

# The Book of Job

## Chapter 1

Job lived in Southern Israel.  
He had 7 sons and 3 daughters.  
He owned thousands of animals.  
He loved God and was a good man.

Satan, one of the fallen angels,  
challenged God to let Job be put to the test.  
God gave permission to Satan to test Job.

On one day,  
all Job's animals were captured by raiders,  
and all his children died in a storm.

Job tore his clothes, shaved his head,  
bowed to the ground and prayed:  
"Naked I came from my mother's womb,  
naked I shall return to the womb of the earth.  
The Lord gave, the Lord has taken back.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord."

Dear God, please give us courage and faith  
when life is difficult

## Chapter 2

Satan asked permission from God to test Job even further. God gave permission. Satan struck Job with sores and ulcers from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.

Job scraped himself with a piece of pot.

His wife told him to curse God and die. But Job replied "If we take happiness from God's hand, must we not take sorrow too?"

News of Job's situation reached three of his friends: Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar and they decided to visit Job.

When they drew near to Job, they did not recognize him.

They wept, tore their clothes and sat on the ground beside Job for 7 days without speaking, stunned and saddened by Job's appearance.

Dear God, please help me imitate Job's trust and faith

## Chapters 3 – 7

Job broke the 7 day silence by wishing that he had never been born.

He added "For me, there is no peace, no sleep. My suffering doesn't let me rest."

Eliphaz then spoke and reminded Job that God corrects those whom he loves.

Job replied that he was innocent of any wrongdoing, so why was he being punished?

He added: "Lying in bed I wonder 'When will it be day?' During the day I think 'How slowly night comes.'"

Neither day nor night offers me any relief from my suffering."

Dear Lord, please give courage and peace to people who are suffering great pain or distress

## Chapters 8 – 10

Bildad then spoke of God's justice and the fate of people who forget God.

Job agreed and said how God was sole creator and judge of the world:

"He and no other stretched out the skies.

The Bear, Orion, the Pleiades and the Mansions of the South - all were made by him.

Challenging God is unthinkable.

Yet I know I am innocent and I'm being punished unjustly.

I also know that God knows I'm innocent.

So why am I being punished? This is my question."

Dear God, please save us in time of trial

## Chapters 11 – 14

Zophar then said that Job must still have some secret sins of which he had not repented.

Job sarcastically replied:

"No doubt you are the voice of the people and when you die, wisdom will die with you.

I am only too aware that God knows everything.

How could I hide anything from him?

God, why do you hide your face?

Why do you look on me as an enemy?"

Dear God, please give us trust and courage in time of trial

## Chapters 15 – 17

Eliphaz then said that Job's own words condemned him since he was in fact challenging God.

Job replied that he was sick and tired of listening to his friends' speeches.

He also said he felt death was not far away:

"My breath grows weak, I am ridiculed by everyone, every fiber of my heart is broken. I have no hope."

Lord, help of the helpless,  
please help people who feel their situation is hopeless

### Chapters 18 – 19

Bildad then said that Job's suffering was caused by his sins. Job repeated that he was innocent of any wrong-doing. He added:

"I am sure of three things:  
my God lives,  
my God will rescue me,  
and I will see my God's face."

Dear God, I believe you live  
and that someday I will see your face

### Chapters 20 – 21

Zophar then said it was unreasonable for Job to think that his situation was an exception as regards God's justice.

Job replied:

"I can't help asking why do wicked people prosper while good people suffer?"

Dear God, please help us to understand  
the mystery of good and evil

### Chapters 22 – 24

Eliphaz then said that God was punishing Job because justice demanded that Job be punished for his sins.

Job replied:

"I know that God sees everyone and everything.  
God sees every step I take. But I cannot contact him.

He has filled my life with sadness and fear  
and yet he doesn't answer my prayer."

Dear God, in times of darkness, with Jesus we pray  
"My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

### Chapters 25 – 31

Bildad then reminded Job that  
God's power is beyond human understanding.  
No one should question God's actions.

Job replied:

"I swear by God who denies me justice that as long as  
I have breath, I will live a life of innocence.

I remember how I have always lived as a friend of God:  
how I helped the poor, the orphan, the dying, the widow,  
the blind, the lame.

I remember how I made a pact with my eyes  
not to linger on any other woman but my wife.

I remember how I have never put my trust in riches or fame.  
I have always trusted only in the Lord.

Yet now people laugh at me and make fun of me.  
They avoid me and even spit on me.

When will God answer me?"

Dear God, please help me to imitate Job's way of life

### Chapters 32 – 39

Job's three friends had no more to say.  
But a young man named Elihu,  
decided to join the conversation.

He said to Job "How can you claim to be innocent and yet say that God is persecuting you without cause?"

As Elihu continued his speech,  
suddenly the voice of God himself was heard.

God asked Job "Have you ever given orders to the morning for day to begin?

Have you ever arranged the stars in the sky?

Was it you who gave all the animals their various powers?  
Who do you think you are?"

Dear God, when we are confronted by the mystery  
of suffering and evil, please help us realize that  
these things do not come from you

### Chapters 40 – 42

Job said to God : "My words have been frivolous.  
I will not say anything else."

God then reminded Job how God was creator of everything,  
including amazing animals like the hippo and crocodile.

Job then said to God : "I know you are all-powerful.  
I have been speaking about things I don't fully understand.  
I retract all I have said and in dust and ashes I repent."

God then praised Job for his fidelity.  
God restored Job to good health.

God restored Job's possessions, more than he had before:  
10 more children and thousands of animals.  
Job lived to be 140 years old and died full of peace.

Dear God, you never really answered Job's questions  
about the mystery of evil and suffering  
...but I know your Son Jesus gave us the answers