

Job

His Terrible Trials

The nature of his trials ([chs 1–2](#))

1. Oxen and donkeys stolen and farmhands killed
2. Sheep and herdsmen burned by fire
3. Camels stolen and servants killed
4. Sons and daughters die in a mighty wind
5. Job himself struck with boils

The background of trials

Job's motives for worshiping God had been challenged by Satan during a confrontation in the heavenlies. A sovereign God thereupon allows the five trials.

His Wife's Counsel

"Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die." ([2:9](#))

His Fickle Friends

Eliphaz

Chapters [4](#), [5](#), [15](#), [22](#)

Viewpoint: Personal experience ([4:8](#), [12-16](#))

Conclusion:

"You are suffering because of your sin!" ([4:7](#), [8](#); [15:6](#))

1. You have cheated the poor ([22:6](#)).
2. You have not fed the hungry ([22:7](#)).
3. You have mistreated widows and orphans ([22:9](#)).
4. You are a windbag ([15:2](#)).

"My advice: Repent and turn back to God!" ([22:21-28](#))

Bildad

Chapters [8](#), [18](#), [25](#)

Viewpoint: Tradition ([8:8-10](#))

Conclusion:

"You are suffering because of your sin!" ([8:20](#))

"My advice: Repent and turn back to God!" ([88:5-6](#))

Zophar

Chapters 11, 20

Viewpoint: Dogmatism (11:6; 20:4)

Conclusion:

“You are suffering because of your sin!” (11:4-6; 20:4-5)

“My advice: Repent and turn back to God!” (11:13-15)

Elihu

Chapters 32–37

Viewpoint: Elihu thought he was God’s answer to Job’s problem (33:6)

Conclusion:

1. You are guilty of foolish speaking (34:35-37; 36:16)
2. You are guilty of false righteousness (35:2)
3. Consider God’s glory and greatness (37:14-24)

His Defenses and Dialogues

The suffering patriarch responds to his accusers in nine separate speeches.

Chapters: 3, 6-7, 9-10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26-31

Job discusses **fourteen** topics:

1. Righteousness and suffering (27:6; 31:1-40)
2. Good works (29:12-17; 30:25)
3. Health, wealth, and respect (29:1-11, 20-25)
4. Unfair punishment (9:16-17, 30-33; 10:2, 7-8; 13:26-27; 19:6-11; 30:20-21)
5. So-called friends (12:2; 13:4; 16:2; 19:3)
6. “If they were in my place” (16:4-5)
7. False neighbors, associates, and servants (19:13-22; 30:1, 9-10)
8. Answers (28:12-28)
9. God (23:8-9)
10. The flesh (7:5, 13-14; 30:17-18, 30)
11. “I wish I had never been born” (3:3-11, 16; 10:18)
12. “I wish I were dead” (6:8-9; 7:15-16)
13. “I have no hope” (10:20-22)
14. “In spite of all, I’ll trust God” (13:15; 16:19; 23:10)

His Glorious God

Suddenly from out of a whirlwind comes the mighty voice of God. The sullen Job is then subjected to a quiz:

God's **First** Series of Questions: [Job 38–39](#)

1. [Job 38:4](#) “Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.”
2. [Job 38:18](#) “Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all.”
3. [Job 38:19](#) “Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof?”
4. [Job 38:24](#) “By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth?”
5. [Job 38:28](#) “Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew?”
6. [Job 40:2](#) “Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it.”

Job's reply: [40:4-5](#)

God's **Second** Series of Questions: [Job 40:6–41:34](#)

1. [Job 40:15](#) “Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox.”
2. [Job 41:1](#) “Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord which thou lettest down?” NOTE: These two creatures may very well refer to a land dinosaur and a sea dinosaur.

Job's reply: [42:1-6](#)

His Bountiful Blessings

[Job 42:7-17](#)

Job has been subjected to five fiery trials and has participated in five painful debates, but now he receives at the hand of God a tenfold blessing:

1. He is allowed to see the glory of God.
2. He sees himself as God sees him. (This is always a blessing.)
3. He is vindicated by God before the eyes of his three critical friends.
4. He discovers the joy of praying for these three friends.
5. His former health is fully restored.
6. He is comforted by his brothers and sisters.
7. He is given double his former wealth.
8. He is given seven more sons and three more daughters.
9. He lives to enjoy his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
10. He is given an additional 140 years—twice the number normally accorded a man. (See [Ps 90:10](#).)

Some Reasons for Job's Sufferings

1. That Satan might be silenced (1:9-11; 2:4-5).
2. That Job might see God (42:5).
3. That Job might see himself (40:4; 42:6).
4. That Job's friends might learn not to judge (42:7).
5. That Job might learn to pray for, rather than to lash out against, his critics (42:10).
6. To demonstrate that all God's plans for his children eventually have happy endings (42:10).