

## The Book of Job Does Not Mean Exactly What We Have Heard

### 1) Job 1:1 – 3, 6 - 12 NKJV

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. <sup>2</sup> And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. <sup>3</sup> Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

<sup>6</sup> Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. <sup>7</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." <sup>8</sup> Then 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, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

<sup>9</sup> So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? <sup>10</sup> Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. <sup>11</sup> But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" <sup>12</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has *is* in your power; only do not lay a hand on his *person*." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

- a. Could anyone stop Satan in the earth or from coming before God? Why?
- b. Who said that God should test Job?
- c. What did it mean when God said that all that Job had was in his power? Is that still the case for us?

### 2) See Job 1:13 – 19; Job 1: 20 – 22 follows:

<sup>20</sup> Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. <sup>21</sup> And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." <sup>22</sup> In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

- a. How did Job respond to the tragedies that just occurred in his life?
- b. Did God say, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away"?
- c. Did Job blame God?

### 3) Job 2:4 – 10, 13

<sup>4</sup> So Satan answered the Lord and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. <sup>5</sup> But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, he *is* in your hand, but spare his life.”

<sup>7</sup> So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. <sup>8</sup> And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes.

<sup>9</sup> Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!”

<sup>10</sup> But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

<sup>13</sup> So they (Job’s friends) sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that *his* grief was very great.

- a. What does “Behold, he *is* in your hand, but spare his life” mean?
- b. How did Job respond initially to his trial?

### 4) Job 4:7 – 8

“Remember now, whoever perished being innocent? Or where were the upright ever cut off? <sup>8</sup> Even as I have seen those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same.

a. This is a quote from Job’s friend Eliphaz. What is he implying as to the reason for Job’s trial? What is wrong with his reasoning?

### 5) Job 7:20

Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target so that I am a burden to myself?

a. Job is justifying himself and asking why God has done this to him. How is his reasoning holding him back?

### 6) Job 13:15 – 16

Though He (God) slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him. <sup>16</sup> He also *shall* be my salvation for a hypocrite could not come before Him.

a. What is wrong with Job’s thinking here, and what do his statements reveal about his character?

7) Job 38:1 – 6

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: <sup>2</sup>“Who *is* this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? <sup>3</sup> Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. <sup>4</sup>“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell *Me*, if you have understanding. <sup>5</sup> Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup> To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,

- a. How is God adjusting Job’s perspective?

8) Job 42:1 – 6

Then Job answered the Lord and said: <sup>2</sup>“I know that You can do everything and that no purpose *of Yours* can be withheld from You. <sup>3</sup> *You asked*, ‘Who *is* this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. <sup>4</sup> Listen, please, and let me speak; *You said*, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ <sup>5</sup>“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. <sup>6</sup> Therefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes.”

- a. What did Job realize about God, and what did he do to respond?

9) Job 42:10, 12 – 13, 16 - 17

<sup>10</sup> And the Lord restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. <sup>12</sup> Now the Lord blessed the latter *days* of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. <sup>13</sup> He also had seven sons and three daughters. <sup>16</sup> After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren *for* four generations. <sup>17</sup> So Job died, old and full of days.

- a. What did Job do that triggered the restoration and multiplication of his losses?