



IN
OUT

English Standard Version

Job

WHEN THE PAIN IS GREAT

IN & OUT[®]

English Standard Version

JOB
WHEN THE PAIN IS GREAT

ISBN: 978-1-63687-008-3

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1st edition

Printed in the United States of America



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“Have you considered my servant Job?”

What an adventure awaits you in the study of Job! We are excited!

Job holds a unique place among the 66 books of the Bible. It’s a book God included in His Book of books that has fascinated people who don’t even know God. It has even played on Broadway, word for word, in New York City!

We want you to experience Job as it happens . . . just the way God lays it out from beginning to end in His God-breathed Word. Job had no idea of how his story began, nor how it would end.

Therefore, if you have read Job before, heard teaching on it, or even studied it with a group, do your best to put all that information away for now. Remember, Job did not have the information you have! He simply lived it! Let’s live it with him. In Job time! In God time!

We believe you will get a greater understanding of how to minister to people who just want to die because life is so bad.

As we begin, make it a habit to start your study times with prayer. Ask God for His help in understanding and handling His Word rightly so you might walk in truth, in the light of His Word.

TAKING IT IN

We will observe the first five chapters of Job this week. You’ll find the text of Job in the Appendix under “Observation Worksheets.”

Our Precept studies begin with OBSERVATION—discovering what the text says—by searching out the answers to what we call “**the 5 Ws and an H**”: **who, what, when, where, why, and how.**

From OBSERVATION we move to INTERPRETATION—finding out what God means—and then comes APPLICATION—how we are to live in light of His Word.



1. Let's begin with Job chapter 1.
 - a. Read Job 1 paragraph by paragraph. Paragraph beginnings are indicated with a bold verse number.
 - 1) **What** are the first five verses about?
 - 2) **What** happens in the next six verses, 6-12? Write it down in a few words from the text.
 - 3) Summarize, as briefly as possible, **what** happens in verses 13-19.
 - 4) Finally, read verses 20-22. **How** does Job take all this? **What** does the author of Job want you to know about Job?
 - 5) You may want to record the above summaries (1-4) in the margin of your Observation Worksheet beside each paragraph.
 - b. **Who** are the primary persons mentioned in Job 1. The top three? List them below.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
2. Now that you have identified the **whos, what** does the text tell you about each one? The easiest way to find out is:
 - a. Mark each key person with their own specific color and/or symbol for quick identification. This enables you to quickly spot them in the text. For example, color every reference to Job blue or orange, whatever.



On the back cover of your workbook is a **Key Word Bookmark** with suggestions for marking some words used frequently throughout the Bible. You'll find suggestions for the other two persons.

- b. After marking each person, list what the text says about them. Just the facts! Begin with Job; list what you learn about him on the page, "What About Job" at the end of the lesson.
 - c. Now do the same for the other two main persons in Job 1. You will find pages for them at the end of this lesson also.
3. Now let's observe Job 2.
- a. Read chapter 2, marking the characters from chapter 1.
 - b. Are there any key repeated words? A key word is an important, repeated word that brings insight, clarification, emphasis.
 - 1) *blameless, upright* (see *righteous**)
 - 2) *sin,** including synonymous terms or phrases such as *evil*
 - 3) references to death, dying (see *die**)

An asterisk [*] denotes a word with a suggested marking on the Key Word Bookmark.

Read chapters 1–2 again and mark these key words.

- c. What new characters enter the picture in Job 2:11-13? List them in the following space and anything God tells you about them.



- d. Now read chapter 2 once more. Color each of Job's friends on your Observation Worksheet using a different color for each one. Try to pick three unusual colors or color combinations so they can be easily identified.
 - e. Is there any new information given in Job 2 about Job, God, or Satan that you want to add to your profiles on them? If so, record it on your lists at the end of the lesson.
4. Did you realize all that is in Job 1 and 2? Let's review what we've observed. The following assignment will be good for you—it will help Job 2 stick in your mind.

Here we go! Get out your Observation Worksheet of Job 2.

- a. Your assignment is to summarize the theme—the content of each paragraph—in as few words as possible. Record it in the margin of the text in pencil. Using a pencil allows you to change it should you want to. If you prefer, you can summarize below.
 - 1) 1-6
 - 2) 7-8
 - 3) 9-10
 - 4) 11-13
- b. Finally, again in pencil, record the themes of Job 1 and 2 in the appropriate places on the "Job at a Glance" chart in the Appendix. To do this, use a few words from the text that include the main subjects in each chapter.



5. It is time to make a Key Word Bookmark where you will list key words you'll want to mark throughout your study of Job. Cut out the Key Word Bookmark on the back cover of your workbook and on the blank side, list the following words and mark them the way you will throughout this study.

Remember, an asterisk [*] denotes a word that has a suggested marking on the reverse side of the bookmark.

- a. *Job* (Only mark his name, not all the pronouns.)
 - b. *God**
 - c. *fear*
 - d. *death, grave, die**
6. Observe Job 3.
- a. Mark the words on your Key Word Bookmark, along with the word *why*. (You don't need to put *why* on your bookmark.)
 - b. Now move through Job 3 paragraph by paragraph (as you did with the first two chapters) summarizing the main point of each paragraph and recording it in the margin of your Observation Worksheet or in the following spaces.
 - 1) 1-10
 - 2) 11-19
 - 3) 20-26
 - c. These are the words of a real person who has just suffered incredible loss and very great pain.
 - 1) What is Job cursing and why?



2) What does Job 3 tell you about Job’s situation physically? Emotionally?

d. Now record the theme of Job 3 on “Job at a Glance.” Also note who is speaking in the Segment Divisions column for “Speaker.”

7. At this point, we are going to pause and look at a few things that will help you as you move forward in your study of Job.

When you study a book of the Bible you want to know what kind—type—of literature is used so that it is interpreted according to its type. Fundamentally, Job is Hebrew poetry that is “book-ended” in prose (language without poetic structure).

Poetry may sound dull, but it’s not! It’s gutsy writing that speaks pointedly, boldly to right where your emotions hang out with your beliefs and thoughts about life and death, God, relationships, disappointments, failures, wicked people, etc.

As you have just observed, Job opens in prose—plain, ordinary writing which lasts for two chapters.

Fascinating, isn’t it?! Did you know that those things go on in heaven? No other book in the Bible gives you those insights!

Unlike English poetry that often emphasizes rhyme and meter (or rhythm), Hebrew poetry’s most important element is parallelism, by which authors emphasize ideas. Sometimes that parallelism repeats a thought in other words. Other times, the parallelism adds new information to an original concept. A third type of parallelism contrasts ideas, showing how they are different. Also, poetry often draws analogies, likening one thing to another, the characteristics of which are similar.



- a. In light of this, let's look at the book's structure from chapter 3 onward.
- 1) Whose "poetry" is spoken first? The answer is in Job 3:1.
 - 2) What happens in Job 4:1? Who speaks, answers?
 - 3) Who is speaking in 5:1 . . . and how do you know?
 - 4) Who speaks in chapter 6?
 - 5) Who speaks in chapter 7?
 - 6) And who is mentioned in 8:1?
 - 7) Then in 11:1, who finally gets to speak? Remember him? He was one of the three mentioned in Job 2.
- b. This pattern of dialog continues from Job 3 right up to Job 42. The people speak in poetic form.

When you come to Job 42, the poetry ends, and in plain prose God says to Eliphaz the Temanite in verse 7, "My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has."

- 1) What are the names of those two friends?



2) This is the Eliphaz you are about to hear from in Job 4. So knowing what God says in Job 42:7, is there anything you want to be careful about as you study Job? Write it down.

8. Observe Job 4 and 5.

- a. Add *wisdom*, *wise* to your bookmark and mark key words. Also record the theme of each paragraph and the chapter as a whole.
- b. Note who is speaking in these two chapters in the “Speaker” column on the “At a Glance” chart.
- c. If you prefer to record the paragraph themes in the lesson, rather than on your Observation Worksheet, you can do that in the following spaces.

1) 4:1-6

2) 4:7-11

3) 4:12-21

4) 5:1-7

5) 5:8-16

6) 5:17-27



- d. Now take another good look at Eliphaz’s response to Job in chapters 4–5.
- 1) Eliphaz doesn’t know what happened in the first two chapters. When he speaks, what seems to be his understanding of why Job is suffering? What is his view of God’s justice?

 - 2) How did he come to this view?

 - 3) Is he correct? How do *you* know? (Hint: Remember what you read in Job 1 and 2.)
9. Finally, what have you learned from the first five chapters about those who are suffering greatly? Record your thoughts on the page in the Appendix, “Insights on Those Who Are Hurting.” Include chapter and verse.

LIVING
IT OUT

1. Take a careful look at Job 1:6-12 again. Who brings up Job and why? Who sets the boundaries? What do you learn? Record your observations below.

What do you think God would say about you?



2. As you studied Job 1–5 this week, what has God impressed on your heart, Beloved?

May our study of Job help us know God deeply and live differently—with His Word as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105).



WHAT ABOUT JOB





GOD





SATAN





JOB 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THERE was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

- 2 There were born to him seven sons and three daughters.
- 3 He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east.
- 4 His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.
- 5 And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.
- 6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.
- 7 The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."
- 8 And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?"
- 9 Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason?"
- 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.
- 11 "But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face."



- 12 And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.
- 13 Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house,
- 14 and there came a messenger to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them,
- 15 and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”
- 16 While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”
- 17 While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”
- 18 While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house,
- 19 and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”
- 20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped.
- 21 And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”
- 22 In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.



JOB 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

AGAIN there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD.

- 2 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."
- 3 And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason."
- 4 Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life.
- 5 "But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face."
- 6 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life."
- 7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.
- 8 And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.
- 9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die."
- 10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.



- 11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him.
- 12 And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven.
- 13 And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.



JOB 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

AFTER this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

2 And Job said:

3 “Let the day perish on which I was born,
and the night that said,
‘A man is conceived.’

4 “Let that day be darkness!
May God above not seek it,
nor light shine upon it.

5 “Let gloom and deep darkness claim it.
Let clouds dwell upon it;
let the blackness of the day terrify it.

6 “That night—let thick darkness seize it!
Let it not rejoice among the days of the year;
let it not come into the number of the months.

7 “Behold, let that night be barren;
let no joyful cry enter it.

8 “Let those curse it who curse the day,
who are ready to rouse up Leviathan.

9 “Let the stars of its dawn be dark;
let it hope for light, but have none,
nor see the eyelids of the morning,

10 because it did not shut the doors of my mother’s womb,
nor hide trouble from my eyes.

11 “Why did I not die at birth,
come out from the womb and expire?



12 “Why did the knees receive me?
Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?
13 “For then I would have lain down and been quiet;
I would have slept; then I would have been at rest,
14 with kings and counselors of the earth
who rebuilt ruins for themselves,
15 or with princes who had gold,
who filled their houses with silver.
16 “Or why was I not as a hidden stillborn child,
as infants who never see the light?
17 “There the wicked cease from troubling,
and there the weary are at rest.
18 “There the prisoners are at ease together;
they hear not the voice of the taskmaster.
19 “The small and the great are there,
and the slave is free from his master.
20 “Why is light given to him who is in misery,
and life to the bitter in soul,
21 who long for death, but it comes not,
and dig for it more than for hidden treasures,
22 who rejoice exceedingly
and are glad when they find the grave?
23 “Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden,
whom God has hedged in?
24 “For my sighing comes instead of my bread,
and my groanings are poured out like water.
25 “For the thing that I fear comes upon me,
and what I dread befalls me.
26 “I am not at ease, nor am I quiet;
I have no rest, but trouble comes.”



JOB 4

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEN Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

- 2 “If one ventures a word with you, will you be impatient?
 Yet who can keep from speaking?”
- 3 “Behold, you have instructed many,
 and you have strengthened the weak hands.
- 4 “Your words have upheld him who was stumbling,
 and you have made firm the feeble knees.
- 5 “But now it has come to you, and you are impatient;
 it touches you, and you are dismayed.
- 6 “Is not your fear of God your confidence,
 and the integrity of your ways your hope?”
- 7 “Remember: who that was innocent ever perished?
 Or where were the upright cut off?”
- 8 “As I have seen, those who plow iniquity
 and sow trouble reap the same.
- 9 “By the breath of God they perish,
 and by the blast of his anger they are consumed.
- 10 “The roar of the lion, the voice of the fierce lion,
 the teeth of the young lions are broken.
- 11 “The strong lion perishes for lack of prey,
 and the cubs of the lioness are scattered.
- 12 “Now a word was brought to me stealthily;
 my ear received the whisper of it.
- 13 “Amid thoughts from visions of the night,
 when deep sleep falls on men,



14 dread came upon me, and trembling,
 which made all my bones shake.

15 “A spirit glided past my face;
 the hair of my flesh stood up.

16 “It stood still,
 but I could not discern its appearance.
 A form was before my eyes;
 there was silence, then I heard a voice:

17 ‘Can mortal man be in the right before God?
 Can a man be pure before his Maker?

18 ‘Even in his servants he puts no trust,
 and his angels he charges with error;

19 how much more those who dwell in houses of clay,
 whose foundation is in the dust,
 who are crushed like the moth.

20 ‘Between morning and evening they are beaten to pieces;
 they perish forever without anyone regarding it.

21 ‘Is not their tent-cord plucked up within them,
 do they not die, and that without wisdom?’



JOB 5

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

“CALL now; is there anyone who will answer you?

To which of the holy ones will you turn?

2 “Surely vexation kills the fool,
and jealousy slays the simple.

3 “I have seen the fool taking root,
but suddenly I cursed his dwelling.

4 “His children are far from safety;
they are crushed in the gate,
and there is no one to deliver them.

5 “The hungry eat his harvest,
and he takes it even out of thorns,
and the thirsty pant after his wealth.

6 “For affliction does not come from the dust,
nor does trouble sprout from the ground,

7 but man is born to trouble
as the sparks fly upward.

8 “As for me, I would seek God,
and to God would I commit my cause,

9 who does great things and unsearchable,
marvelous things without number:

10 he gives rain on the earth
and sends waters on the fields;

11 he sets on high those who are lowly,
and those who mourn are lifted to safety.

12 “He frustrates the devices of the crafty,
so that their hands achieve no success.



- 13 “He catches the wise in their own craftiness,
and the schemes of the wily are brought to a quick end.
- 14 “They meet with darkness in the daytime
and grope at noonday as in the night.
- 15 “But he saves the needy from the sword of their mouth
and from the hand of the mighty.
- 16 “So the poor have hope,
and injustice shuts her mouth.
- 17 “Behold, blessed is the one whom God reproves;
therefore despise not the discipline of the Almighty.
- 18 “For he wounds, but he binds up;
he shatters, but his hands heal.
- 19 “He will deliver you from six troubles;
in seven no evil shall touch you.
- 20 “In famine he will redeem you from death,
and in war from the power of the sword.
- 21 “You shall be hidden from the lash of the tongue,
and shall not fear destruction when it comes.
- 22 “At destruction and famine you shall laugh,
and shall not fear the beasts of the earth.
- 23 “For you shall be in league with the stones of the field,
and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with you.
- 24 “You shall know that your tent is at peace,
and you shall inspect your fold and miss nothing.
- 25 “You shall know also that your offspring shall be many,
and your descendants as the grass of the earth.
- 26 “You shall come to your grave in ripe old age,
like a sheaf gathered up in its season.
- 27 “Behold, this we have searched out; it is true.
Hear, and know it for your good.”



JOB AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Segment Divisions

	Speaker	Chapter Themes
Author:		1
		2
		3
Purpose:		4
		5
		6
		7
		8
Date:		9
		10
Key Words:		11
		12
		13
		14
		15
		16
		17
		18
		19
		20



**Segment
Divisions**

	Speaker	Chapter Themes
		21
		22
		23
		24
		25
		26
		27
		28
		29
		30
		31
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		40
		41
		42



INSIGHTS ON THOSE WHO ARE HURTING

