

## **Book 18: Job Life's Toughest Questions**

### **Book 18: Job Introduction**

- The book of Job begins the books of poetry, which include Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon.
- The book is a masterpiece of literature and is widely acclaimed as such even by secular scholars.
- Job is likely the oldest book in the Bible – dating to the time of the patriarchs in Genesis.
- That puts it before the Exodus from Egypt, before Moses and the Law, before the priesthood of the tribe of Levi.
- It deals with some of our deepest, most somber questions:
  - Is there an underlying spiritual root to human suffering?
  - If so, what is it?
  - Why do good people suffer?
  - Why does God allow seemingly pointless tragedy to occur?
- Job gives us insight into the age old struggle between God and Satan – and the effect it has here on earth.
- It also illustrates how to counsel – or, more accurately, *how not to counsel* – people in the midst of difficulties.
- The book is not light reading – but suffering is not a light subject.
- Nonetheless, it clearly reveals the majesty and faithfulness of God.
- The book begins with Satan, God and Job; it ends with only God and Job. Satan is gone at the end.
- He'll be missing when we reach our happy ending too.

### **Book 18: Job A Few Facts**

- Job is the one book in the Bible that seems to refer to dinosaurs – “behemoth” (40:15) and “leviathan” (41:1).
- Job asks God the question, “Why?” 16 times within the book.
- Near the end, however, God asks Job some 75 questions of His own!

- The book of Job mentions Satan by name 14 times – more than any other book in the Bible.
- It refers to the Lord as “Almighty” 31 times – again more than any other book.
- Job contains the only recorded conversation between these two, God and Satan, in Scripture.

### **Job: Major Application**

- Throughout the book, Job’s friends try to attribute his sufferings to something he has done – some sin, some flaw in his character or behavior.
- No doubt this may at times be true, but, in Job’s case, they were wrong – completely wrong.

- The book begins by saying:

*“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; **and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.**” - Job 1:1 (NKJV)*

- Furthermore, the book even gives us God’s own assessment:

*“Then the Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job, **that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?**’” - Job 1:8 (NKJV)*

- Job’s trials all stemmed from Satan’s hatred of God.
- Therefore, he desired to remove all of Job’s blessings and do as much harm to Job as he could, in order to cause him, if at all possible, to turn from his faithfulness to the Lord.
- Satan will also try to do the same to us. He hates Christians almost as much as he hates God.
- The enemy will test you, try you and do everything in his real, great, but limited, power to take you the believer out of the Lord’s service.

### **Job: Key Verse #1**

*For He is not a man, as I am,  
That I may answer Him,  
And that we should go to court together.  
Nor is there any mediator between us,  
Who may lay his hand on us both.*

– Job 9:32-33 (NKJV)

## **New Testament Truth**

*For there is one God **and one Mediator** between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

- 1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NKJV)

### **Job: Key Verse #2**

For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
And He shall stand at last on the earth;  
And after my skin is destroyed, this I know,  
That in my flesh I shall see God.

- Job 19:25-27 (NKJV)

### **Job: Key Verse #3**

I have not departed from the commandment of His lips;  
I have treasured the words of His mouth  
More than my necessary food.

-Job 23:12 (NKJV)

### **Job: Structure of the Book**

- 1-2 Prologue: Satan Attacks Job
- 3-28 Three Conversations or Cycles among Job and his three friends
- 29-41 Three Monologues: Job, Elihu and God
- 42 Epilogue: God Blesses Job

### **Job: Final Verse**

*Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.*

- James 5:11 (NKJV)