

# Wisdom From The Whirlwind



## **Learning About Suffering From The Life Of Job**

**Hawk Ridge Church Of Christ  
Wednesday Evening Class  
Spring 2013**

**Workbook prepared by Jeremy Jones**

## **The Book Of Job- Lesson 1**

### **The Prologue: Chapters 1-2**

1. Who wrote the book of Job? When was it written? In what time period does the account take place? When did ancient Rabbi legends say it took place?
2. Where else in Scripture is Job mentioned? Where in Scripture is the book of Job quoted?
3. Where was Job from? What had God blessed Job with? Describe the character of Job.
4. What conversation takes place in Heaven starting in **verse 5**? Does anything about the conversation seem strange to you? What does the name "Satan" mean? What is his role? Are there any other places in the Bible that sound similar to this scene?
5. What power does Satan have? Why did God allow Satan to tempt Job? What do these things mean for us as we go through temptations and trials?
6. How long does it take for the terrible events of **chapter 1** to happen to Job? What was Job's reaction?

7. What additional temptation does God allow Satan to inflict? What is Job's reaction?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What does the phrase Job's wife utters to him literally mean? How might you explain this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Who are Job's three friends? What do we know about them? What did they do for Job in **chapter 2**?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Satan doesn't appear in the book of Job past the prologue. Do you think there is any significance to this? What does this section of Job teach us about the nature of sin and suffering?

## **The Book Of Job- Lesson 2**

### **Job's Lament: Chapter 3**

1. The words of Job in this chapter are the cause of the discussions of the rest of the book. Do you find anything strange, shocking, or out of character about the lament? What role does (or should) lamentation play in the life of a Christian?
2. Job spends a long time cursing the fact that he was born. Why does he? What other Biblical writers uttered similar words to those of Job?
3. To some, Job's thoughts may sound suicidal. Do you think they are? Does Job have a genuine reason to wish he'd never been born?
4. What Does Job find comforting about death? How should the Christian view death? Give Biblical examples.
5. Where does Job lay the blame for his misfortune **(3:23)**? Where else have we seen similar wording for this in the book? Whose fault was it that Job was suffering? Is it fair to put any of the responsibility or blame on God?
6. Job's suffering leads him to long for something in the last verse of **chapter 3**. What is it? Provide New Testament examples that prove that our suffering should lead us to long for the same thing.

## **The Book Of Job- Lesson 3**

### **The First Round Of Speeches: Chapters 4-14**

1. Why is Job's lament so shocking to Eliphaz **(4:1-6)**? What role did Job play before he was so afflicted? What did the term "Fear Of God" mean to the ancients?
2. What is the main thesis of Eliphaz's argument? **(4:7-11)** On what does he base his thesis? **(12-21)**? Is this a fair and legitimate basis for argument?
3. What are some of Eliphaz's personal observations about the wicked? **(5:1-7)**. What are his observations on God's work? **(8-27)**. What is his final advice to Job **(8,17)**
4. How does Job describe his feelings about the calamities in his life? **(Job 6:1-7)**. What does Job wish of God? **(6:8-13)**. How does Job describe his feeling towards the "comfort" and "help" of Eliphaz? **(6:14-30)**.
5. What are some of the negative ways that Job describes human existence in **chapter 7**? Have you ever felt any of these ways?
6. In **verse 7** Job references **Psalms 78:39**, in **verse 11** Job references **Psalms 40:9**, in **verse 13-14** Job references **Psalms 6:6**, and in **verse 17** Job references **Psalms 8:4**. How does Job twist these passages from their intended meanings?
7. Why are Bildad's words in **chapter 8** so reckless and heartless? What can we learn from him about how NOT to console someone in time of suffering?

8. What is Bildad's main argument? How does he come to his conclusions? Is anything he says correct?
  
9. What is Job's main complaint in **chapter 9**? Is it a legitimate one? What was God's solution to remedy the problems Job wanted solved?
  
10. What was the moral dilemma giving Job so much trouble, as described in **chapter 10**? How did Job say he would react if he were in fact guilty?
  
11. How did Zophar view the lamentations of Job? (**Job 11:1-5**). What is Zophar's main argument against Job's declaration of innocence? What does Zophar conclude about Job's situation? Is there any truth to what he said?
  
12. How did Job react to the third round of "friendly" advice? (**12:1-4**)
  
13. What does Job say that even nature itself teaches about God's ways? (**12:5-12**)
  
14. What kind of respect does Job say he has for the wisdom of God? (**12:13-25**)
  
15. What is Job absolutely certain of? (**Job 13**)

16. Where else in scripture does the phrase “**born of woman**” appear in Scripture? How might Job’s use of it in **14:1** help us understand it in the other contexts? What does Job say and believe about death according to **chapter 14**?

17. What has Job said and done up to this point in the book that helps prove God’s confidence in Him as justified?

## **Arguments Made In The First Round**

Speaker

What was true?

What was not?

Job

Eliphaz

Bildad

Zophar

## **The Book Of Job- Lesson 4**

### **The Second Round Of Speeches: Chapters 15-21**

1. How does the length of the speeches in the second round compare to the length of speeches in the first round? How does the tone compare? What are some possible reasons for this?
2. How does Eliphaz view everything Job has said up to this point? (**Job 15:1-16**). What does Eliphaz give as the source of his wisdom and insight in this chapter? (**15:17-19**). Is his source of wisdom a legitimate one to argue from?
3. What is the main argument Eliphaz makes in **15:17-35**? Is anything of what he says correct?
4. How does Job now choose to describe the “help” and “comfort” of his friends? (**16:1-5**). Job’s words in **chapter 16** have striking similarities to **Psalms 22, 35, and 69**. What are some of the similarities and what are these Psalms about?
5. What seems to be missing from Job’s life as described in **chapter 17**? Have you ever felt this way? What is God’s solution to fight these feelings?
6. Bildad once again speaks (**Job 18**) hurtful and insulting words instead of comforting ones. What is so hurtful about his speech? How can we be guilty of the same thing and become “sorry comforters?”

7. What is Job's response to Bildad? Who does Job blame for the way he is feeling? **(19:1-6)** Is this fair of Job? Find New Testament passages help explain God's role in suffering and temptation.
  
8. Much later in history the prophet Habbakkuk has similar difficulties to Job in understanding God's role in punishing the wicked. Habbakkuk was familiar with the book of Job **(compare Job 19:7 to Hab. 1:2)**. How did the book of Job help others (like Habakkuk) deal with suffering? How can our suffering help others deal with their own?
  
9. Once again Job reverses many of the comforting ideas of the Psalms **(i.e. contrast Job 19:8-12 with Psalm 18:28-29)**. Find other examples in this chapter where Job describes his feelings in the opposite way that we would expect a believer to feel. Does this mean that Job has fallen from the faith and rejected God?
  
10. What does Job "know" in **19:23-29**? What does he warn his friends of? Who was ultimately proved correct in the debates of this book?
  
11. What reasons does Zophar give for speaking up again? **(20:1-3)**. What does he say about the life of the wicked? Are Zophar's observations about the wicked correct? **(20:4-29)**.
  
12. What does Job argue is actually true about the wicked on this earth? Do they really get destroyed by God or do they prosper? **(Ch. 21)**. Where does Job say to look to find answers about what really happens to the wicked? What does he accuse them of doing in their arguments? **(21:34)**

## **Arguments Made In The Second Round**

*Speaker*

*What was true?*

*What was not?*

Job

Eliphaz

Bildad

Zophar

## **The Book Of Job- Lesson 5**

### **The Third Round Of Speeches: Chapters 22-27**

1. How does the length of speeches in the third round compare to those in the first and second? How does the tone compare? Whose speech is noticeably absent?
2. What reason(s) does Eliphaz give to Job for why he is suffering? **(22:1-20)** How is this different than his previous 2 speeches? What does he counsel Job to do in order to have his fortunes reversed? **(22:21-30)**
3. What does Job once again say that he longs for? **(23:1-9)** How does Job speak of God's oversight and directing of his life? **(23:10-17)**
4. Job asserts that God either does not notice or does not care about many injustices in the world **(Job 26)**. What are some of these sins? Is it true that when these injustices happen God doesn't notice or care? How serious are these sins to God? **(See also Exodus 22-23, Leviticus 19, and Deuteronomy 24)**
5. What do you notice about Bildad's third speech? **(Chapter 25)** Does it add anything to the argument?



## **Arguments Made In The Third Round**

<i><u>Speaker</u></i>	<i><u>What was true?</u></i>	<i><u>What was not?</u></i>
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Job		
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Eliphaz		
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Bildad		
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Zophar		
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	N/A	
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		N/A
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**The Book Of Job- Lesson 6**  
**The Hymn To Wisdom: Chapter 28**

1. This chapter is very different in style, cadence, and material than all of the passages surrounding it. There are many different theories about who wrote it and how it fits into the book. Read the chapter and examine the following possibilities. Decide if one or more of these seems the answer to how **Chapter 28** fits into the book.
  - a. Chapter 28 is a continuation of Job's speech in 27.
  
  - b. Chapter 28 is the lost third speech of Zophar.
  
  - c. Chapter 28 is the inspired answer to the questions of Job and his friends added by the author/editor of the book.
  
2. What is learned about human ingenuity and curiosity from **verses 1-11**? How far are people willing to go to obtain something precious?
  
3. What is the most precious thing of all, according to this chapter? Where can it be found? What can be given in exchange for it? **(28:12-28)**
  
4. What are some examples given in this chapter of things that God is uniquely knowledgeable about? What are some of the ways people have tried (and still are trying) to explain unanswerable questions? How do questions that are unanswerable to humanity help point to the existence of a creator?
  
5. What is God's answer to humans about the definition of wisdom and understanding? Is this answer easy to accept? **(28:28)**

## **The Book Of Job- Lesson 7**

### **Job's Concluding Arguments: Chapters 29-31**

1. How does Job describe his past "glory days?" (**Job 29**). What do we learn about his place in the community? What role did Job once play to others? (**25**)
2. What does Job's true past prove about the accusations of Eliphaz in **chapter 22**?
3. What is Job's current reputation in the community? (**Job 30**) Who is now insulting and taunting him? What are some of the things they are doing to him?
4. The description of Job's plight in **verses 9-31** sounds like the situation described in other Bible passages. What passages do these remind you of? Who else suffered in similar ways to Job?
5. Why does it seem so unfair to Job that he hasn't been comforted at all during his suffering? (**30:24-31**)
6. What reason does Job give for his upstanding character in **Job 31:1-4**?
7. What would Job be willing to do if he were ever caught in sin? (**31:6-40**) Where can all of these sins and their just penalties be found elsewhere in Scripture?
8. What does this chapter teach us about Job's idea of justice? Does this help explain Job's arguments about his suffering and his desire to plead with God? Does Job's idea of just repayment for sins match up with what God teaches on the subject?

**The Book Of Job- Lesson 8**  
**Elihu's Defense Of God: Chapters 32-37**

1. There are many possible thoughts about the role of Elihu's speeches at the end of the book. The following are a few of those. As you study these chapters consider these possibilities and decide which one seems most likely to you. Be ready to defend in class.
  - a. Elihu's speeches were added later by the inspired writer/editor to either explain or transition the reader towards God's point of view.
  - b. Elihu's speeches were genuine from during Job's life, but Elihu is simply another man speaking from human understanding.
  - c. Elihu is essentially introducing God and His argument; he is speaking things that are divine truth that disagree with Job and company.
  
2. Who is Elihu? (**Job 32:1-2; see also Gen. 22:20-24**). Where has he been during the previous discussions? For what reasons does he choose this point to finally speak up? (**32:1-22**). Have you ever felt this way?
  
3. What does Elihu have to say about Job's complaints? Why does Elihu think Job was incorrect in what he said? (**Job 33:1-22**). How does Elihu say that God often uses suffering? Why does God work this way? (**33:23-33**).
  
4. What are the main claims of Job that Elihu challenges? (**34:1-9**). What are the main reasons Elihu says Job was wrong? (**34:10-28**). How should a person react when dealing with things that God alone understands? (**34:29-37**). What sin does Elihu accuse Job of? (**34:37**).

5. What fundamental question had Job asked during his suffering? **(35:3)** What was Elihu's answer to this? **(35:4-16)**
  
6. In **chapter 36** Elihu sets the record straight about who God is and how He deals with the with the righteous and the wicked. **(36:1-16)**. What does Elihu say about how Job used to live before his troubles? What should Job have trusted in most? Did he? **(36:17-23)**.
  
7. For what reasons should all men exalt God? **(36:24-30)**. How does God use the weather and other natural forces to make His will happen? How had God used nature in Job's life, both for blessing and for judgment?
  
8. Out of all of the things Elihu points to in order to describe who God is and how He works his strongest argument is in **chapter 37**. What do storms teach us about God? How does any human wisdom compare to the wisdom of the creator?

## **The Book Of Job- Lesson 9**

### **God Speaks: Chapters 38-41**

1. From where does God speak? **(38:1)**. How does this tie in with the previous chapter? What personal relevance does the whirlwind have in Job's life? In direct contrast to this, in **1 Kings 19:9-18** God chooses not to speak from the whirlwind. What might help explain why God chooses to answer different people in completely opposite ways?
2. What challenge does God issue to Job? **(38:2-11)**. What are some of the challenges in the rest of **chapter 38**? What is God proving to Job when He makes these statements?
3. In **Job 38:39- 39:30** God discusses the knowledge and care He shows towards the animal kingdom. Do you notice anything interesting in these passages? What should Job have learned about the way the world works from observing the animal Kingdom?
4. What is Job's response when God once again asks Him if he still is interested in challenging God's way of doing things? **(Job 40:1-5)**.



## **The Book Of Job- Lesson 10**

### **The Epilogue: Chapter 42**

1. What is Job's response to the words of God? **(42:1-6)** Job certainly had much to repent for, but did he ever lose his belief in God? What can we learn from **42:1-6** about how we are to deal with questions we can't answer?
2. What message did God have for Eliphaz and company? **(42:7-9)**. What does God say about the way they have spoken as compared to the way Job had spoken? Which speaker in the book is noticeably absent in God's rebuke? Do you find this significant?
3. What did the Lord do for Job once he and his friends had repented? **(42:10-17)**. How did others treat him now that his life was changed?
4. Who is mentioned as responsible for the calamities and adversities of Job? **(42:11)**. How can this idea be compatible with what James says in **James 1:12-18**?
5. The chapter says that God blessed Job with twice as much as he had before his trials. We find this to be true in the number of everything he received except his children (he had the same before and after). What might this suggest about the afterlife?
6. How does the life of Job end? What does it mean to be full of days?
7. What are the lasting lessons of Job for believers today?