

Job

Summary

Job is a man who lives a blameless life and who seeks to honor God in everything he does. Satan insists that Job only follows God because God protects him, and Satan asks for permission to test Job. Job is wealthy and blessed with a large family, which he believed was because of his faith in God. Satan tests Job through the loss of his family and all of his possessions, through his wife's encouragement to give up and curse God, and through his friends wanting him to question God. Job stands firm through it all. When Satan saw that he was unable to change his faith, he left him and God restored double of all that he had lost.

Author

The author of Job is unknown. There is a wide variety of opinions which include Job, his friend Eliphaz, Moses, or even Solomon. There is no evidence within the book that identifies any specific author.

Date

The date of Job is unknown. Many scholars believe Job is one of the oldest stories in the Bible. Job probably lived sometime between 2350-1750 B.C. because his life and culture are similar to that of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) than any other period depicted in the Bible. However, this does not provide a definitive written date from this time period.

Primary Characters

Job (Job 1-42)

Eliphaz (Job 4, 15, 22)

Bildad (Job 8, 18, 25)

Zophar (Job 11, 20)

Elihu (Job 32-37)

Historical Moments

None specifically mentioned in the book of Job.

Major Theological Themes

God Is the Ultimate Source of Wisdom - Throughout the book, Job's friends try to impart their wisdom to Job. Each friend incorrectly believes he has the answer. However, God responds to Job with a long list of what God knows which man does not. God reveals that since man is lacking in knowledge, he has no place to question God's actions.

God Is All-Powerful - In God's response to Job's complaining, He speaks of all that He has done from laying the foundation of the earth to commanding the sun to rise. God is clear that He is capable of doing anything He wishes and that man's abilities do not compare to what God can do.

Lessons Learned from Job

Do Not Have Circumstantial Faith - We can learn from Job that our faith in God should not fluctuate based on our life's circumstances. We know that we will have ups and downs in life, and the only thing we can count on is God

Not All Advice Is Good Advice - It is clear through the advice of Job's friends that not all counsel is wise counsel. Job's friends did not speak truthfully about God and the Lord was clearly upset with them. While it is a good idea to seek godly advice, if it does not line up with what we know to be God's truth, we must be careful not to follow it.

God Gives Us Strength - Job was not able to endure the challenges in his life on his own. It was through God's strength that he was able to hold on and persevere. While we may not face the same challenges as Job, we must lean on God in all of life's circumstances.

God Is at Work - We will not always see what God is doing, nor will we always understand. It is helpful to understand that we will not always know what God is going to do. Job said, *surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know* (Job 42:3). We can learn from Job that God's ways are not our ways.