

THE REAL STORY ABOUT JOB

Setting the Record Straight

- The Book of Job is considered **the oldest book in the Bible**, likely written before Abraham.
- Book of Ezekiel 14:12–14 confirms Job as a **righteous man in the midst of a wicked generation**.
- His suffering lasted approximately **6 to 9 months**, yet he lived **140 years after his restoration** (Job 42:16).
- Job may have been in his **60s** during this trial.
- Though his **theology was not fully accurate**, his **heart was right**—God Himself called him *upright*.
- Job had **no Bible, no covenant, and no full revelation of God**.
- It is believed that **Elihu**, an eyewitness, may have been the one who recorded the book.

A Common Misinterpretation

Many use Job’s story to teach that:

- Sickness is part of God’s plan
- God works with the devil to test and purify us

But Scripture instructs us otherwise:

2Timothy 2:15

“Rightly divide the Word of Truth.”

We must interpret Job **correctly**, not build doctrine from misunderstood passages.

The Structure of Job

Understanding *who is speaking* is essential:

1. **Job 1–2** → The narrator (historical account)
2. **Job 3–31** → Job and his three friends speak
 - a. Eliphaz
 - b. Bildad
 - c. Zophar
3. **Job 32–37** → Elihu speaks
4. **Job 38–41** → God speaks

The Turning Point: What God Said

God Himself evaluates the earlier speeches:

Job 38:2 “Who is this who darkens counsel without knowledge?”

Job 42:7 “My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends for you have not spoken of Me what is right...” Job 42:3 (Job admits) “I have uttered what I did not understand.”

Key Revelation

God is upset because what the friends said was dark counsel and words without knowledge. Everything spoken from Job 3 to 37 is **recorded truthfully—but not all is doctrinal truth.**

Important Principle:

The Bible records statements accurately—but does not endorse all of them as truth.

Examples:

- John 8:48, 52 → They said Jesus had a demon
- Matthew 12:24 → They accused Him of working by Beelzebub

These statements are recorded, but clearly false.

- Job 25:6 “How much less man, who is a maggot, and a son of man who is a worm.” (Read also Job 15:15,16)

This is recorded, but is this true? Not according to Psalms 8:4-6

“What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his feet”

A) FALSE THEOLOGY IN JOB - What Job’s friends taught:

1. Suffering = God’s punishment and Judgment on Job because Job was in sin

(Job 4:7–9; 8:3–6; 11:13–15) But:

- But remember that Sin was not imputed before the law
Romans 5:13 “For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.”
- James 5:16 shows that sin is not always the reason → “**IF** they have sinned...”
- Gospel of John 9:1–3 → Who has sinned, him or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus responded: “Neither...”

Sin can open a door—but it is **not always the cause of suffering.**

2. God Did This to Teach Job

(Job 5:17–18)

But how did God actually teach Job?

By revealing Himself, by giving him His word—not by afflicting him.

B) WHO DID THIS TO JOB AND WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?

1. God did not do all of this to Job

Job 1:6-8 “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before Jehovah, and Satan also came among them. Jehovah said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered Jehovah and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking about in it. Jehovah said to Satan, "Have you set your heart upon my servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil?" UASV

God was not dangling Job before the devil like a carrot, He already knew what Satan was up to.

The New Testament reveals satan’s mode of operation.

- 1Pierre 5:8 “the devil always walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour”
- Luke 22:31 “Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat”
- Rev 12:10 “... for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

All the Lord did was bring this out in the open: “you already have set your heart upon Job”

God did not afflict him but Satan struck Job

Job 2:7 “So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.”

2. Why did God allow this to happen?

Job 1:12 “All that he has is in your power.”

This was not God giving—but acknowledging an existing reality, Job was already under satan’s power.

Spiritual Context

- 2Corinthians 4:4 → Satan = god of this world
- 1 John 5:19 → The world lies under the sway of the evil one
- Luke 4:6 → Authority had been handed over to satan by Adam.
- Romans 6:16 → Do you not know that to whom you yield yourselves.... you are slaves to him whom you obey

Humanity had yielded authority, giving Satan legal access.

3. Why No Divine Intervention?

Because:

- God operates within justice and legal authority.
- In order to protect man, He had to cut legal covenants with man. (A covenant is legal and invites God into a man’s life).
- Job had no legal covenant with God.
- When Satan accused Job (Rev. 12:10), God, in His justice, could not override the legal authority man had yielded to Satan. Without a covenant, there was no legal ground for protection, so God permitted what was already under Satan’s dominion.
- God’s desire has always been to bless man. That is why He began establishing covenants with humanity. A covenant had to be entered into legally—man choosing to invite God and come under His authority.
- All earlier covenants were partial, pointing to something greater. When Jesus came, God established a perfect covenant with Him, and through receiving Christ, we enter into that covenant with God.

C) ELIHU CONTRADICT JOB AND HIS FRIENDS AND BRINGS A KEY REVELATION (Job 32–37)

Elihu brings clarity:

- There is **no mediator yet** (Job 33:23–29) → prophetic of Christ
- God is **righteous** and **just** and everything has to be done legally.
- God is **good**
- God is **mighty** and **worthy of worship**

After this **God reveals Himself**.

D) WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM JOB?

1. In the midst of trials, Job still worshipped God and did not abandon his faith

Job 1:20 — He worshipped

James 5:11 — His perseverance

His victory was not enduring suffering—but **refusing to let go of God**

The enemy’s goal was not to kill him—but to make him **curse God**

Our application:

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

When we suffer, we should praise the Lord, not for the sufferings but for His deliverance, His goodness and compassion, because He has overcome the world.

2. Pray for Those Who Hurt You

Job 42:10 — Job prayed for his friends

Our application:

Love our enemies

Matthew 5:44 Jesus commanded us to love our enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who despitefully use you and persecute you.

3. God’s Heart Is to Bless

James 5:11 “The end intended by the Lord...”

Job 42:10 — Restoration and double blessing

God’s goal was never destruction— but **restoration through revelation**

We see this example in the life of Joseph:

Genesis 50:20 “You intended to harm me, but God turned it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

Final Revelation

The Book of Job is not primarily about suffering.

It is about:

- a. **God’s compassion**
- b. **Deliverance**
- c. **Revelation of God**

Powerful Closing Line

“Job’s story is not about how God brings suffering—but how God brings a man out of suffering into deeper revelation and greater blessing.”