

# Job



## Study Outline

**Main Point:** In light of the fact, this book was penned to address a very controversial, long-debated topic, whether or not the book of Job was the first book of the Bible written is really a secondary point. As long as man has lived, the fundamental issue of pain and suffering, and its allowed existence by a “Loving God” have been a common point of discussion and debate by both religious scholars & pagan philosophers down through the millennia.

Though the fundamental answer to this timeless question isn’t exactly provided, the story of Job does serve to challenge our perspective by illustrating several key components we would be wise to consider before reaching our own conclusions. First, this book acknowledges the “Reality of Suffering”. Secondly, it explains the “Source of all Suffering”. Thirdly, the book of Job is honest concerning the “Result of Human Suffering”. Fourthly, Job’s dialogue with his friends illustrate the “Limitations of Human Explanations”. And finally, this book uniquely provides “God’s Interesting Perspective” in a series of tough questions of His own.

### 1. Scene 1: The Drama Begins.... Job 1-3

- a. Reality of Suffering** Job 1-2
  - Good People are Not Immune to Suffering
  - God Plays a Role in Suffering: Allows Suffering & Dictates Amount
  - There is Always a Purpose behind Suffering
- b. Source of All Suffering** Job 1-2
  - Satan Attacks Job: Monetarily, Physically, Emotionally, Spiritually
- c. Result of Suffering** - Despair & Anguish Job 3

### 2. Scene 2: The Conversation Enue.... Job 4-37

- a. Limitations in Human Explanations**
  - 1. 3 Waves of Dialogue with Eliphaz, Bildad & Zopha Job 3-31
    - Q: Is Human Suffering always a Divine Punishment?
      - Problem: Job claims he’s been blameless before the Lord.
      - Problem: Why aren’t the wicked always punished?
  - 2. Conversation with Elihu Job 32-37
    - Job.... You’re Not Righteous Job 33
    - Job.... God is Just Job 34
    - Job.... Don’t be Self-Righteous Job 35
    - Job.... God is Good Job 36-37

### 3. Scene 3: The Divine Intervention.... Job 38-42

- a. God’s Interesting Perspective**
  - 1. The Foolishness of Questioning an Infinite God. Job 38-41
    - Q: Will you trust that I know what I’m doing?
  - 2. The Limited Knowledge of Finite Humanity. Job 42
    - Q: What is more logical: limited human reason or infinite Divine revelation?



## *Day 1: Satan Attacks.....*

**Job 1:1-12; 2:1-10 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). Though we incorrectly think of Satan and God as being equal forces, what do we learn concerning Satan and his attitude towards the people of God? (2). In what ways does our story provide encouragement for the believer facing pain and suffering? (3). Think about the fact that God knew Job and was “up-to-speed” with the events of his life.... Isn't it a comforting reality to know that God is “up-to-speed” with my life as well?

## *Day 2: Suffering Equals Sinning.....*

**Job 4:1-21 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). In context to the scene setting of chapter one, what is the fundamental flaw of Eliphaz's argument? (2). Since we know Job wasn't being punished for some hidden sin, in what other ways is this line of reasoning is flawed? (3). How do you think this concept finds itself rooted in empty religion?

## *Day 3: Miserable Comforters.....*

**Job 16:1-22 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). In what ways were Job's three friends indeed “miserable comforters”? (2). What is a key component that makes a person a good comforter and how should this challenge our perspective of suffering? (3). In what ways is Jesus the most equipped person to provide comfort in our time of need?

## *Day 4: Brilliant Flash of Faith.....*

**Job 19:23-29 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). Why would the knowledge of a Living Redeemer provide Job comfort in the midst of his suffering? (2). How can you apply the reality that - in the midst of pain - Job based his decisions on things he “knew” not how he felt? (3). In what ways have your personal trials brought you closer to Jesus- the Redeemer?

## *Day 5: In the Shadows.....*

**Job 23:1-17 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). Though Job “felt” distant from God, what realities concerning God did he confidently hold onto? (2). What was the anchor that help Job maintain a heavenly perspective in a hellish set of circumstances? (3). In what ways have your trials and sufferings served to perfect your integrity and character?

## *Day 6: Who Not Why.....*

**Job 39-41 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). Does God give an explanation for “why” Job has been allowed to suffer? (2). Instead of a “why”, God instead challenges Job to focus his attention on “whom”? (3). What characteristics of God should provide solace in the midst of suffering?

# DEVOTIONS

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