

Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps
Sermon # 18 – “Job”
September 30, 2007

The Book of Job introduces a new section in the Old Testament—the books of Poetry.

- The Law – 5 books (Genesis to Deuteronomy)
- History – 12 books (Joshua to Esther)
- Poetry – 5 books (Job to Song of Solomon)
- The Prophets – 12 books (Isaiah to Malachi)

The books of Law and History take us from Creation until 400 B.C. The books of Poetry and Prophecy fit into the historical framework of the books of Law and History.

- Job is the oldest of all the books of Poetry and Prophecy.
- Job is believed to be the earliest written book of the Bible.
- Job is regarded as a beautifully written literary work.
- Job speaks to the dilemma of human suffering.

Outline of the Book of Job

1. The Man Job. Job 1:1-5 (Ezekiel 14:14, James 5:11)

- A good man suffers, illustrating that no one is exempt from suffering.

2. The Tragic Experiences of Job. Job 1:6-2:8

- Job’s 1st test: He loses his wealth and his children. (1:6-19)
- Job’s response to tragedy. (1:20-22)
- Job’s 2nd test: He loses his health. (2:1-8)

Through this series of events we learn some things about...

- The Omniscience of God. (God knew everything about Job)
- The Authority of God. (God is the Supreme Authority in the universe.)

- The Will of God. (God’s ultimate goal for us is not our physical comfort but our spiritual maturity.)
- The Equity of God. (Matthew 5:45)
- The Loyalty of God. (Hebrews 13:5)
- The Triumph of God. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

3. The Analysis of Job’s Plight. Job 2:9-31:40

- Mrs. Job offers her “helpful” advice (2:9).
- Job’s 3 friends sit in silence for 7 days (2:11-13). Then, they give their analysis: (a) Suffering is a result of sin. (b) Job is suffering. (c) Therefore, Job has sinned.
- Job’s comforters became his accusers. As the dialogue continues, Job becomes increasingly defensive. Hence, a great debate rages throughout much of the book.
- Job’s yearning for a Mediator. (9:33)
- Job’s hope in a Redeemer. (19:25ff)
- Job’s weariness of his “friends” (16:1-5, 17:2, 19:2-3)

4. Another Voice: A Young Man Named Elihu. Job 32-37

- A different view of suffering: God can use suffering to benefit people. 33:29-30
- Job was suffering not because he had sinned, but Job was sinning now because he was suffering. Job needs to repent of his self-righteous, prideful attitude.

5. The Voice of the God: Out of the Whirlwind. Job 38-41

- God overwhelms Job and humbles him.
- God brings things into perspective for Job, lifting him from the depths of self-pity

6. Job’s Response. 42:1-6

- Even a good man is humbled in the presence of Almighty God
- Even a good man needs to repent.

7. God’s Blessings. 42:7-17