

Class Schedule

Class: **Job**
Day & Time: Wednesdays from 7:00pm to 8:00pm
Beginning: October 3rd
Ending: December 26th

<u>Date</u>	<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Oct 3	1	Job 1-3	Job is tested by Satan
Oct 10	2	Job 4-7	Eliphaz Speaks & Job's Answer
Oct 17	3	Job 8-10	Bildad Speaks & Job's Answer
Oct 24	4	Job 11-14	Zophar Speaks & Job's Answer
Oct 31	5	Job 15-19	More Speeches & Job's Answers
Nov 7	6	Job 20-24	More Speeches & Job's Answers
Nov 14	7	Job 25-31	More Speeches & Job's Answer's
Nov 21	8	Job 32-33	Elihu Denounces Job's Attitude
Nov 28	9	Job 34-35	Job's Complaints Refuted
Dec 5	10	Job 36-37	The Mighty Works of God
Dec 12	11	Job 38-39	Yahweh Answers Job
Dec 19	12	Job 40-41	The Mighty Power of God
Dec 26	13	Job 42	Job's Response & Epilogue

THE BOOK OF JOB

Set in the period of the patriarchs, the book of Job tells the story of a man who loses everything—his wealth, his family, and his health—and wrestles with the question, Why? The book begins with a heavenly debate between God and Satan, moves through three cycles of earthly debates between Job and his friends, and concludes with a dramatic divine diagnosis of Job’s problems. In the end, Job acknowledges the sovereignty of God in his life and receives back more than he had before his trials.

The name “Job” appears in ancient Near Eastern texts, identifying a legendary wise man. Since there is no genealogical identification given for Job, some scholars believe the author is using a fictional character to make an important theological point. However, given the Bible’s normal pattern of basing revelation on historical events, such an idea is questionable.

Author

The text of Job does not reveal the identity of its author, but the contents of the book indicate that its author was a profound thinker who treats some of the most crucial and difficult problems of human existence from a mature spiritual perspective. The author was also well-educated and familiar with wisdom literature motifs, nature, and foreign cultures.

Date

The dating of Job involves two issues: the date of the book’s setting and the date of its composition. Although it is not possible to determine the precise date of the events described, several factors argue for a patriarchal date (2000–1800 B.C.): the absence of references to Israelite history or biblical law; Job’s long life of over 100 years (42:16); Job’s role as priest for his family, which was prohibited by Mosaic law (1:5); and the measurement of Job’s wealth in terms of livestock (1:3).

Suggestions for the date of the book’s composition range from the patriarchal era to the postexilic period. Most scholars today date the book between the Solomonic and exilic eras, and some points of contact between Job and Isaiah suggest that they may have been written about the same time.

Themes and Literary Structure

The subject matter of the book of Job may be divided into three parts: the dilemma of Job (chs. 1–2), the debates of Job (chs. 3–37), and the deliverance of Job (chs. 38–42). Furthermore, the literary structure of the book of Job is symmetrical. Sandwiching a series of poetic debates (3:1–42:6), a prose prologue (chs. 1–2) introduces Job, reveals God’s confidence in him, and recounts the tragedies that reduced him economically, physically, and emotionally. An epilogue (42:7–17) describing Job’s restoration is also in prose, and balances the prologue.

The basic question of the book is, “Why do the righteous suffer if God is loving and all-powerful?” Suffering itself is not the central theme; rather, the focus is on what Job learns from his suffering—the sovereignty of God over all creation. The debate in chapters 3–37 regards whether God would allow the innocent to suffer. The answer of Job’s three friends—that there is a direct correlation between righteous conduct and health/prosperity—is shown to be inadequate. Elihu’s claim that God can use suffering to purify the righteous is closer to the mark but is still incomplete. Finally, the direct conversation between God and Job shows that God is sovereign and worthy of worship in whatever He chooses to do. Job must learn to trust in the goodness and power of God, even in adversity, by enlarging his concept of God.

Job acknowledges a redeemer (19:25–27) and cries out for a mediator (9:33; 25:4; 33:23). The book raises problems and questions which are answered perfectly in Christ who identifies with our sufferings (Heb. 4:15). Christ is the believer’s Life, Redeemer, Mediator, and Advocate.¹

¹Thomas Nelson, Inc. *Nelson’s complete book of Bible maps and charts: Old and New Testament [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System.* Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996.

OUTLINE OF JOB

- A. PROLOGUE (1–2)
 - 1. THE SETTING (1:1–5)
 - 2. JOB’S TRIAL (1:6–2:10)
 - 3. ARRIVAL OF THE THREE COMFORTERS (2:11–13)
- B. JOB’S CURSE-LAMENT (CH. 3)
- C. DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE THREE FRIENDS AND JOB (4–27)
 - 1. FIRST CYCLE OF SPEECHES (4–14)
 - 2. SECOND CYCLE OF SPEECHES (15–21)
 - 3. THIRD CYCLE OF SPEECHES (22–27)
- D. HYMN TO WISDOM (CH. 28)
- E. JOB’S DECLARATION OF INNOCENCE (29–31)
- F. ELIHU SPEECHES (32–37)
 - 1. INTRODUCTION AND FIRST SPEECH (32–33)
 - 2. SECOND SPEECH (CH. 34)
 - 3. THIRD SPEECH (CH. 35)
 - 4. FOURTH SPEECH (36–37)
- G. YAHWEH SPEECHES (38:1–42:6)
 - 1. YAHWEH’S FIRST SPEECH (38:1–40:2)
 - 2. JOB’S RESPONSE (40:3–5)
 - 3. YAHWEH’S SECOND SPEECH (40:6–41:34)
 - 4. JOB’S RESPONSE (42:1–6)
- H. EPILOGUE (42:7–17)2

Lesson 1 – Job Chapters 1-3

OPEN IT

1. What feelings are the most difficult for you to put into words?

EXPLORE IT

2. What kind of man was Job? (1:1-3)
3. How did Job purify his children? Why? (1:4-5)
4. Why did Satan say that Job feared God? (1:9-10)
5. What authority did God give to Satan? (1:12)
6. How did Job respond to the tragedies that happened to him? (1:20-22)
7. What did God say Job had maintained? (2:3)
8. For what reason does Satan imply Job had maintained his integrity? (2:4-5)
9. What authority did God give to Satan? (2:6)
10. What did Satan do to Job? (2:7)
11. What did Job's wife tell him to do? (2:9)
12. How did Job respond to his wife's suggestion? (2:10)
13. What did Job's friends do when they saw him? (2:12)
14. Why were Job's friends silent for seven days? (2:13)
15. What did Job say about the day of his birth? (3:2-10)
16. Where did Job say the weary are at rest? (3:17)
17. What beneficial effect did Job say death would bring? (3:13-22)

APPLY IT

18. Why is it so hard to respond like Job when tragedies happen?

Lesson 2 – Job Chapters 4-7

OPEN IT

1. When have you felt let down by your friends?

EXPLORE IT

2. What did Eliphaz say that Job had done in the past? (4:2-6)
3. According to Eliphaz, why do bad things happen to people? (4:7-11)
4. To what did Eliphaz say a person is born? (5:7)
5. What type of things did Eliphaz say God does? (5:9-15)
6. According to Eliphaz, why does God do these things? (5:16)
7. Why did Eliphaz tell Job not to despise the discipline of God? (5:17-18)
8. What did Eliphaz tell Job to do? (5:27)
9. What did Job say about his misery? (6:1-3)
10. What did Job want God to do, why? (6:8-10)
11. What did Job say about his friends? (6:14-27)
12. What did Job ask his friends to do, and on what basis did he ask them? (6:28-30)
13. How did Job describe life? (7:1-10)
14. Why was Job not able to find any comfort in sleep? (7:13-16)
15. What questions did Job ask God? (7:17-21)

APPLY IT

16. How can we be more compassionate when giving advice to someone who is hurting?

Lesson 3 - Job Chapters 8-10

OPEN IT

1. When have you felt that you were being punished unjustly?

EXPLORE IT

2. Why did Bildad say God punished Job's children? (8:4)
3. What did Bildad say God would do if Job was pure and upright? (8:5-7)
4. To what did Bildad compare the destiny of those who forget God? (8:11-13)
5. To what did Bildad compare the godless person? (8:16-19)
6. Why did Job think that it is impossible for a mortal to be righteous before God? (9:2-13)
7. How did Job describe the power and wisdom of God? (9:4-12)
8. In what way did Job think being innocent or blameless would change things? (9:14-20)
9. How did Job think God treats the blameless and the wicked? (9:22-24)
10. What did Job wish he had the opportunity to do? (9:32-35)
11. Why did Job think that God was unfair? (10:3-7)
12. Who did Job say created him, and why is that important? (10:8-12)
13. Where did Job say he was headed? (10:21-22)

APPLY IT

14. What attitude about God might you reevaluate?

Lesson 4 - Job Chapters 11-14

OPEN IT

1. What things in life give you a sense of security?

EXPLORE IT

2. What did Zophar wish God would do? (11:5-6)
3. How did Zophar depict the mysteries of God? (11:7-9)
4. What did Zophar tell Job to do? (11:13-14)
5. Why did Zophar say Job would be secure? (11:18)
6. What did Job say about his "friends"? (12:1-3)
7. Why was Job embarrassed? (12:4-6)
8. How did Job describe God's power? (12:13-25)
9. How did Job characterize his friends and their advice? (13:4-12)
10. What did Job think would happen if he defended himself to God? (13:15-19)
11. What did Job ask God to grant him? (13:20-23)
12. How did Job feel God was treating him? (13:24-27)
13. What did Job say about life after death? (14:7-14)
14. How did Job describe a person's life? (14:11-12)
15. What did Job say God would do with his sins? (14:16-17)

APPLY IT

16. What should we do about events in our life from which we have not fully recovered?

Lesson 5 - Job Chapters 15-19

OPEN IT

1. How can anger hurt a person?

EXPLORE IT

2. What questions did Eliphaz ask Job, Why? (15:7-13)
3. How did Eliphaz describe the life of the wicked? (15:20-35)
4. What kind of comforter did Job say his three friends were? (16:2-3)
5. What did Job say God had done to him? Is he right? (16:7-14)
6. What did Job say about his spirit? (17:1-2)
7. How did the upright and the innocent respond to Job's misery? (17:8-9)
8. What sort of hope did Job envision? (17:12-16)
9. What did Bildad say would happen to the wicked? (18:5-16)
10. According to Bildad, what will happen to the one who does not know God? (18:17-21)
11. What did Job say his friends had done? (19:1-5)
12. What happened to all Job's relationships? (19:13-19)
13. Why did Job ask his friends to have pity on him? (19:20-22)
14. What did Job wish would happen to his words? (19:23-24)
15. What did Job say he would see after his death? (19:26-27)

APPLY IT

16. How can we prevent our circumstances from clouding our perspective?

Lesson 6 – Job Chapters 20-24

OPEN IT

1. What is an example of a "truth" or axiom about life that most everyone accepts?

EXPLORE IT

2. What did Zophar say about the happiness of the wicked or godless person? (20:4-5)
3. What did Zophar say would eventually happen to the godless person? (20:6-11)
4. What will happen to the good things that the godless person enjoys? (20:14-18)
5. What is the ultimate fate of the wicked? (20:24-29)
6. What observations did Job make about the wicked? (21:8-13)
7. What attitude did Job say the wicked had toward God? (21:14-15)
8. For whom did Job say God stored up a person's punishment? (21:19-21)
9. What did Job say about the fate of the evil person? (21:29-33)
10. Why did Eliphaz think God was punishing Job? (22:4-9)
11. What explanation did Eliphaz give for Job's troubles? (22:10-17)
12. What did Eliphaz say would happen if Job returned to God? (22:21-30)
13. What did Job wish he could do? (23:1-7)
14. Why was Job terrified and fearful before God? (23:13-17)
15. How did Job describe the poor? (24:5-11)
16. Why do evil people prefer to do their evil deeds in darkness? (24:13-17)
17. What did Job say would be the fate of evil people? (24:18-22)

APPLY IT

18. How can we trust God despite not completely understanding His ways?

Lesson 7 – Job Chapters 25-31

OPEN IT

1. What makes a person popular or unpopular with others?

EXPLORE IT

2. How did Bildad view people with respect to God? Is he right? (25:1-6)
3. What was Job's initial reply to Bildad? (26:1-4)
4. How did Job describe God's power? (26:5-14)
5. How did Job know this? (26:7)
6. What does Job mean when he says these are the “edges of His ways”? (26:14)
7. What did Job say God had taken from him? (27:2)
8. What did Job pledge that he would not do as long as he lived? (27:3-6)
9. According to Job, what is the fate of the wicked? (27:7-23)
10. Where did Job say people search for wisdom? (28:1-19)
11. According to Job, what is wisdom and where can it be found? (28:20-28)
12. How did Job describe his life before his suffering? (29:1-25)
13. How did Job describe his life since his suffering began? (30:1-15)
14. How did Job characterize his present relationship with God? (30:16-23)
15. How did Job describe his suffering? (30:24-31)
16. Based on the evidence Job supplied, what kind of man was he? (31:1-40)

APPLY IT

17. How can we avoid letting circumstances spoil our relationship with God?

Lesson 8 – Job Chapters 32-33

OPEN IT

1. What behavior of others stirs up anger in you?

EXPLORE IT

2. Why did Elihu become angry with Job? (32:1-2)
3. Why was Elihu angry with Job's three friends? (32:3-5)
4. Why did Elihu wait to speak, and what finally prompted him to answer Job? (32:4-9)
5. According to Elihu, how effective were Job's three friend's words? (32:10-14)
6. Why did Elihu say he had to speak? (32:15-22)
7. Why did Elihu want Job to listen to him? (33:1-7)
8. By what authority did Elihu claim to speak? (33:1-7)
9. Of what sin did Elihu accuse Job? (33:8-13)
10. In what different ways does God speak to people (according to Elihu)? (33:12-18)
11. For what reason does man suffer? (33:19-22)
12. According to Elihu, how does God turn people from the pit? (33:23-28)
13. How often, according to Elihu, does God attempt to bring people back? (33:29-30)
14. What does Elihu desire to do for Job? (33:31-33)

APPLY IT

15. How does our view of God affect our view of life?

Lesson 9 – Job Chapters 34-35

OPEN IT

1. Do you remember ever thinking older people just don't get it? If so, why?

EXPLORE IT

2. How did Elihu summarize Job's speeches? (34:5-9)
3. Is Elihu's description of God in these verses accurate? (34:10-15)
4. Is Elihu right that God shows no partiality? (34:16-20)
5. Is Elihu correct about seeing all that people do? (34:21-23)
6. Is Elihu right that God crushes the wicked openly? (34:24-30)
7. If Elihu understood godly principles correctly, what is the error in his thinking that God has openly crushed Job due to his wickedness? (34:24-30)
8. What does Elihu accuse Job of doing in his reply to God? (34:31-37)
9. Is Elihu right that Job spoke without wisdom? (34:35)
10. According to Elihu what is Job saying? What is Job questioning? (35:1-3)
11. According to Elihu, how does a person's sin or righteousness affect God? (35:4-8)
12. Why according to Elihu, does God not always answer people asking for help? (35:9-15)
13. What is Elihu saying Job's biggest fault is? (35:1-16)

APPLY IT

14. Is there a mistake Elihu makes that we may learn from?

Lesson 10 – Job Chapters 36-37

OPEN IT

1. Can we ever speak on God's behalf?

EXPLORE IT

2. How does Elihu describe himself? (36:1-4)
3. According to Elihu, what does God do for the righteous? (36:5-7)
4. According to Elihu, if someone suffers affliction what is God doing to them? (36:8-10)
5. According to Elihu, what choice does God give the wicked? (36:11-12)
6. According to Elihu, what happens to the hypocrites? (36:13-15)
7. Why does Elihu say Job is getting what he deserves? (36:16-21)
8. How did Elihu describe the greatness of God? (36:22-33)
9. Why did Elihu get so excited when speaking about the awesome power of God? (37:1)
10. How did Elihu describe the coming of God? (37:2-13)
11. Why, according to Elihu, does God bring the storm? Is he right? (37:13)
12. What series of questions did Elihu ask Job? (37:14-20)
13. With what advice did Elihu conclude his speech? (37:21-24)

APPLY IT

14. How would you describe God's greatness and power in your own words?

Lesson 11 – Job Chapters 38-39

OPEN IT

1. When in your life have you been utterly speechless? Why?

EXPLORE IT

2. What is God purpose of asking these questions of Job? (38:1-3)
3. Do we learn anything from God's question about creating the earth? (38:4-7)
4. What do we learn about the ocean depths from God's question? (38:16)
5. What does God imply with these questions? (38:38-41)
6. What is the focus of the Lord's first round of questions to Job? (38:4-41)
7. What do we learn about God's knowledge of animals from these questions? (39:1-4)
8. What do we learn about ostriches from these statements (39:13-18)
9. How does our power compare to that of the horse? (39:19-25)
10. What knowledge or wisdom does it take to create something to fly? Would Job have known how to make something fly? (39:26-30)
11. What is the focus of the Lord's second round of questions to Job? (39:1-30)

APPLY IT

12. How would you summarize the Lord's questioning of Job?

Lesson 12 – Job Chapters 40-41

OPEN IT

1. If you could ask God any question about life, what would it be?

EXPLORE IT

2. What did God challenge Job to do? (40:1-2)
3. How did Job respond to God's challenge? (40:3-5)
4. How is God answering Job's earlier request for justice? (40:6-7)
5. What is the point of God's question in this verse? (40:8)
6. What does God say it would take for Job to save himself? (40:9-14)
7. What is God implying with the behemoth? What animal does it sound like? (40:15-24)
8. What belongs to God? (41:11)
9. What does the description of the leviathan make you think of? (41:1-34)
10. Why do you think God described the leviathan in such detail? (41:1-34)

APPLY IT

11. How does God's answer to Job affect your perspective on God or life?

Lesson 13 – Job Chapter 42

OPEN IT

1. When have you ever had to take back something you said?

EXPLORE IT

2. What did Job say about God? (42:1-2)
3. What did Job say about what he had previously said? (42:3)
4. In what way did Job speak about things that he did not understand? (42:3)
5. How did God's reply change Job's attitude? (42:3-4)
6. Why did Job say he would repent? (42:4-6)
7. Why was God angry with Job's three friends but not with Job? (42:7)
8. What did the Lord tell Eliphaz and his two friends to do? (42:8-9)
9. What did the Lord do for Job? (42:10)
10. What did Job's brothers, sisters, and friends do for Job? (42:11)
11. How did the Lord bless Job's life? (42:12-15)
12. What was the rest of Job's life like? (42:16-17)

APPLY IT

13. Why did God have Job pray for his three friends?