



**THEME: SUFFERING** – The Book of Job grapples with one of the greatest questions ever asked: Why do good people suffer?

**MAIN HUMAN CHARACTER: JOB** – This is not a fictional character that God uses in a parable. Job is referred to in Ezekiel 14:14 & 20. There he is mentioned alongside Moses and Daniel. He is also referred to in James 5:11.

**STYLE OF WRITING: POETIC** – The first of the Poetic Books which include Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon and Lamentations.

#### OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF JOB:

- I. CHAPTERS 1-3: THE PROLOGUE – GOD SETS THE SCENE FOR THE BOOK
- II. CHAPTERS 4-41: THE DIALOGUE – CONVERSATION BETWEEN JOB AND HIS FRIENDS AND WITH GOD HIMSELF
- III. CHAPTER 42: THE EPILOGUE – GOD BRINGS THE BOOK TO A RESOLUTION

#### I. JOB'S AFFLUENCE (1:1-5)

##### A. JOB WAS RICH IN HIS FAITH (1:1)

The word "perfect" does not mean sinless; it means that he was blameless or complete. This was an Old Testament way of describing a saved man. Perfect refers to Job's character; what he is. Upright refers to conduct; what he does.

##### B. JOB WAS RICH IN HIS FAMILY (1:2)

In those days, in the Middle East, a large family was considered a special blessing, because in those days the biggest industry was agriculture.

It was also considered to be a sign of God's blessing on that family.

*Psalm 127:3-5, "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: "*

His seemed to get along with each other (1:4-5).

Job was very careful to make sure they were a spiritual family (1:5).

#### II. JOB'S ADVERSITY

In verse 6 the scene changes. God takes us from an earthly scene to a heavenly scene. We get a look backstage at a meeting that takes place at the very throne of God. We learn some important facts here:

- 1) *The devil has direct access to the throne of God*
- 2) *When he takes advantage of his access, he comes to God as the "accuser of the brethren".*
- 3) *The devil always has to get permission from God before he can do anything to a believer.*

*Revelation 12:10, "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."*

*1 John 2:1, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:"*

#### A. A DIALOGUE BETWEEN SATAN AND GOD (1:6-12)

This is the great charge that the devil makes against faith. What he is saying is that Job is only good to God because God is good to Job. The issue is: Do we worship God for who He is or do we worship God only for what he does for us?

#### B. JOB LOSES HIS WEALTH (1:13-19)

*1 Thessalonians 4:13, ". . . sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."*

#### C. JOB LOSES HIS HEALTH (2:1-7)

Some believe that these boils were leprosy. Some believe it was Elephantiasis.

The devil never speaks again in the entire Old Testament. The next time you'll hear anything out of the devil is in the wilderness where Jesus was tempted

#### III. JOB'S ANGUISH (CHAPTER 3)

##### A. JOB'S LAMENTATION (3:1-10)

When the anguish builds up in his heart, it reaches his lips in the form of three questions: 1) Why was I born? 2) Why didn't I die when I was born? 3) Why can't I die now?

##### B. JOB'S FRUSTRATION (3:11-23)

He asks the question "Why?" four times in verses 11-12. Remember that when our Lord Jesus hung on the cross for our sin, he asked, "Why?"

Explanations don't help the hurt of the human heart. That's where the promises of God come in.

**LESSON 1:** Whatever is coming to your life, God always knows about it.

**LESSON 2:** God is working everything out for your good and His glory.

**LESSON 3:** In hard times, ask, "What's going on behind the scenes that I don't know about?"

**LESSON 4:** Keep in mind, the Devil is not running the universe, God is.