



**CAYA Series – 52 Stories of the Bible**

## **FAITH AND SUFFERING – BOOK OF JOB**

*Job learned that bad things happen to good people and bad people **alike**. The question is, will you **continue to trust God** in the difficult times? Is he **worthy** of our trust when we **don't know** all the answers and our lives are **filled with pain**?*

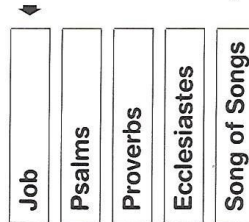
[<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/creation-and-us/major-stories-bible>]

### **LEARNERS WILL:**

- 1. Explain the limits to Satan's power**
- 2. Identify the advice Job received and his reactions**
- 3. Generalize on God's sovereignty**
- 4. Point out the traits of trusting in the face of pain**

# Job

The Books of Poetry



## Purpose/Theme:

This is the most famous attempt in Western literature to grapple with the question of why good people sometimes suffer. A part of the Old Covenant is that God will bless the faithful. Job agonizes over the apparent exceptions, trying to preserve both the power and the justice of God. The book concludes that ultimately the reason behind much suffering is known only to God.

## Key Verse:

"As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice . . . as long as I have life within me, the breath of God in my nostrils, my lips will not speak wickedness, and my tongue will utter no deceit" (27:2-4).

## Main People:

Job, his family, his friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, Elihu).

## Outline:

- The disasters of Job (Job 1,2)
- The friends of Job (Job 3—37)
- Job's conversation with God (Job 38—42)
- The deliverance of Job (Job 42)

## When Events Happened

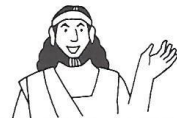
*SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 2000~1000 BC*



JOB



ELIPHAZ, BILDAD, ZOPHAR



ELIHU



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# FAITH AND SUFFERING

## BOOK OF JOB

### BASIC DATA

- *Covers a period of only a few weeks or possibly a few months' time*
- *Considered to be the **first** book of the Bible*

### Key Words (number of times in the KJV) :

Wicked (-ly, -ness) **48**

Right (-ous, -eousness) **32**

Why **16**

Afflict (-ed, -tion) **11**

### Key Verses

#### **Job 1:9 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

#### **Job 1:21 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."

#### **Job 2:3-5 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> 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? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause."

<sup>4</sup> So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.

<sup>5</sup> But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

#### **Job 13:15 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.

**Job 16:1-2 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then Job answered and said:

<sup>2</sup> "I have heard many such things; Miserable comforters *are* you all!

**Job 27:2-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> "As God lives, *who* has taken away my justice, And the Almighty, *who* has made my soul bitter,

<sup>3</sup> As long as my breath *is* in me, And the breath of God in my nostrils,

<sup>4</sup> My lips will not speak wickedness, Nor my tongue utter deceit.

**Job 40:6-8 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

<sup>7</sup> "Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me:

<sup>8</sup> "Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?

**Job 42:1-3 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then Job answered the LORD and said:

<sup>2</sup> "I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose *of Yours* can be withheld from You.

<sup>3</sup> *You asked*, 'Who *is* this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

**CHRIST SEEN:**

**Priest**, whose patient suffering was inflicted by Satan but *purposed* by *God*

God's **example** of patience *under* suffering (**James 5:11**)

# FAITH AND SUFFERING

## BOOK OF JOB

### OUTLINE: CONDENSED (SHORTEN) NOTES

#### PROLOGUE – *Chapters 1 - 2*

- Setting of the council drama with *God and Satan* in heaven
- *Challenged to test Job*

#### LIMITS OF SATAN'S POWER – *Chapters 1 - 2*

- **Satan's Reasoning and Challenges**
  - Attacks Job's *character*
  - *Basic argument*: Job is blameless because he is *blessed* so
- **What Satan Cannot Do (see page in booklet)**
  - Not *opposite* of God
  - Cannot do things without *God's permission*
- **Resisting Satan**
  - *Submit* self to God, and *pray* for help, and really *desire* to do the right thing, then *Christ* will drive him away
  - Biblical *directives*

#### THE ADVICE *Chapters 4 - 37*

- **Conventional Wisdom**
  - Basic idea that *pain and suffering* are always due to sin
  - God must *submit* to my human understanding of cause and effect
- **Cycles of Dialogue**
  - Long theological debate by *three friends* and Job's *replies*
  - Job must be a sinner *since* God has *removed* his physical blessings
  - **Eliphaz** – own *experiences*
  - **Bildad** – *tradition* is important
  - **Zophar** – I am *right* and have full authority
- **Dominant Theme**
  - The fundamental question – is God *worthy of trust*
  - Cannot *understand* why there are evil people

#### GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

- We *cannot know* God completely

- Show the proper *relationship* between God and man

### **TRUST IN THE MIDST OF PAIN Chapters 38 - 41**

- **God Speaks – The Answer**
  - God *joined* the conversation in *chapter 38* out of the whirlwind
  - God confronts Job’s *prideful questioning*
- **Suffering and Faith**
  - Job’s plight *never* caused his *faith to waver*, He knew who his Redeemer was, a living Savior
  - He *questions* God but does not reject Him
  - Job never turns on God as such *but* his words reflect a *struggling faith*
- **Learning from the Example**
  - How we should *react* to trials
  - Suffering and righteous *can exist together*

### **WRITTEN MEDIA**

Our Daily Bread Discovery Series  
“*Navigating the Storms of Life*” by Gary Inrig

### **AUDIO-VISUAL MEDIA**

“*Redeemer*” by Nicole C. Mullin  
(TBN.org: YouTube)

## [Small Group Activity]

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*Stories of the Bible CAYA Series*

### **FAITH AND SUFFERING**

#### **BOOK OF JOB**

1. Describe **Job's attitude** toward God *throughout* His suffering. In light of his personal pain, what does this *tell* you about **Job's relationship with God**?
2. Many people think of God and Satan as **opposing equals**, sort of like the "Force" from the Star Wars movies, which had a powerful good side and a powerful bad side. What in Job shows you the **error** of this view? What does this book *teach* you about how Christians **should respond** to the *reality* of Satan's power?
3. What do you think it means to **trust God** with your *circumstances*? How did Job **show** this *trust* in God? How did God **reveal** to Job that He (God) was *worthy of that trust*?
4. Why is **pride** so *dangerous*? Give an example of how a *person's pride led to disaster*. How does God **view** pride? **Why** does He see it that way?
5. How would you summarize the **Lord's answer** to Job? What point does God want Job to **understand** through this series of *questions*?

### **APPLICATION**

What is one thing you can **do** this week to develop a **greater appreciation** for *God's greatness*?

# FAITH AND SUFFERING

## BOOK OF JOB

### WHAT SATAN CANNOT DO

- He can do **nothing** to prevent *godly reconciliation* in answer to prayer
- **Can't** take us away from God **or** take our salvation from us (can use oppression of various sorts though)
- He can **tempt** us to sin *but* he **cannot** make us sin; *never* force us
- May *accuse* us *but* **cannot** condemn the one who is in Christ *because* he has **no power** or say in how the Lord views *His people*
- **Not** *opposite* of God
- *Approaches* God as a **subordinate**
- *Cannot* tempt without God's permission
- *Cannot* influence nature without God's permission
- *Cannot* physically harm without God's permission
- *Cannot* kill without God's permission
- *Cannot* touch at all without God's permission
- *Cannot* mention a believer's name without God's permission
- *Cannot* **force** believers to **do** anything
- *Cannot* **read** our *thoughts*
- Does *not know* the **future**
- Does *not know* what we **dreamed**



# FAITH AND SUFFERING

## BOOK OF JOB

### LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF JOB BY JOHN H. OGWYN

*But what is it we can learn from all this about suffering? What lessons are there for us that may help in our own times of grief?*

1. **Suffering often comes as the result of an unseen conflict in the spiritual world.** One of the most striking and even frustrating things about Job's story is that we *know* something of his experience *which he himself does not know*. There is something *very real* going on about which Job and his friends are completely *ignorant*. Job really comes to the scene *after* the opening act. And it is in the opening act we *learn* what gave rise to the whole incident.
2. **The inadequacy of human reasoning in the presence of tragedy and suffering.** Again, this lies just on the surface of the story: What is the most *obvious* explanation for Job's suffering? Why, it is his sin, of course! This was what Job's friends *thought*, and it is what Job himself *thought*, although he *resented* it because it was *unfair*.
3. **God is sovereign and supreme over Satan and our suffering.** The book *does not explain* all the methods of God in His rule over all creation. But did you notice, at the beginning, that Satan *had to get permission*? Did you notice that he had to *report in*? That he had to *get permission again* to do more? Did you notice that prescribed *limits* were imposed on him?

### CONCLUSION

*There are, then, reasons for our suffering that we **may not know**. But there is a God whom we **do know**, whose rule is unchangeably firm over **all** circumstances of life, Whose character is unchangeably just, and Whose heart is unchangeably good and loving and gracious. Through Jesus Christ, we **know** Him. And knowing Him we may **trust** Him implicitly.*

### "7 REASONS TO STUDY THE BOOK OF JOB" BY CHRISTOPHER ASH

#### 1. Understand God for who He is

Above all, the book of Job will force you to *think deeply* about God the Father and about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

## 2. Grapple with God's sovereignty

Job will press you to think carefully, with *doctrinal thoughtfulness and depth*, about how the universe is governed.

## 3. Reject false gospels

## 4. Identify with those who suffer

By immersing you in suffering, Job shows you both *how to feel something of the sufferings of Christ* (in a way that the gospels do not) and how to feel the depths of the *sufferings* of Christ's people. This will help you *identify* with the persecuted church.

## 5. Find hope in the midst of pain

Job is finally *full of hope and comfort*, for its message rests in the end on the comprehensive *sovereignty* of God over all creation, and specifically on how his *sovereignty* encompasses all the powers of evil.

## 6. Develop your emotional pallet

Because so much of Job is poetry, a deep immersion in the book will help you *develop* your emotional and affectional 'pallet' (to use a painting metaphor), so that you will *learn* to feel, to desire, and to grow more sensitive to all manner of *experiences* in life.

## 7. Encounter the living God

### "PRACTICAL WAYS TO DEAL WITH PAIN" BY PHILIP YANCEY

1. **Learn** as much about the cause of the pain as possible
2. Allow God to **comfort** you
3. Attempt to think about the **good God** can accomplish in your life through the pain
4. **Help** others in spite of your pain (I Peter 4:19)

### "FIVE FACTS ABOUT FAITH" BY JOSEPH TKACH

- God loved us **even** when we were his enemies; he will be **faithful** in all circumstances.
- The resurrection of Jesus **shows** that God has the power to **save** us even from death.
- When we **trust** God, we **obey** him, knowing that his commands are **for our good**.

- No one has perfect faith; we **grow in faith** through *life experiences*.
- *Doubts and questions* can lead us to trust Christ even with the unknown.

### **“WAYS TO BECOME A BETTER COMFORTER TO THOSE IN PAIN”**

- 1.** Don't talk **just** for the sake of *talking*
- 2.** Don't **sermonize** by giving pat answers
- 3.** Don't **criticize**
- 4.** Put yourself in the **other person's place**
- 5.** Offer **sincere** help and encouragement

# FAITH AND SUFFERING

## BOOK OF JOB

### FOLLOW-UP IDEAS FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY

1. Study the main points and tell **Job's thoughts** about his life, his questions, and the problem of suffering.  
**3:1-26**
2. Review Eliphaz's view (**main argument**), his evidence, warnings, accusations, and direction to Job.  
**4:1-5:27; 15:1-17:16; 22:4-22**
3. List the questions and descriptions of **Job's complaint**.  
**7:1-21; 13:20-14:2**
4. Give an account of Bildad's **counsel** and what he concludes concerning God and suffering.  
**8:1-20; 18:1-21; 25:1-6**
5. List Zophar's **view** and reproach to Job and his descriptions of the wicked.  
**11:1-16; 20:1-29**
6. Name the **complaints to God** by Job.  
**9:21-35; 19:1-29**
7. List Job's thoughts **about his friends**.  
**6:14-30; 12:1-12; 13:1-12; 16:1-5; 21:1-34; 26:1-4**
8. Compare **Job's situation (Job 3:1-10)** with **Jeremiah's (Jeremiah 20:14-18)**.
9. What support does Job give for his **innocence**?  
**6:1-7:21; 9:21-24; 27:1-10; 31:1-40**
10. Describe the **examples** Job give of God's power.  
**9:1-20; 12:13-25; 26:5-14; 28:1-28**
11. Tell what Job **wanted** from God.  
**13:20-28; 16:6-17:9; 23:1-9; 31:35**
12. How does Job affirm his **faith**?  
**17:11, 15; 19:23-29; 23:10-17**
13. Tell what Job said about the **wicked** and what should happen to them.
14. List what Job says **deserve** God's punishment.  
**31:1-40**
15. What questions and challenges does **God pose to Job**?  
**38:1-41:34**
16. Describe **Job's response** to God. **42:1-6**
17. What is the **key points** God is making with the two great creatures?