

Through the Bible Course

**February 16, 1947**

**Job**

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Key Word: Sufferings

Key Verse: 34:31, 32

The Purpose: To justify the wisdom and goodness of God in matters of human suffering and especially to show that all suffering is not punishment.

The Time: During period of patriarchs. Some believe this book is oldest writing of all Scriptures.

Method: A discussion – arguments and answers between Job and three friends which is interrupted by Elihu and concluded by God.

- I. Problem raised by Job's afflictions – chapters 1 and 2
  1. Notice goodness of Job, greatness of God, and limitations placed upon Satan.
  
- II. First Round of Discussions – chapters 3 through 14
  1. Job's first speech – He cursed his day (not God) wishes he had not been born – ch. 3
  2. Eliphaz's first discourse – chapters 4 and 5
    - a. He contends Job was sinful and that his affliction proves it – 4:7-9
  3. Job answers Eliphaz – chapters 6 and 7
    - a. He appeals for pity and says death would be easier – 6:9-11 (Notice 7:13-14 with what Eliphaz had said in 4:12-17)
  4. Bildad's first discourse – chapter 8
    - a. He also says Job is grievous sinner, even a hypocrite – chapter 1 – 6:13, 20
  5. Job answers Bildad – chapters 9 and 10
    - a. He denies charge and wishes could appeal to God – 9:2 – 4:11
  6. Zophar's first discourse – chapter 11
    - a. He, too, urges certainty of Job's guilty – verses 3-6 and 11-15
  7. Job answers Zophar – chapters 12 through 14
    - a. Wicked do prosper – 12:6
    - b. Recognizes the greatness of God – 12:9-25
    - c. His great expression of faith – 13:15, 16; his inquiry about life after death – 14:14-15
  
- III. Second Round of Discussions – chapters 15 through 21
  1. Eliphaz's second discourse – chapter 15
    - a. Eliphaz says he is wise too and points to his experience to prove Job is sinful.
  2. Job answers Eliphaz – chapters 16 and 17
    - a. Job says they are miserable comforters and speak as those not afflicted – 16:1-4

3. Bildad's second discourse – chapter 18
    - a. He says Job is sinful which his suffering demonstrates.
  4. Job answers Bildad – chapter 19
    - a. Job reaffirms his faith – verses 25-27
  5. Zophar's second discourse – chapter 20
    - a. He argues that triumph of wicked is short and that they perish – verses 4-7
  6. Job answers Zophar – chapter 21
    - a. Wicked prosper which refutes proof he is sinful – verses 7-9
- IV. Third Round of Discussions – chapters 22 through 31
1. Eliphaz's third discourse – chapter 22
    - a. He accuses Job of sin – verse 5
  2. Job answers Eliphaz by saying he wished he could appeal to God – 23:1-6 and 24:10
  3. Bildad's third discourse – chapter 25
    - a. Even heavenly bodies are not pure – then surely man is not.
  4. Job answers Bildad – chapters 26 through 31
    - a. Job again defends his goodness and contrasts former condition with present – chapter 29:1-25; chapter 30:1, 9, 10
- V. Elihu's Discourse – chapters 32 through 37
1. He was mad at comforter and Job – 32:2, 3
  2. He speaks of suffering.
    - a. God accomplished what He will through them – 33:17, 18, 29, 30; 34:31, 32
    - b. Shows Job's contention of innocency is untrue – 34:36, 37
    - c. Magnifies greatness of God – 33:12, 13; 34:10, chapter 37
- VI. God Speaks – chapters 38 through 41
1. God silences Job by asking questions which shows Job's ignorance and weakness.
- VII. Job sees God, Repents, and is Restored – chapter 42