

The Book of Job, chapters 1-2

Job's story is recorded for us so that we will have some help in living through sufferings —and not just keeping a stiff upper lip but bowing reverently and trustingly before the sovereign goodness of God.

Central message: **Continue to trust in a God who is good when everything seems so bad. Job is a man who trusts God for *who he is*, even though he does not know God's ultimate plan.**

Job's Character and Blessing (1:1-5)

Scene 1: The Lord's Council Chamber (1:6-12).

God is in control. Satan has to ask permission and what Satan does cannot go one inch beyond what God's permission has given him.

Scene 2 – Job's land (1:13-22).

'At this Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head [signs of intense grief and mourning]. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "***Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.***" (1:21).

Scene 3 – the Lord's Council Chamber (2:1-7a):

Scene 4 – Job's land (2:7b-10).

Job says ***I will not give up my confidence in the sovereignty of God!***

He did not sin, he did not charge God with wrong-doing, he said nothing against God (2:10).

- 1) **God is sovereign over suffering: in a mysterious way which we cannot fathom, suffering does fall within his overruling power.**

The Living God, the Lord, is the only supreme God. Nothing happens in the universe without his permission.

- 2) **There is an element of mystery in all suffering.**
Trust God in situations when we do not know why certain things are happening.
- 3) **Satan's aim is to destroy our joy and faith in God.**
- 4) **Let us affirm with all our hearts the absolute sovereignty of God.**

Psalm 115:3 - "Our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he pleases."

Daniel 4:35 - He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. no one can hold back his hand or say to him: 'What have you done?'

Let us make the absolute sovereignty of God the rock on which we build our lives and our church.

- 5) **Let us allow our tears flow freely when suffering comes.**

See Job 1:20; 3:1-11.

- 6) **Let us trust in the goodness of God, and let him be our treasure and our joy.**
Psalm 63:3 - "The steadfast love of the Lord is better than life."

Watch cartoon on Job: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/job/>

Outline and structure of the book of Job

PART I. JOB AND WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM

<i>Introducing Job</i>	1:1-5
What happened to Job	1:6 - 2:10

PART 2. JOB'S FRIENDS AND THEIR 'CONVERSATIONS' WITH JOB

<i>Introducing Job's three friends</i>	2:11-13
Speeches by Job and his friends	3:1 - 27:23

Job's 1st lament (3)

1st cycle of speeches

Eliphaz (4 - 5)	Job (6 - 7)
Bildad (8)	Job (9 - 10)
Zophar (11)	Job (12 - 14)

2nd cycle of speeches

Eliphaz (15)	Job (16 - 17)
Bildad (18)	Job (19)
Zophar (20)	Job (21)

3rd cycle of speeches (interrupted)

Eliphaz (22)	Job (23 - 24)
Bildad (25)	Job (26 - 27)

Poem about wisdom	28:1-28
Job's final defence	29:1 - 31:40

PART 3. THE ANSWERS TO JOB

<i>Introducing Elihu</i>	32:1-5
Elihu's answers	32:6 - 37:24
The Lord's first answer and Job's response	38:1 - 40:5
The Lord's second answer and Job's response	40:6 - 42:6
Conclusion	42:7-17



FACING THE TESTS OF LIFE

- 1. Thoughts on Life's Goals (1:1-5)**
- 2. Endurance for Serious Troubles (1:6-2:13)**
- 3. Search for Right Perspectives (3-37)**
- 4. Time before a Holy God (38-42:9)**
- 5. Satisfaction with Life's Reward (42:10-17)**