

# Job - the test of a lifetime

In one of his preaching messages, Dr. Randy Pike stated that there are three parts in the book of Job. In the first section Satan worked on Job. He tried his best to torment Job to the point where he would become bitter and curse God. In the second section men worked on Job. They believed that Job's troubles proved that he was a wicked sinner, so they tried their best to get him to admit his sin and repent. In the third section God worked on Job. He showed Job where he was wrong in his conception of God's greatness. He then healed Job and restored his wealth and position. Dr. Pike then said that there are two whirlwinds in the book. In the first whirlwind Satan destroyed; in the second whirlwind God healed.

## Section one

The essence of chapters 1 and 2 is that Satan and God got into a contest. God said Job would be faithful to Him, and Satan said Job would curse God. In order to show Satan that Job would be faithful to God, He gave Satan permission to take away all of Job's wealth. To the Lord's glory, Job did not curse God. Satan was then given permission to take away Job's health leaving him in excruciating pain. To God's glory, once again Job did not curse God.

## Section two

In chapters 3 through 37 Job's three friends believed that only wicked people suffer. Therefore, they tried their best to get Job to admit that he was wicked and repent of his sin.

**In chapter 3** Job was in excruciating pain. It was so bad that he told his friends that he wished he had never been born so that he wouldn't have to endure the pain. This is understandable considering his circumstances.

**In chapters 4 and 5** Eliphaz saw Job's statement as complaining, so he told Job to suck it up, and follow the advice he had given others over the years. He said that Job's condition proved he was a wicked sinner and that he deserved the punishment he was getting. He shared a terrifying dream with Job telling him that some spirit said that Job was never going to be better than his maker. Finally, he told Job that God made him sick, and God can heal him.

**In chapters 6 and 7** Job replied to Eliphaz. He said that he wished he could die because Eliphaz and his friends had no concept of how much pain and grief he was enduring every moment of the day and night. He had no hope of recovering, so he wished God would just kill him and end the trial. He said that his friends should comfort him, but they were merely adding insult to injury. So Job said, "Either prove to me where I am wrong, or shut your mouth."

**In chapter 8** Bildad rebuked Job because it was common knowledge from generations past that only wicked sinners experience severe suffering. Therefore, Job must be guilty. He told Job that he needed to ask God to forgive his sin, and God would bless him. He said, "Look what happened to your kids. If you don't repent, something like that will happen to you."

**In chapters 9 and 10** Job replied to Bildad's concerns by saying that God is great and awesome, but why was He punishing me like this? You guys need to realize that at times God inflicts innocent people along with the guilty. I am innocent, but I cannot prove it. I don't understand why God is making my life so miserable when He is the One who made me. I wish my mother had miscarried, and I wouldn't have to endure this pain.

**In chapter 11** Zophar harshly rebuked Job by saying, "You claim to be innocent, but God would pronounce you guilty. Of course, you're too dumb to understand such things. Repent of your sins, or worse things will happen to you."

**In chapters 12 thru 14** Job told his friends that they were a sorry lot and of no help to him. They needed to learn that God allows injustices, so their arguments proved nothing. Even nature understands that. He told them, "I know that I will be cleared of guilt if I can talk to God directly, but I still wish that God would show me what I might have done wrong. Oh well, it won't be long before I die, and all of this will be over. I wish I could die today."

**In chapter 15** Eliphaz chided Job a second time. He told Job that he and his friends were not stupid like Job said. He said, "Your sin made you sick, and you have no hope of healing yourself. You're merely getting what you deserve. Wake up to that fact."

**In chapters 16 and 17** Job told his friends that they were partners with God against him and that they needed to be punished for their sin. They were indeed a sorry lot.

**In chapter 18** Bildad gave Job a second harsh rebuke. He said, "Job, you are angry with us and think we are stupid. Well, Job, you are doomed. Face it."

**In chapter 19** Job responded to Bildad by saying, "You are continually beating me down with your accusations. It appears certain that I have lost all of my friends and acquaintances. Even though you see me as guilty, I know that I will stand before God personally when I die because I am innocent of the charges you level against me."

**In chapter 20** Zophar told Job that the sins of wicked men have consequences. Then he said, "Job, you are enduring those consequences."

**In chapter 21** Job told Zophar, "Your belief that all suffering is the result of sin is wrong because there are some wicked men who prosper and live a long time. Can't you see this?"

**In chapter 22** Eliphaz described all of the sins wicked men commit. Then he said, "Job, they describe you perfectly. Recognize that you are getting what you deserve, but if you repent, all will go well with you."

**In chapters 23 and 24** Job said that he would like to stand before God personally so that he could be pronounced innocent. After that, he explained a detailed listing of the things wicked men do. He asked Eliphaz that since they had known each other for so many years, did he really believe that Job would actually commit such atrocities?

**In chapter 25** Bildad once again harshly rebuked Job by saying that God wouldn't save a worm of a man like him.

**In chapters 26 thru 31** Job made his final appeal to his three friends. He said that God is great, but He speaks in a still, small voice. His three friends had said that he had no wisdom because he would not admit that he was guilty of the things they accused him of doing. He told his friends where true wisdom cannot be found, and then he told them where wisdom could be found. In doing so he tried to get his friends to wake up to the fact that he was not the guilty sinner they claimed.

He talked about how good his life was before all of those troubles came upon him, and then he complained about how he was trapped in the troubles he was experiencing at the time. He told about the good and godly life he lived back then, and then he questioned whether there was any benefit in living a good and godly life. Look what it got him.

**In chapters 32 thru 37** Elihu tried to show Job that God is great and that Job's concept of God and sin was wrong. He told Job's friends that they were utter failures. He then told Job that God does answer men. He does it through visions or pain. Next he turned his attention to Job's three friends and said that Job's suffering proved that he is a wicked sinner and that God was giving him exactly what he deserved. Besides, God can do anything he wants.

Next, he turned his attention back to Job. He said that Job ought to be punished to the limit and that Job was of no benefit to God regardless of whether he was good or evil. He said that God does speak through thunder. Job wanted an answer from God, but he would just have to wait for God to answer even though he didn't deserve an answer. After all, God doesn't punish men at random, so Job was getting exactly what deserved. He said, "Job, you can find healing if you will repent, but no one can tell God He is wrong."

## Section three

In chapters 38 through 42 God showed Job that he was wrong about his view of God. He showed Job how great and powerful He was, and then he gave Job a chance to repent. Afterwards God rebuked Job's three friends and restored Job to health and great wealth.

**In chapters 38 thru 40:5** God asked Job a series of questions to show Job that God was all powerful and that he was wrong for accusing Him of doing wrong in punishing Job. He then asked Job if he blamed God. Job admitted that he had spoken in error.

**In 40:6 thru 42:9** God showed Job that he cannot save himself. He then described three powerful and fearsome animals, and these were nothing compared to the power and greatness of God. Job then repented and said he was sorry for doubting God.

**In 42:10-17** God healed Job and restored his wealth. Then He gave Job twice as much as he had before the trial.