

JOB

1. TITLES:

- A. Job = persecuted; he that weeps, speaks, or cries out of a hollow place; sorrowful; the one who turns to God
- B. The Book of the Mystery of Suffering
- C. The Book of Blessing Through Suffering

2. AUTHOR:

Probably written by Job himself (19:23, 24) since he lived 140 years after these events took place (42:16). Some have suggested Moses or Elihu as possible authors.

3. DATE:

- A. Covers a period of only a few weeks or possibly a few months time.
- B. Probably written during the time of the patriarchs. It is considered by most to be the first book of the Bible written.

4. KEY WORDS:

- A. Wicked (ly, ness) - 48
- B. Right (eous, eousness) - 32
- C. Why - 16
- D. Afflict (ed, tion) - 11

Key Phrase:

- A. "answered and said" – 27

5. KEY VERSES: 1:9 (SATAN); 2:3 (GOD); 13:15 (JOB); 42:5

6. PURPOSE:

- A. To deal with the problem as to how the suffering of the godly can be reconciled with the justice and love of God.
- B. To set forth Job as God's example of patience under suffering (James 5:11).

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7. MESSAGE:

- A. The cause and purpose of the affliction of the righteous often remain a mystery to the sufferer.
- B. God uses affliction to reveal character and to expose areas of weakness that need to come under His dealings.
- C. God is sovereign and Satan can only do what God allows.

8. OUTLINE:

- I. Prologue Ch. 1-2
 - A. Scenes on Earth (1:1-5, 13-22; 2:7-13)
 - B. Scenes in Heaven (1:6-12; 2:1-6)
- II. Dialogue Ch. 3-41
 - A. Three Triads of Discourses Ch. 4-37
 - B. God's Closing Intervention Ch. 38-41
- III. Epilogue Ch. 42

9. SUMMARY:

Job, a godly man, suffered the loss of his fortune, family, and personal health. He was baffled by his affliction not knowing that he was the target of a conflict between God and Satan. His three friends; Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, "comforted" him by trying to convince him that his suffering was punishment from God because of his personal sin. Elihu, having partial light on the situation, explained Job's suffering as being chastisement sent to purify Job. Finally, God spoke putting Job and the others in their place. Job's suffering was designed, first of all, as a trial in which Job could prove himself in opposition to Satan, but since Job did not pass through the trial entirely without blemish, it also had the effect of purifying him. In the end, Job was blessed with a double portion of all he had before.

NOTE: There are rich Messianic prophecies in Job (9:32, 33, 19:25-27)

NOTE: Many principles of counselling can be gleaned from this book.

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10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as the Priest, whose patient suffering was inflicted by Satan but purposed by God.