

Bible Study Guide for Job 1-3

The book of Job is thought to be the oldest book of the Bible. There are three main characters in the story of Job – God, Satan, and Job. There are four secondary characters – Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Elihu who come to comfort and admonish Job. The book is to be read as a narrative, written mostly in poetic form. Job was a man who truly existed as seen in **Ezekiel 14:12-14** and **James 5:11**. The great question of the book is "Why do the righteous suffer?". The four friends who came to comfort Job had a variety of answers. The story is presented in a series of discourses between Job's friends and Job himself. The climax comes in **chapters 38-41** when God speaks to Job. This is followed by Job's repentance and restoration in **chapter 42**. The book of Job is a paradox of simplicity of story and complexity of thought and language. Our modern minds might, at first, agree with or at least parallel the thinking of Job's friends, but the book of Job has been given to us so that we might increase our trust in the sovereignty of God and His love for those who belong to Him.

- I. **Chapters 1-3** Setting the scene
- II. **Chapters 4-14** First speeches of Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Job's responses
- III. **Chapters 15-26** Second and third speeches and responses
- IV. **Chapters 27-31** Job's last response to his three friends
- V. **Chapters 32-37** Elihu's speeches
- VI. **Chapters 38-42** God's words to Job and Job's response, repentance and restoration

Day 1 – Job 1:1-5

1. To familiarize yourself with the opening narrative and Job's opening comments, read **chapters 1-3** at one time. What verses and thoughts stand out to you as you read these chapters?

2. Study **Job 1:1-3** and comment on the following ideas.
 - a. Job's character

 - b. His family

 - c. His possessions

3. What phrases are used in **vs. 3** and **8** that indicate that he was unique among the men of his time?