

# Job

## LEARNING TO TRUST THE SOVEREIGN GOD—NO MATTER WHAT A Real-Life Drama in Seven Acts

- I. **ACT ONE**            1:1—2:10
  - A. Scene 1 – The Earthly Setting            1:1-5
    1. Location: Uz – 1
    2. Person: Job
      - a. His character – 1
        - 1) Blameless
        - 2) Upright
        - 3) God-fearing
        - 4) Avoiding evil
      - b. His blessings
        - 1) Children – 2
          - a) 7 sons
          - b) 3 daughters
        - 2) Property – 3a
          - a) 7000 sheep/goats
          - b) 3000 camels
          - c) 500 oxen
          - d) 500 she-asses
          - e) Numerous servants
        - 3) Greatness – 3b
      - c. His piety – 4-5
        - 1) Showing his love for purity
        - 2) Showing his love for his children
  - B. Scene 2 – The First Heavenly Confrontation            1:6-12
    1. The occasion: reporting of the “sons of God” before Yahweh – 6a
    2. The key characters
      - a. The accuser
      - b. Yahweh
    3. The subject: the uniquely righteous Job – 8
    4. The ISSUE: What is the basis for the relationship between God and those who worship Him?
      - a. The accuser’s assumption: a contractual give and take
        - 1) Job fears God because of what he gets out of it – 9
          - a) He gives God worship
          - b) He gets blessings
        - 2) God blesses Job because of what He gets out of it
          - a) He gives Job His blessings
          - b) He gets his worship
      - Implications:
        - a) God needs man as much as man needs God
        - b) Man is his own true, ultimate object of worship
        - c) There is no such thing as grace
      - b. The accuser’s suggestion: a test of his assumption – 11
        - 1) Let God ruin all Job possesses
        - 2) Job will surely curse Him directly

- c. Yahweh's agreement – 12
      - 1) Letting the accuser destroy everything belonging to Job
      - 2) Preventing the accuser from touching Job himself
- C. Scene 3 – The Earthly Outworking of the Heavenly Test 1:13-22
  - 1. Job loses his cattle, she-asses and servants – 13-15
  - 2. Job loses his flocks and shepherds – 16
  - 3. Job loses his camels and servants – 17
  - 4. Job loses his children – 18-19
  - 5. Job maintains his devotion to God – 20-22
    - a. Mourning – 20a
    - b. Worshiping God – 20b
    - c. Blessing God – 21
    - d. Restraining himself – 22
      - 1) From sinning
      - 2) From impugning God's character
- D. Scene 4 – The Second Heavenly Confrontation 2:1-6
  - 1. The occasion: another reporting of the “sons of God” before Yahweh 1
  - 2. The key characters: same as in the first confrontation
    - a. The accuser
    - b. Yahweh
  - 3. The subject: the uniquely righteous Job – 3
    - a. Same as in the first confrontation
    - b. 2 additional statements
      - 1) Job is still holding to his integrity, . . .
      - 2) Even though Yahweh was incited to swallow Job up *without cause*
  - 4. The conversation – 4-6
    - a. The accuser claims the previous test was not hard enough because it did not threaten Job himself – 4
    - b. The accuser proposes ruining Job physically, convinced that Job will then curse God – 5
    - c. Yahweh agrees to the accuser's proposal, prohibiting only the taking of Job's life – 6
- E. Scene 5 – The Earthly Outworking of the Second Heavenly Test 2:7-10
  - 1. The accuser covers Job with boils – 7
  - 2. Job scrapes his boils and sits in ashes – 8
  - 4. Job's wife urges him to curse God and die – 9
    - a. Perhaps in disgust
    - b. Probably in compassion!
  - 4. Job rebukes his wife – 10a
  - 5. Job acknowledges God's sovereignty – 10b
  - 6. Job refuses to speak evil – 10c

- II. **ACT TWO**      2:11—14:22
- A. Scene 1 – Job’s Friends Arrive      2:11-13
    - 1. They hear of Job’s situation – 11a
    - 2. They come from their respective places – 11b
      - a. Eliphaz – Teman
      - b. Bildad
      - c. Zophar
    - 3. They purpose to sympathize and comfort - 11c
    - 4. They mourn Job’s situation – 12
    - 5. They sit with Job in silence for 7 days – 13
  - B. Scene 2 – Job Expresses His Pain      3:1-26
    - 1. Wishing he had never existed – 1-10
    - 2. Wishing he had died before birth – 11-19
    - 3. Wishing he could die right away – 20-26
  - C. Scene 3 – Eliphaz Speaks (4:1—5:27) and Job Replies (6:1—7:21)
    - 1. Eliphaz speaks (4:1—5:27)
      - a. Expressing his hesitant determination to speak    4:2
      - b. Admonishing Job for his response to his circumstances – 3-6
      - c. Explaining his understanding of Job's circumstances    4:7—5:16
        - 1) With the principle of retribution    4:7-11
        - 2) With the revelation of man's unrighteousness – 12-21
        - 3) With a recommended course of action    5:1-27
          - a) Which does not include Job's curses – 1-7
          - b) Which involves seeking God – 8
          - c) Which involves accepting God's reproof – 17
    - 2. Job replies 6:1--7:21
      - a. Defending his previous words (of ch. 3)      6:2-7
      - b. Repeating his desire for death - 8-9
      - c. Reproving his friends for their treatment of him – 14-23
      - d. Inviting his friends to give him substance or else shut up! – 24-30
      - e. Describing the relentlessness of his misery    7:1-6
      - f. Resolving to express himself openly – 11
      - g. Uttering his complaint to God - 12-21
  - D. Scene 4 – Bildad Speaks (8:1-22) and Job Replies (9:1—10:22)
    - 1. Bildad Speaks      8:1-22
      - a. Evaluating Job as a forceful windbag – 1-2
      - b. Defending the unperverted righteousness of God – 3
        - 1) In judging the sins of Job's sons – 4
        - 2) In rewarding a righteous Job – 5
      - c. Calling on Job to consider history – 8-10
    - 2. Job Replies      9:1—10:22
      - a. Granting the principle of Bildad's argument – 1-2a
      - b. Questioning the possibility of Bildad's argument – 2b-24
      - c. Expressing personal despair over his situation – 25-35
      - d. Venting his complaint to God      10:1-22
  - E. Scene 5 – Zophar Speaks (11:1-20) and Job Replies (12:1—14:22)
    - 1. Zophar Speaks      11:1-20
      - a. Castigating Job – 1-6
      - b. Lecturing Job – 7-12

- c. Admonishing Job – 13-20
- 2. Job Replies 12:1—14:22
  - a. To his friends 12:1—13:19
    - 1) Refuting their claim to wisdom 12:1-12
    - 2) Expounding the greatness of God 12:13—13:2
    - 3) Discounting the friends completely 13:3-19
  - b. To God 13:20—14:22
    - 1) Outlining his requests 13:20-28
    - 2) Desiring death until his requests are granted 14:1-22

III. **ACT THREE** 15:1—21:34

- A. Scene 1 – Eliphaz Speaks (15:1-35) and Job Replies (16:1—17:16)
  - 1. Eliphaz Speaks 15:1-35
    - a. Rebuking Job for his words – 1-6
    - b. Rebuking Job for his presumption – 7-16
    - c. Teaching Job the ancient wisdom – 17-19
  - 2. Job Replies 16:1—17:16
    - a. Evaluating his friends' "ministry" 16:1-5
    - b. Restating his current situation - 6-17
    - c. Wishing God would hear his case – 21
    - d. Complaining in hopelessness 17:3-16
- B. Scene 2 – Bildad Speaks (18:1-21) and Job Replies (19:1-29)
  - 1. Bildad Speaks (18:1-21)
    - a. Admonishing Job – 1-4
    - b. Instructing Job - 5-21
  - 2. Job Replies 19:1-29
    - a. Expressing his dismay with his friends – 1-6
    - b. Expressing his sense of God's enmity - 7-12
    - c. Expressing his sense of aloneness (ostracism) – 13-22
    - d. Expressing his hope for vindication – 23-29
- C. Scene 3 – Zophar Speaks (20:1-29) and Job Replies (21:1-34)
  - 1. Zophar Speaks 20:1-29
    - a. Admitting that the wicked may prosper in this life
    - b. Affirming that the wicked will be quickly judged in this life
  - 2. Job Replies 21:1-34
    - a. Arguing that the wicked are not necessarily punished in this life – 1-16
    - b. Arguing that retribution on the wicked's descendants is not justice – 17-21
    - c. Pointing out that both the prosperous and the poor end up dead – 22-26
    - d. Telling Zophar to broaden his perspective on reality – 27-34

IV. **ACT FOUR** 22:1—31:40

- A. Scene 1 – Eliphaz Speaks (22:1-30) and Job Replies (23:1—24:25)
  - 1. Eliphaz Speaks 22:1-30
    - a. Dismissing Job's claim of righteousness as irrelevant – 1-3
    - b. Maintaining Job's sin is the cause of his suffering – 4-5
    - c. Enumerating the sins Job allegedly committed – 6-11
    - d. Classifying Job with the rebelliously wicked – 12-20
    - e. Urging Job to repent and be blessed – 21-30
  - 2. Job Replies 23:1—24:25
    - a. Wishing he could find God to plead his case – 1-7
    - b. Believing if his case were heard, he would be found innocent – 8-12
    - c. Trembling at the thought of being in God's presence – 13-17
- B. Scene 2 – Bildad Speaks (25:1-6) and Job Replies (26:1—31:40)
  - 1. Bildad Speaks 25:1-6
    - a. Attesting to God's greatness – 1-3
    - b. Maintaining man's unrighteousness – 4-6
  - 2. Job Replies 26:1—31:40
    - a. Sarcastically exposing the friends' failure to help 26:1-4
    - b. Eloquently describing God's unfathomable power 26:5-14
    - c. Steadfastly maintaining his own righteousness 27:1-6
    - d. Forthrightly calling judgment on his enemies 27:7-12
    - e. Personally confirming judgment on the wicked 27:13-23
    - f. Emphatically ascribing wisdom to God alone 28:1-28
    - g. Desperately desiring his former life 29:1-25
    - h. Despairingly recounting his current situation 30:1-31
    - i. Boldly defending his claim of righteousness 31:1-40

V. **ACT FIVE** 32:1—37:24

- A. Narrator's Introduction of Elihu 32:1-5
  - 1. The setting: silence of Job (31:40) & the friends (32:1)
  - 2. The character: Elihu
  - 3. The mood: anger
  - 4. The timing – 4
- B. Scene 1 – Elihu's First Speech 32:6—33:33
  - 1. To Job and His Friends 32:6-9
    - a. Explaining his delay in speaking – 6-7
    - b. Expressing his understanding of wisdom – 8-9
    - c. Exhorting them to listen to him – 10
  - 2. To the Friends 32:10-14
    - a. Observing their failure to refute Job's arguments – 11-12
    - b. Denying their claim to wisdom – 13
    - c. Rejecting their approach – 14
  - 3. To Job 32:15—33:33
    - a. Justifying his speaking 32:15-22
      - 1) In light of the friends' incompetent silence – 15-16
      - 2) In light of having so much to say – 17-20
      - 3) In light of his impartiality – 21-22
    - b. Calling for Job's attention 33:1-7
      - 1) Since Elihu speaks uprightly – 3
      - 2) Since Elihu speaks as a fellow man – 4-7
    - c. Recalling Job's contentions 33:8-13
      - 1) Of personal innocence – 8-9
      - 2) Of God's oppression – 10-11
      - 3) Of God's silence – 13
    - d. Refuting Job's contention 33:14-33
      - 1) God speaks in night dreams & visions – 15-18
      - 2) God speaks through pain & sickness – 19-22
      - 3) God speaks through angelic mediators – 23-28
- C. Scene 2 – Elihu's Second Speech 34:1-37
  - 1. To the Friends 34:1-15
    - a. Inviting them to test Job's words – 1-4
    - b. Reminding them of Job's words – 5-6
    - c. Evaluating Job – 7-9
    - d. Defending God's justice – 10-15
  - 2. To Job 34:16-37
    - a. Declaring God's justice is shown by His righteous rule – 16-20
    - b. Declaring God's omniscience enables His righteous rule – 21-23
    - c. Declaring God's omnipotence enables His righteous rule – 24-30
    - d. Chiding Job for making demands of God – 31-33
    - e. Labeling Job a rebel who deserves e/t he gets – 34-37
- D. Scene 3 – Elihu's Third Speech 35:1-16
  - 1. Explaining the significance of Job's sin – 1-8
    - a. It does not affect God – 1-7
    - b. It does affect man (as does righteousness) – 8
  - 2. Explaining why God fails to help the oppressed – 9-16
  - 3. Evaluating Job as a talker with no substance – 15-16

- E. Scene 4 – Elihu’s Fourth Speech 36:1-37:24
1. Affirming the truth of his own (Elihu's) words – 1-4
  2. Affirming the justice of God – 5-15
    - a. Who punishes the wicked – 6a (cf. 13-14)
    - b. Who vindicates the afflicted – 6b (cf. 15)
    - c. Who favors the righteous – 7-12
  3. Describing God's dealings with Job – 16-21
  4. Warning Job to be careful to respond properly – 18-21
  5. Extolling the power of God – 22-25
  6. Extolling the greatness of God 36:26–37:24



VI. **ACT SIX** 38:1—42:9

A. God Speaks and Job Shuts Up

1. God speaks 38:1—40:2
  - a. The setting: a storm involving violent wind 38:1
  - b. God's introduction 38:2-3
    - 1) Rebuking Job for darkening counsel – 2
    - 2) Challenging Job to teach Him! – 3
  - c. God's theme: creation
  - d. God's technique: questions
    - 1) About the earth's creation (38:4-7)
    - 2) About the waters' confinement (38:8-11)
    - 3) About the daily sunrise (38:12-15)
    - 4) About the depths of the earth (38:16-18)
    - 5) About light & darkness (38:19-21)
    - 6) About storms (38:22-24)
    - 7) About water (38:25-30)
    - 8) About constellations (38:31-33)
    - 9) About bringing rain (38:34-38)
    - 10) About animals (38:39—39:30)
      - a) Lion 38:39-40
      - b) Raven 38:41
      - c) Mountain goats & deer 39:1-4
      - d) Wild donkeys 39:5-8
      - e) Wild ox 39:9-12
      - f) Ostrich 39:13-18
      - g) Horse 39:19-25
      - h) Hawk 39:26
      - i) Eagle 39:27-30
  - e. God's application 40:1-2
2. Job shuts up 40:3-5
  - a. Recognizing his relative insignificance – 4
  - b. Refraining from speaking again – 5

B. God Speaks and Job Repents

1. God speaks 40:6—41:34
  - a. The setting: the same storm 40:6
  - b. God's introduction 40:7-14
    - 1) Challenging Job to teach Him – 7
    - 2) Challenging Job's charges against Him – 8
    - 3) Challenging Job's brashness – 9-14
  - c. God's message 40:15—41:34
    - 1) Consider the behemoth 40:15-24
    - 2) Consider the leviathan 41:1-34
2. Job repents 42:1-6
  - a. Job's realizations – 2-4
  - b. Job's awareness – 5
  - c. Job's response – 6

**VII. ACT SEVEN** 42:7-17

- A. God deals with the friends 42:7-9
  - 1. God speaks to Eliphaz – 7-8
    - a. Declaring His wrath on them – 7a
    - b. Declaring His reason to them – 7b, 8b
    - c. Declaring His solution to them – 8a
  - 2. The friends obey – 9
- B. God blesses Job 42:10-17