

JOB AND THE LIFE OF FAITH

BY REV. DR. CAROL M. BECHTEL

*Introducing Job:
The Book and the man*



**Eternal God, you call us to
ventures of which we cannot see
the ending, by paths as yet
untrodden, through perils
unknown.
Give us faith to go out with courage**

**not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading
us and your love supporting us.
Come among us now and walk
beside us as we begin this
journey through the book of Job.**

**Help us to listen well to you and to
each other.**

**Lead us to new levels of faith and
faithfulness.**

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Summary

Basic Bible References

Word List

Memory Bank

Reflection

Research



**What life experience
makes you especially
interested in the book
of Job?**

Traditional Retributive Justice



**Wisdom's Minority
Report**



POSSIBLE EDITIONS OF THE BOOK OF JOB

1st edition: The oral tradition of a righteous man who suffered much

2nd edition: The prose introduction (1:1–2:13)

3rd edition: The poetic dialogues only (3–27; 29–31; 38–42:6) minus the wisdom hymn in Job 28 and the Elihu speeches in 32–37

- 4th edition: Prose introduction plus the poetic dialogues (minus 28, 32–37)**
- 5th edition: Prose introduction, poetic dialogues (minus 28, 32–37), plus the prose conclusion (42:7–12)**
- 6th edition: Entire book (wisdom hymn in 28 plus Elihu's speeches in 32–37 added here)**

Do you find it disconcerting to discover that the book of Job might be the product of such a long and complex history?

Why or why not?

To what degree is inspiration tied to a book's being the product of one author? Have your views changed on this over time? Why or why not?

How important is it to you to know that Job was a real person?



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