

THE BOOK OF JOB

A Syllabus

Leon J. Wood

INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

OUTREACH, INC.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

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Lecture 1

INTRODUCTION:

A. Job, the man

1. Conversation as the structure
2. Dialogue between God and Satan
3. High literary value

B. Authorship: two views

1. A writer from Solomon's time, the golden literary age of Israel
2. Job himself

C. Some outstanding truths

1. A revelation of the mind of man at its highest level, yet in its limitations
2. The ability of men of an early time to think well
3. The fact that people other than Abraham and his descendants worshipped the true God
4. The necessity of God's giving answer to men's problems
5. The wisdom of submission to God
6. The power and limitations of Satan
7. The authorship of evil
8. The problem of suffering

LESSON ONE: JOB 1:1-5 – JOB THE MAN

INTRODUCTION: JOB'S STATURE

A. His greatness

1. In wealth, 1:3
2. In spirituality, 1:8

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B. His righteousness, (cf. Ezekiel 14:14, 20)

I. JOB'S DATE AND HOME COUNTRY

A. Date: about the time of Jacob or a generation or two later

1. Living conditions described in the Book of Job consistent with the Patriarchal period.
 - a. Wealth measured in livestock
 - b. Men with servants and leisure time
 - c. Job's service as priest in his own home, (1:5)
2. No mention of the exodus or Mosaic Law
3. No reference to the suffering of Israel in Egypt
4. Job's lifetime of approximately 200 years as in Patriarchal period

Lecture 2

5. The lineage of Job's friends, 2:11; 32:2 (cf. Genesis 36:11; 25:2; 22:21)

B. Home country — Uz, 1:1 (Northeast of Palestine, near Damascus)

1. The atmosphere of Arabic desert country
2. The marauding tribes that attacked Job's property

II. JOB'S CHARACTER

A. Descriptive words, 1:1

1. Perfect: wholeness
2. Upright: without deviation from the straight line
3. Feared God
4. Eschewed evil: abhorred evil

B. God's opinion or appraisal of God Himself 1:8; 2:3

III. REASON FOR SATAN'S ATTACK

A. The meeting of God and Satan (1:6-12; 2:1-7)

B. Satan's plan

IV. JOB'S FAMILY

A. Identified (1:2; 2:9)

1. Children: 1:2; 18, 19
2. Wife: 2:9; 19:17
3. Application: Ephesians 6:1-4

Lecture 3

B. Job's spiritual concern for the family (1:5)

V. JOB'S POSSESSIONS — 1:3

A. Rich in livestock and servants

B. Rich in spirituality

C. Job's wealth did not qualify him in God's sight.

LESSON TWO: JOB 1:6-12; 21:7 SATAN, THE ADVERSARY

I. THE PERSON OF SATAN — WHO HE IS

A. A fallen angelic being (1:6; 2:1; cf. Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:15)

B. A powerful being, but not equal with God.

II. HIS DOMAIN — WHERE HE WORKS

A. The earth (1:7)

Lecture 4

- B. Access to heaven (cf. 1 Kings 22:19-23)
- C. "Prince of the Power of the air."

III. THE WORK OF SATAN

- A. General: to hinder the work of God (cf. 1 Peter 5:8; Genesis 4:7)
- B. Specifically in this instance, (1:9-11; 2:4-6)
 - 1. Accusation against Job
 - 2. Desire to hurt Job
 - 3. His strategy: to attack
 - a. Job's wealth
 - b. Job's family
 - c. Job's health

IV. THE POWER OF SATAN

- A. Influence over people (1:15-17)

Lecture 5

- A. Influence over people (continued) (cf. Matthew 16:21-23; John 13:2; Acts 5:3)
- B. Control of elements of nature (1:16, 19; cf. II Thessalonians 2:9; Revelation 13:13, 14)
- C. Infliction of bodily disease (2:5)
- D. Resistance to Satan (cf. James 4:7)
 - 1. Submission to God
 - 2. Resistance against Satan

V. LIMITATIONS

- A. Impotence to penetrate God's hedge (cf. Isaiah 5:5; Proverbs 15:19; Micah 7:4)
- B. Significance
 - 1. God's control
 - 2. Reasons for God's permission: to strengthen the faith of the godly

LESSON THREE: JOB 2:11-13; 32:1-6; 42:7-9 JOB'S FRIENDS

I. IDENTITY OF JOB'S FRIENDS

- A. Three come to him first (2:11)
 - 1. Eliphaz, the leader
 - a. Always first named of the three
 - b. His speeches first in each cycle
 - c. His speeches longer than the other two
 - d. Content of his speaking more substantial
 - e. God's recognition of his leadership (42:7)
 - 2. Bildad, the second
 - 3. Zophar, the third
- B. Elihu comes later (32:1-6)
 - 1. A younger man
 - 2. A latecomer to the discussion
 - 3. His one speech longer even than Eliphaz's entire speaking

II. THEIR INTEREST (2:11-13)

- A. Their purpose: come to mourn with Job
- B. Their effort to do this

Lecture 6

- B. Their effort to do this (continued)
- C. Emotional response or emotionally affected (2:12)
- D. Quiet sympathy (2:13)
 - 1. Seven days: a recognized time of mourning (cf. Genesis 50:10; 1 Samuel 31:13)
 - 2. No discourse: at least not the formal debate recorded later.

III. THE CHARACTER OF THESE MEN

- A. Intelligent leaders
- B. Morally upright men
- C. God-fearing men — Believed in God
 - 1. High concept of God
 - 2. Theologically right; practically wrong

IV. THEIR PROCEDURE

- A. First cycle
 - 1. Job's address — Eliphaz's answer
 - 2. Job's address — Bildad's answer
 - 3. Job's address — Zophar's answer
- B. Second cycle — the same
- C. Third cycle — the same except lacking a response from Zophar.
- D. Reason for this procedure: possibly planned previously.

V. THE CONTENTION OF THESE MEN

- A. Same basic viewpoint: Job suffers for his sin

- 1. Eliphaz's point of emphasis: "Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap"
- 2. Bildad's point of emphasis: God's greatness; therefore man falls far short
- 3. Zophar's point of emphasis: Man's dependence on God

- B. No allowance for other possibilities

- C. Reprimanded by God (42:7-9)

Lecture 7

LESSON FOUR: JOB 1:13-22; 2:1-10 JOB TRIED

I. FIRST ATTACK OF SATAN (1:13-22)

- A. Loss of physical property (1:14-17)
- B. Loss of children (1:18, 19)
- C. Job's admirable reaction (1:20-22)

- 1. His legitimate mourning
- 2. His attitude of worship
- 3. His submission to God

Lecture 8

II. SECOND ATTACK OF SATAN (2:1-10)

- A. Smitten with disease (2:1-8)
 - 1. Satan's persistence
 - 2. God's ultimate control
 - 3. The boils (lit. *a burning sore*, cf. Exodus 9:8-11; II Kings 20:7; Leviticus 13:18-20)

- B. Advice of Job's wife (2:9)
- C. Job's emotional impact (2:10)
- D. Against his admirable reaction: submission to God (2:10)

Lecture 9

LESSON FIVE: JOB 3:1-26 JOB'S DESPAIR

I. JOB'S WORDS OF DESPAIR

- A. General heading (3:1, 2) (*cursed*: lit. *wish harm upon*, cf. Genesis 12:3; Jeremiah 20:14; Romans 12:14)
- B. Curse upon his birthday (3:3-5)
- C. Curse upon the night of his birth (3:6-9)
- D. Reason for the curse (3:10-12)
- E. Present state if he had died at birth (3:13-16)
- F. Advantages in death (3:17-19)
- G. The question: "Why should a suffering person live?" (3:20-23)

Lecture 10

- G. The question (continued)
(The answer: for growth and maturity in the Christian)

- H. His own suffering described (3:24-26)

II. THE RELATION OF JOB'S SIN TO FORMER STATEMENTS OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. Job's sin in this despair
- B. His sin not according to Satan's purpose: did not criticize God.
 - 1. God's distinction between degrees of sin (cf. Matthew 11:20-24; Numbers 15:27-30)
 - a. Sin of inadvertance
 - b. Sin of willfulness
 - 2. Job's sin of inadvertance under pressure of his intense suffering
- C. Change of attitude after lapse of seven days
- D. The sin of even the strongest men
- E. God's sympathetic knowledge — God understands (cf. Hebrews 2:18; 4:15)

Lecture 11

LESSON SIX: JOB 4, 5, 15, 22 THE DISCOURSE OF ELIPHAZ, SOWING AND REAPING

I. CRITICISM OF JOB

- A. Job's weakness (4:2-5)
- B. Job's empty words (15:2-6)
- C. Job's opposition to God (15:11-13)

II. ELIPHAZ'S CENTRAL THEME: SOWING AND REAPING

- A. Principle elaborated (4:6-9; cf. Galatians 6:7)
- B. Exceptions: suffering not always a result of sin (cf. John 9:2, 3)

III. SUFFERING INESCAPABLE SINCE ALL HAVE SINNED (4:17-21; 15:14-16)

IV. GOD'S IMMUTABILITY – GOD WILL NOT CHANGE

- A. Job's complaint unavailing, (5:1-5)
- B. God's greatness (22:2-5)
- C. Evaluation: two dangers
 - 1. Thinking that God changes (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:9; James 1:17)
 - 2. Thinking God is not interested

Lecture 12

V. REMEDY: SUBMISSION TO GOD

- A. Reduction of affliction as a result of submission (5:6-11)
- B. Blessing as a result of peace with God (22:21-25; cf. Deuteronomy 8)
- C. Excellent advice

VI. RESULTS: RIGHTEOUS ARE BLESSED: WICKED ARE PUNISHED

- A. Blessing to the righteous (5:12-27)
- B. Punishment to the wicked (15:20-25)
- C. Benefits of righteousness (22:26-30)

VII. JOB'S SITUATION

- A. Job's sin and resultant punishment, (22:6-11)

- B. God's knowledge of Job's sin (22:12-18)

LESSON SEVEN: JOB 8:18, 25 BILDAD: GREATNESS OF GOD

I. STATEMENT OF GOD'S GREATNESS (25: 1-6)

- A. Entire last speech given to it
- B. Elaboration of God's greatness

Lecture 13

- B. Elaboration of God's greatness (continued)

II. GOD'S UNALTERABLE JUSTICE

- A. Direct statement (8:2, 3)
- B. Statement in figure (18:4-11)

III. GOD HONORS THOSE WHO HONOR HIM

- A. Statement (8:4-10, 20-22)
- B. Significance as related to Job

IV. PAPYRUS ILLUSTRATION

- A. Illustration presented (8:11-19)
- B. A significant contrast

Lecture 14

- B. A significant contrast (continued)

V. THE RESULT OF NOT RECOGNIZING GOD'S GREATNESS (18:12-21)

LESSON EIGHT: JOB 11, 20
ZOPHAR: MAN'S DEPENDENCE ON GOD

I. SEVERE CRITICISM ABOUT JOB

- A. Job's propensity to talk too much (11:2, 3)
- B. Job's claim to purity (11:4)
- C. Job's punishment not as severe as he deserved (11:5, 6)

Lecture 15

- D. Accusation of Job as a hypocrite (20:2-5)

II. STATEMENT OF MAN'S DEPENDENCE ON GOD

- A. Man's incapacity to know God (11:7-9)
- B. God's knowledge of man (11:10-12)
- C. Job's need to realize his dependence on God 11:13-20)

III. DIRE RESULTS WHEN ONE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THIS DEPENDENCE

- A. The perishing of the wicked (20:6-11)
- B. The transitory sweetness of sin (20:12-16)

Lecture 16

- C. No joy in what he has gained (20:17-29)

LESSON NINE: JOB 6-7; 9-10; 12-14; 16-17; 21; 23-24
JOB PERPLEXED

I. REMARKS CONCERNING THE FRIENDS

- A. Defense against them (6:1-30)

- B. Nothing new in their assertions (12:1-25)

- C. Job's agreement with their principal points (9:2-20)

- 1. God's greatness (9:2-12)
- 2. Man's dependence on God (9:13-20)

Lecture 17

II. JOB'S PUZZLEMENT AS TO WHY HE SUFFERS

- A. Self-evaluation as being too unimportant for God's attention (7:17-21)

- B. Search for an answer (10:2-17)

III. JOB'S PUZZLEMENT AS TO WHY THE WICKED DO NOT SUFFER (RESPONSE TO ZOPHAR'S ARGUMENT)

- A. Statement of the prosperity of the wicked (21:7-20)

- B. Statement of the evils of the wicked (24:1-25)

- C. Evaluation

IV. JOB'S DESIRE TO LAY HIS CASE DIRECTLY BEFORE GOD (13:1-28; 16:1-22)

- A. No hope in his friends (13:2-6; 16:2-6)

- B. God's affliction poured out on him (16:7-14)

- C. Yet his hope only in God (16:17-21; 13:13-18)

Lecture 18

- C. Yet hope only in God (continued)

LESSON TEN: JOB 19; 26-31 – REFLECTION AND TRUST

I. MEMORIES OF FORMER DAYS

- A. Life prior to his suffering (29:1-25)
- B. Present situation contrasted (30:1-31)

II. JOB'S PURITY (31:1-40)

- A. General remarks
- B. List of sins from which Job is pure
 - 1. Relations with women, (31:1-12)
 - 2. Relations with servants (31:13-15)
 - 3. Relations with the needy (31:16-23)
 - 4. Relating to worship (31:24-28)
 - 5. Relation to other men (31:29-37)
 - 6. Relating to improper farming practices (31:38-40)

Lecture 19

III. THE LOT OF THE WICKED (27:8-23)

IV. WISDOM FOUND ONLY IN GOD (28:1-28)

- A. Man's efforts on earth: wisdom of a sort (28:1-11)
- B. True wisdom not found here (28:12-22)
- C. God, the source of true wisdom (28:23-28)

V. THE REDEEMER EXPECTED (19:25-27)

Lecture 20

V. THE REDEEMER EXPECTED (19:25-27) (continued)

- A. Job's understanding of the term *redeemer*
- B. His belief in the resurrection (cf. 14:12-14)

LESSON ELEVEN: JOB 32-37 – ELIHU SPEAKS

I. REASONS FOR SPEAKING (32:1-22)

- A. Twofold motive (32:2-5)
- B. Elihu's delay in speaking excused (32:6-22)

II. THE PRINCIPAL QUESTION: WHY DID JOB SUFFER? (33:1-33)

- A. The question stated (33:1-12)

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- A. The question stated (33:1-12) (continued)
- B. The answer given (33:13-20)

III. GOD NOT UNJUST (34:1-37)

- A. Elihu's words to the friends (34:1-9)
- B. Elihu's thinking (34:10-30)
- C. Elihu's advice to Job (34:31-37)

IV. THE QUESTION GENERALIZED: WHY DO THE RIGHTEOUS SUFFER? (35:1-16)

- A. God's greatness (35:1-12)
- B. God's rejection of vain praying (35:13-16)

Lecture 22

V. GOD'S GREATNESS: THEREFORE MAN'S SUBMISSION (36, 37)

LESSON TWELVE: JOB 38-41
GOD HIMSELF SPEAKS TO JOB

I. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

A. Necessity of revelation

1. Man's inability to attain information apart from revelation
2. Man's inability to detach himself from emotional involvement

B. Nature of God's revelation to Job: why is what God says so effective?

1. God's authority
2. God's use of question method.

II. MAN'S INCOMPETENCY TO EXPLAIN NATURE (38:1-41)

A. Opening remarks (38:1-3)

B. Questions regarding nature (38:4-41)

III. MAN'S INCOMPETENCY IN REGARD TO ANIMALS (39:1-30)

Lecture 23

III. MAN'S INCOMPETENCY IN REGARD TO ANIMALS (IN EXPLAINING NATURE (continued))

A. The wild goats (39:1-4)

B. The wild ass (39:5-8)

C. The unicorn (wild ox or buffalo) (39:9-12)

IV. REPROOF OF JOB (40:1-14)

A. Job bidden to speak (40:1-2)

B. Job deeply humbled — he had nothing to say (40:3-5)

C. Job unqualified to speak (40:6-14)

V. MAN'S INCOMPETENCY IN RESPECT TO BEHEMOTH AND LEVIATHAN (40:15-41:34)

A. Behemoth (probably the hippopotamus) (40:15-24)

B. Leviathan (probably the crocodile) (41:1-34)

LESSON THIRTEEN: JOB 42 — JOB REWARDED

I. JOB'S REPENTANCE (42:1-6)

A. A changed viewpoint (42:1-4)

Lecture 24

B. The repentant heart of Job (42:5, 6)

II. GOD AND THE THREE FRIENDS (42:7-9)

A. God's wrath against them

B. The prescribed remedy

III. BLESSING TO JOB (42:10-17)

A. Interest of relatives (42:10-11)

B. Restoration of property (42:12)

C. Restoration of family (42:13-15)

IV. OVERALL PURPOSE

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