

IN
OUT

Job

WHEN THE PAIN IS GREAT

IN & OUT®
JOB
WHEN THE PAIN IS GREAT

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PAGE **LESSONS**

- 1 LESSON ONE: “Have you considered My servant Job?”
- 17 LESSON TWO: Is Hope Slipping Away?
- 23 LESSON THREE: “Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.”
- 29 LESSON FOUR: Are You Clinging to What You Know About God?
- 37 LESSON FIVE: “Bear with me”
- 45 LESSON SIX: Be Careful What You Say
- 51 LESSON SEVEN: “The words of Job are ended.”
- 59 LESSON EIGHT: “Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind”

APPENDIX

- 66 Explanations of the New American Standard Bible Text Format
- 67 Observation Worksheets
- 175 Job at a Glance
- 177 Insights on Those Who Are Hurting

“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 accurately 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.

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- 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 wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because 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, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.

- 2 Seven sons and three daughters were born to him.
- 3 His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men 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 When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings *according to* the number of them all; for Job said, “Perhaps my sons 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 do you come?” Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.”
- 8 The LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.”
- 9 Then Satan answered the LORD, “Does Job fear God for nothing?”
- 10 “Have You not made a hedge about 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 put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.”

- 12 Then the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.” So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.
- 13 Now on the day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house,
- 14 a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them,
- 15 and the Sabeans attacked and took them. They also slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”
- 16 While he was still speaking, another also came 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 still speaking, another also came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and took them and slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”
- 18 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house,
- 19 and behold, a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people and they died, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”
- 20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped.
- 21 He said,
“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,
And naked I shall return there.
The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away.
Blessed be the name of the LORD.”
- 22 Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

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 The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.”
- 3 The LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause.”
- 4 Satan answered the LORD and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.
- 5 “However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face.”
- 6 So the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life.”
- 7 Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.
- 8 And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among 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 speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

-
- 11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, they came each one from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite; and they made an appointment together to come to sympathize with him and comfort him.
 - 12 When they lifted up their eyes at a distance and did not recognize him, they raised their voices and wept. And each of them tore his robe and they threw dust over their heads toward the sky.
 - 13 Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights with no one speaking a word to him, for they saw that *his* pain was very great.

JOB 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

AFTERWARD Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his *birth*.

- 2 And Job said,
- 3 “Let the day perish on which I was to be born,
And the night *which* said, ‘A boy is conceived.’
- 4 “May that day be darkness;
Let not God above care for it,
Nor light shine on it.
- 5 “Let darkness and black gloom claim it;
Let a cloud settle on it;
Let the blackness of the day terrify it.
- 6 “*As for* that night, let 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 shout enter it.
- 8 “Let those curse it who curse the day,
Who are prepared to rouse Leviathan.
- 9 “Let the stars of its twilight be darkened;
Let it wait for light but have none,
And let it not see the breaking dawn;
- 10 Because it did not shut the opening of my *mother’s* womb,
Or hide trouble from my eyes.
- 11 “Why did I not die at birth,
Come forth from the womb and expire?
- 12 “Why did the knees receive me,
And why the breasts, that I should suck?

- 13 “For now I would have lain down and been quiet;
I would have slept then, I would have been at rest,
14 With kings and *with* counselors of the earth,
Who rebuilt ruins for themselves;
15 Or with princes who had gold,
Who were filling their houses *with* silver.
16 “Or like a miscarriage which is discarded, I would not be,
As infants that never saw light.
17 “There the wicked cease from raging,
And there the weary are at rest.
18 “The prisoners are at ease together;
They do not hear 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 suffers,
And life to the bitter of soul,
21 Who long for death, but there is none,
And dig for it more than for hidden treasures,
22 Who rejoice greatly,
And exult when they find the grave?
23 “*Why is light given* to a man whose way is hidden,
And whom God has hedged in?
24 “For my groaning comes at the sight of my food,
And my cries pour out like water.
25 “For what I fear comes upon me,
And what I dread befalls me.
26 “I am not at ease, nor am I quiet,
And I am not at rest, but turmoil comes.”

JOB 4

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- THEN** Eliphaz the Temanite answered,
- 2 “If one ventures a word with you, will you become impatient?
But who can refrain from speaking?”
- 3 “Behold you have admonished many,
And you have strengthened weak hands.
- 4 “Your words have helped the tottering to stand,
And you have strengthened 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 now, who *ever* perished being innocent?
Or where were the upright destroyed?”
- 8 “According to what I have seen, those who plow iniquity
And those who sow trouble harvest it.
- 9 “By the breath of God they perish,
And by the blast of His anger they come to an end.
- 10 “The roaring of the lion and the voice of the *fierce* lion,
And the teeth of the young lions are broken.
- 11 “The lion perishes for lack of prey,
And the whelps of the lioness are scattered.
- 12 “Now a word was brought to me stealthily,
And my ear received a whisper of it.
- 13 “Amid disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night,
When deep sleep falls on men,

- 14 Dread came upon me, and trembling,
And made all my bones shake.
- 15 “Then a spirit passed by my face;
The hair of my flesh bristled 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 mankind be just before God?
Can a man be pure before his Maker?
- 18 ‘He puts no trust even in His servants;
And against His angels He charges error.
- 19 ‘How much more those who dwell in houses of clay,
Whose foundation is in the dust,
Who are crushed before the moth!
- 20 ‘Between morning and evening they are broken in pieces;
Unobserved, they perish forever.
- 21 ‘Is not their tent-cord plucked up within them?
They die, yet without wisdom.’

JOB 5

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

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

And to which of the holy ones will you turn?

2 “For anger slays the foolish man,
And jealousy kills the simple.

3 “I have seen the foolish taking root,
And I cursed his abode immediately.

4 “His sons are far from safety,
They are even oppressed in the gate,
And there is no deliverer.

5 “His harvest the hungry devour
And take it to a *place of thorns*,
And the schemer is eager for their wealth.

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

7 For man is born for trouble,
As sparks fly upward.

8 “But as for me, I would seek God,
And I would place my cause before God;

9 Who does great and unsearchable things,
Wonders without number.

10 “He gives rain on the earth
And sends water on the fields,

11 So that He sets on high those who are lowly,
And those who mourn are lifted to safety.

12 “He frustrates the plotting of the shrewd,
So that their hands cannot attain success.

- 13 “He captures the wise by their own shrewdness,
And the advice of the cunning is quickly thwarted.
- 14 “By day they meet with darkness,
And grope at noon as in the night.
- 15 “But He saves from the sword of their mouth,
And the poor from the hand of the mighty.
- 16 “So the helpless has hope,
And unrighteousness must shut its mouth.
- 17 “Behold, how happy is the man whom God reproves,
So do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.
- 18 “For He inflicts pain, and gives relief;
He wounds, and His hands *also* heal.
- 19 “From six troubles He will deliver you,
Even in seven evil will not touch you.
- 20 “In famine He will redeem you from death,
And in war from the power of the sword.
- 21 “You will be hidden from the scourge of the tongue,
And you will not be afraid of violence when it comes.
- 22 “You will laugh at violence and famine,
And you will not be afraid of wild beasts.
- 23 “For you will be in league with the stones of the field,
And the beasts of the field will be at peace with you.
- 24 “You will know that your tent is secure,
For you will visit your abode and fear no loss.
- 25 “You will know also that your descendants will be many,
And your offspring as the grass of the earth.
- 26 “You will come to the grave in full vigor,
Like the stacking of grain in its season.
- 27 “Behold this; we have investigated it, *and* so it is.
Hear it, and know for yourself.”

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
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		30
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INSIGHTS ON THOSE WHO ARE HURTING

