

COURSE SYLLABUS

The Book of Job

Course Lecturer: Leon J. Wood, PhD

Former President and Academic Dean of Grand Rapids Bible College and Seminary

Course Description

Is God too weak to stop suffering? Does God not care about my situation? In a world full of sin, pain and hardship remain daily realities. Throughout history, humanity has wrestled with the problems of suffering and has often questioned the goodness of God. Wood retells the story of Job and the struggles he endured. Throughout the course, students examine Job's tumultuous life and the various responses to his suffering given by his friends and family. Ultimately, Job learns to praise God no matter what his circumstance. Despite Satan's attempts to thwart the plans of God, the Lord remains sovereign over all.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to do the following:

- Grasp the message of the book of Job.
- Understand the historical and contextual setting of the book.
- Identify Satan's schemes and tactics.
- Recognize God's sovereignty in all things.
- Point out the counseling strengths and weaknesses of Job's friends.
- Identify with Job's suffering.
- Appreciate the book's relevance for today.
- Apply the book's message to life and ministry.

Course Lecturer



Leon J. Wood, PhD (1918-1977)

Education:

- New York State University and Oriental Institute, Chicago, various graduate studies
- Michigan State University, PhD
- Calvin Theological Seminary, ThM
- Calvin College, AB

Teaching Career:

- President and Academic Dean, Grand Rapids Bible College and Seminary (now Cornerstone University and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary)
- Professor of Old Testament, Grand Rapids Bible College and Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary

Other Career Highlights:

- Helped found the influential Evangelical Seminary's Dean Council
- Translator and editor for the New International Version (NIV) Bible

Publications:

- Numerous publications, including *The Distressing Days of the Judges*, *Israel's United Monarchy*, and commentaries on books of the Bible such as Genesis and Daniel
- His book *The Holy Spirit and the Old Testament* remains one of the key texts in the study of pneumatology even to this day.

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

Chambers, Oswald. *Our Ultimate Refuge: Job and the Problem of Suffering*. Grand Rapids, MI: Discovery House Publishers, 2006.

Hartley, John E. *The Book of Job*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988.

Lewis, C.S. *The Problem of Pain*. New York, NY: Harper Collins, 2001.

Stedman, Ray C. *Let God be God: Life-changing Truths from the Book of Job*. Grand Rapids, MI: Discovery House Publishers, 2007.

Course Assessment and Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student.