

THE POETICAL BOOKS

JOB

Likely written by Job

Although it is in the middle of the Old Testament, it is one of the oldest books in the bible

-some believe that Job and Abraham were contemporaries

Named for Job, its chief character

-poor guy...even his name means "hated or persecuted"

-not sure why it is in the "poetical" section

-it is not a fantasy story

-not a parable

-it is a real story, Job was a real person

-we know this for a few reasons:

(1) in parables, characters are not given names

-that's how we know that the story of Lazarus and the rich man is not a parable

(2) James (brother of Jesus) mentions him

Jas 5:11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful.

(3) God Himself said Job was a real man

-speaking to Ezekiel:

Eze 14:13 "Son of man, if a country sins against Me by committing unfaithfulness, and I stretch out My hand against it, destroy its supply of bread, send famine against it and cut off from it both man and beast,

Eze 14:14 even *though* these three men, Noah, Daniel and Job were in its midst, by their *own* righteousness they could *only* deliver themselves," declares the Lord GOD.

-Deals with an ageless question,

-why do bad things happen to good people?

-How could a good God let so many bad things happen?

-Is God mad at me?

-Is there even a God?

-Does He know or care about what happens to me?

-By the end of the book, we should understand that not all suffering is the result of someone's sin

Begins with describing Job

- blameless, upright
- 10 kids
- Very wealthy

Only six verses into the 1st chapter, you get this:

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

Job 1:7 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."

Job 1:8 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."

-If Job could have heard this discussion, I'm positive he would have protested loudly

- the same Satan that would later come to tempt the Son of God Himself is now being unleashed on a mere mortal

So much we can learn from these 3 verses

-1st...we can't put God in a box

- we assume the formula is always something like this
 - I'll obey God and He will bless me with a good life
- our modern definition of blessings is pretty selfish
 - we are good so He will treat us good
 - we give so He will give us more

-but sometimes God does things that are very unpredictable

- like Jesus in the New Testament
 - sometimes He healed by touching someone
 - sometimes He was miles away
 - sometimes He did it with a word
 - sometimes He did it with spit or mud
 - sometimes because people had faith
 - sometimes because their friends had faith

-It's the same principle with the Holy Spirit

- ever been to a revival service and the power of the Spirit was very obvious?
- then the next time it just wasn't there?
- they do everything the same trying to recapture it

-but it just isn't the same

-2nd ...Satan obviously still has access to some part of heaven

-I will admit, I'm not exactly sure how this works

-it is sin which keeps us from the presence of God

-Satan is the originator of sin

-possibilities:

-God initiated the meeting and was in complete control

-God was setting up this situation to be glorified through it

-We need to remember that although this world has been given over to Satan, nothing happens without God's approval

-Obviously there would have to be communication for that to happen

-Here is another example of that:

2Ch 18:18 Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the LORD. I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right and on His left.

2Ch 18:19 "The LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab king of Israel to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said this while another said that.

2Ch 18:20 "Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD and said, 'I will entice him.' And the LORD said to him, 'How?'

2Ch 18:21 "He said, 'I will go and be a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' Then He said, 'You are to entice *him* and prevail also. Go and do so.'

-This is very likely the reason that God not only destroys the Earth, but heaven as well at the end of the millennial reign

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

-Heaven and earth have both been stained by sin so God promises a new untainted creation in the New Jerusalem

-3rd ...We also see that Satan is constantly roaming the earth looking to cause trouble

-Peter knew this very well

1Pe 5:8 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

-Jesus actually called Peter "Satan" when he tried to convince Him not to go to the cross

Satan allowed to test Job (just not allowed to touch him)

- enemies steal his oxen and kill his servants
 - fire from heaven burns up his sheep and more servants
 - more enemies take his camels and kill more
 - wind blew down his son's house and killed all his kids
- All of this happened in sequence
- while one was speaking, the next came with his news

Look at Job's response:

Job 1:20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

Job 1:21 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."

Job 1:22 Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

-Job worshipped

- he just lost his livestock, wealth and family in a single day
- when we think of worshipping God, we think of raising our hands during a moving song in church
- Job bowed down and said "the Lord gives, The Lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord"
- that doesn't mean he was smiling while he did it
- but he did trust that God was in control
- Just like Abraham trusting that God would raise Isaac from the dead if he killed him

Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*;

Heb 11:18 *it was he* to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED."

Heb 11:19 He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

-So Job remains faithful

- Satan presents himself before God again
- God brags on Job
- Satan says that he only loves God because he still has his health
- God says "Ok, he is in your hands, only spare his life"

-can you imagine what that means?

-God gives Satan permission to use any means necessary short of death to bring Job to the point of rejecting God

-Satan begins by covering Job with boils from head to toe

-so much so that he just sat in the ashes and scrape himself with a piece of broken pottery

-then he uses Job's own wife against him

Job 2:9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!"

-Satan had already killed all Job's kids and servants

-probably the only reason he didn't kill his wife is because he knew she would bring Job more pain and suffering

-but Job's character was deep

Job 2:10 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.

-at this point, Job is cursing the day of his birth

-he is wishing he had died the day he was born

-Now Job's "friends" come around to console him

-they basically tell him that it is his fault

-God is punishing him for sin in his life

-they say that "you reap what you sow"

-they go so far as to tell him "keep silent and I will teach you wisdom"

-for the next 34 chapters, he has to endure the advice and condemnation of his 3 righteous friends (Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar) and an onlooker (Elihu)

-Job gets angry with them

-even questions God and cries out to Him because he feels like God has abandoned him

-we seem to have the idea that we are never allowed to question God

-or if we do, then we have weak faith

-that God might strike us down if we do

-God is a big God, he understands our emotions

Psa 103:13 Just as a father has compassion on *his* children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

Psa 103:14 For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are *but* dust.

Finally, in chapter 38, God shows up

- He doesn't directly answer Job's questions, but asks him some questions of His own

- for the next 4 chapters, God asks Job dozens of questions

 - About His power and the origin of everything

 - about the earth and nature

 - about creation and the animal kingdom

- these are all rhetorical questions and are not meant to be answered

 - like a dad asking his kid "who pays for the electricity and food around here?"

- the only time Job gets a word in is right in the middle of God's questions

 - And he says

Job 40:3 Then Job answered the LORD and said,

Job 40:4 "Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth.

Job 40:5 "Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; Even twice, and I will add nothing more."

- what else can you say when dealing with the Almighty?

- Isaiah felt the same way during his encounter with God

Isa 6:5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

- even though these questions come across as harsh, I think God uses this to show us all something

 - no matter how good we think we are, we don't even come close to measuring up to God's standard

Isa 64:6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment;

- You might think that the more you read the bible, the holier you will be

 - I think that the more you read the bible, the more you will realize you are unworthy and completely dependent on God's grace

- Before we go any further, we need to look closer at some of the questions God asked Job

 - In Job 38:16, God asks Job...

Job 38:16 "Have you entered into the springs of the sea Or walked in the recesses of the deep?"

- Recesses or valleys in the sea were only understood in 1870's

-scientists only discovered springs at the bottom of the sea floor in 1970

-For hundreds of years, it was believed that the earth was flat and rested on the back of a giant turtle or Elephant

-others believed that the earth rested on the backs of a bull and a fish

-Hindus believe that the earth rest on elephants standing on a turtle

Job says of God in Ch. 26:7...

Job 26:7 "He stretches out the north over empty space And hangs the earth on nothing.

Then we get to Dinosaurs

-today's definition of the word is much different than the original

-First words that comes to mind is "millions of years ago"

-the word has only been around for about 140 years

-originates from two words meaning "Terrible" and "Lizard"

-before that, they were simply called "dragons"

-Every culture in the world has stories and myths about dragons

-how can that be if they died million of years before man arrived?

-the truth is, they didn't die off millions of years ago

-they lived with man

-remember that dinosaurs are reptiles

-reptiles never quit growing

-before the flood, the environment was completely different

-higher oxygen concentration (like hyperbaric chamber)

-ice or water canopy surrounding the atmosphere

restricted the UV rays

-Entire world was like a greenhouse

-people lived to be almost 1000 years

-so did some reptiles

-Can you imagine how large a lizard, snake or

alligator would get if it lived 500 or 700 years?

-well, wouldn't they have eaten all the people then?

-after God finished creation on the 6th day, he told Adam:

Gen 1:29 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;

Gen 1:30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so.

-it wasn't until after Noah got off the ark after the flood that God said:

Gen 9:2 "The fear of you and the terror of you will be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given.

Gen 9:3 "Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as *I gave* the green plant.

-after the flood, the canopy collapsed, the environment changed
-the flood killed most of them and they were fossilized in the settling sediment

-but some that lived in the sea obviously survived for some time

-remember, Job is one of the oldest books in the bible

-so here God gives Job (and us) a description of two of them

Job 41:1 "Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook? Or press down his tongue with a cord?

Job 41:2 "Can you put a rope in his nose Or pierce his jaw with a hook?

Job 41:3 "Will he make many supplications to you, Or will he speak to you soft words?

Job 41:4 "Will he make a covenant with you? Will you take him for a servant forever?

Job 41:5 "Will you play with him as with a bird, Or will you bind him for your maidens?

Job 41:6 "Will the traders bargain over him? Will they divide him among the merchants?

Job 41:7 "Can you fill his skin with harpoons, Or his head with fishing spears?

Job 41:8 "Lay your hand on him; Remember the battle; you will not do it again!

Job 41:9 "Behold, your expectation is false; Will you be laid low even at the sight of him?

Job 41:10 "No one is so fierce that he dares to arouse him; Who then is he that can stand before Me?

Job 41:11 "Who has given to Me that I should repay *him*? *Whatever* is under the whole heaven is Mine.

Job 41:12 "I will not keep silence concerning his limbs, Or his mighty strength, or his orderly frame.

Job 41:13 "Who can strip off his outer armor? Who can come within his double mail?

Job 41:14 "Who can open the doors of his face? Around his teeth there is terror.

Job 41:15 "*His* strong scales are *his* pride, Shut up *as with* a tight seal.

Job 41:16 "One is so near to another That no air can come between them.

Job 41:17 "They are joined one to another; They clasp each other and cannot be separated.

Job 41:18 "His sneezes flash forth light, And his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.

Job 41:19 "Out of his mouth go burning torches; Sparks of fire leap forth.

Job 41:20 "Out of his nostrils smoke goes forth As *from* a boiling pot and *burning* rushes.

Job 41:21 "His breath kindles coals, And a flame goes forth from his mouth.

Job 41:22 "In his neck lodges strength, And dismay leaps before him.

Job 41:23 "The folds of his flesh are joined together, Firm on him and immovable.

Job 41:24 "His heart is as hard as a stone, Even as hard as a lower millstone.

Job 41:25 "When he raises himself up, the mighty fear; Because of the crashing they are bewildered.

Job 41:26 "The sword that reaches him cannot avail, Nor the spear, the dart or the javelin.

Job 41:27 "He regards iron as straw, Bronze as rotten wood.

Job 41:28 "The arrow cannot make him flee; Slingstones are turned into stubble for him.

Job 41:29 "Clubs are regarded as stubble; He laughs at the rattling of the javelin.

Job 41:30 "His underparts are *like* sharp potsherds; He spreads out *like* a threshing sledge on the mire.

Job 41:31 "He makes the depths boil like a pot; He makes the sea like a jar of ointment.

Job 41:32 "Behind him he makes a wake to shine; One would think the deep to be gray-haired.
Job 41:33 "Nothing on earth is like him, One made without fear.
Job 41:34 "He looks on everything that is high; He is king over all the sons of pride."

Job 40:15 "Behold now, Behemoth, which I made as well as you; He eats grass like an ox.
Job 40:16 "Behold now, his strength in his loins And his power in the muscles of his belly.
Job 40:17 "He bends his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are knit together.
Job 40:18 "His bones are tubes of bronze; His limbs are like bars of iron.
Job 40:19 "He is the first of the ways of God; Let his maker bring near his sword.
Job 40:20 "Surely the mountains bring him food, And all the beasts of the field play there.
Job 40:21 "Under the lotus plants he lies down, In the covert of the reeds and the marsh.
Job 40:22 "The lotus plants cover him with shade; The willows of the brook surround him.
Job 40:23 "If a river rages, he is not alarmed; He is confident, though the Jordan rushes to his mouth.
Job 40:24 "Can anyone capture him when he is on watch, With barbs can anyone pierce *his* nose?"

Job is restored

- he repents and admits he did not understand

Job closes with God being angry with Job's friends

- He is angry with them for misrepresenting Him
 - there is a popular teaching today saying that Job was wrong and his friends were right
- He says Job will pray for them

Listen to this:

Job 42:10 The LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the LORD increased all that Job had twofold.

- if anyone had reason to be bitter with someone, Job did
- But he prayed for those that gave him so much grief
- and when he did, God restored to him twofold of what he had
- and Job and his family live happily ever after

Job 42:16 After this, Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons and his grandsons, four generations.

Job 42:17 And Job died, an old man and full of days.

- this phrase "full of days" doesn't just mean "many years" or "old"
- it means he was satisfied with his life
 - Job probably suffered more physical and emotional pain than anyone else except Jesus
 - yet he was still satisfied with life
- The phrase "it came to pass" is in the bible 457 times

- When you are in the middle of a great struggle, it's hard to make any sense of it
- it usually not until you get to the other side of it that things begin to come into focus

Jesus Types:

-Job

- although not perfect, he is very upright
- Like Jesus before coming to earth, Job had a close relationship with the Father and enjoyed His blessings
- Like Jesus, Job suffered unjustly at the hands of Satan
- Like Jesus, Job was returned to his place of prominence

-but more clearly, look at this small verse in Job 19:25

Job 19:25 "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.

-a redeemer is one who is a next of kin, one who "buys back"

- although God's plan of redemption started in Genesis, the Redeemer didn't come on the scene until Jesus appeared in Bethlehem

So, what's the answer to our original question?

-"Why do bad things happen to good people?"

-I think Jesus gives us the answer in John ch.9

Joh 9:1 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.

Joh 9:2 And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?"

Joh 9:3 Jesus answered, "*It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.*"

-the next time you are having a bad day or can't make sense of your circumstances, remember, we can't see the big picture

- Job didn't do anything wrong
- maybe you didn't do anything wrong
- God may be using your trials to bring glory to Himself