moses who God used to write Genesis

Theme or purpose? When bad things happen to good people.

1. The Story

A) Chapter One

- > Job's Reputation (Job 1:6-8)

- > Satan's Assault (Job 1:9-11)

- > Job's Commitment (Job 1:20-22)

B) Chapter Two

- > Job's Reputation (Job 2:3)

- > Satan's Accusation (Job 2:4-5)

- > Job's Commitment (Job 2:9-10)

2. Job's Dilemma (Job 3-37)

A) Job's grief and confidence

- > His grief is such that he wishes he were never born (Job 3:1-3, 11-13)

- > Job's confidence is that he has done no sin that merits the tragic circumstances of his life

Job's theology was flawed

Job wants to present his case to God to prove Job's innocence, but God is nowhere to be found (Job 10:1-3 and Job 23:1-12)

B) Job's friends come to comfort him

- > By sitting and mourning with him for seven days (Job 2:11-13)

- > By identifying the cause for his suffering
 - Eliphaz (Job 5:17-18)
 - Bildad (Job 8:1-6)
 - Zophar (Job 11:4-6)
 - Elihu (Job 34:5-12)

C) Job and his friends' dilemma is a result wrong thinking

- > Their understanding of what has happened / is happening is limited
- > Their theology is messed up – God rewards the righteous and judges the unrighteous.

3. God Speaks

A) A surprise Guest arrives and He isn't happy (Job 38:1-3)

- > Job and his friends discourse – chapters 3-37, takes an interesting turn

God is going to speak for Himself and give Job an opportunity to present his case

B) To resolve Job's dilemma God, instead of answering Job's question, asks Job questions

- > This is fascinating because when we suffer the one thing we believe we deserve is an explanation
- > God appears in Job in the midst of a whirlwind

Read Job 38:4-11 to give a taste of the inquisition that continues through chapter 39

C) God isn't finished

- > With God's declaration of His sovereignty and power over all creation, He now asks Job if he is ready to present his case. (Job 40:1-2, 6-14)

Notice the change in Job (Job 40:3-5)

- > Next he asks Job about his ability to control Behemoth and Leviathan (Job 40:15-41:34)

Notice the change in Job (Job 42:1-6)

Notice that God never answers Job's questions – and Job is content.

Notice that God, after Job's repentance, blesses him

- By correcting his friends (Job 42:7-9)
- By restoring his losses (Job 42:10)
- By vindicating and comforting him (Job 42:11)