

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

08-13-2023 // WEEK 32 NOTES

This week we completed **Job 1 - 23**

Job is the first book in the **wisdom literature**. It is considered by some to be the oldest book in the Bible.

Job must have been a real person, for Ezekiel, James, and Jesus himself refer to him as such. The book is addressing the age-old question of **“Why is there suffering?”**

The book gives you a glimpse into heaven and the fact that Satan (who is the author of all killing, stealing, and destroying – **John 10:10**) as a creature, must ask God, the Creator, for permission to attack Job.

God grants it. Why? Especially when it seems that Job is a righteous and blameless man? That is the unanswered question. But we see throughout the book that God’s sovereign, providential hand is overseeing all – even the suffering. And there will be good that comes from it.

Here is what you have looked at thus far:

- **Chapters 1 - 2:** Deals with: What is occurring in heaven. Satan’s desire to destroy. God’s permission. And the destruction that comes.
- **Chapter 3:** Job is distraught. He doesn’t understand why. He complains to God. Job’s comforters/friends arrive. For a week they say nothing. Then the dialogue begins. Job, in **chapter 3**, expresses his despair.
- **Chapters 4 - 26:** Here begins a dialogue between Job and his friends. The three friends keep trying to get Job to admit his sin, for they believe that is surely the source of his suffering. Job simply cannot do so, for he doesn’t see what sins he committed to deserve such catastrophe.

Though no person is perfectly righteous, and we all have sin in our lives, Job realizes that to admit his sin as the cause for his suffering is too much to bear. But also, he just doesn’t believe it’s true, no

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matter what his friends say. Job even pleads to the heaven's courts for someone, even an angel, to be his defense attorney. As Christians, we know that person to be the **Holy Spirit** (the Counselor – see **John 14 and 16**) and Jesus himself who daily/regularly makes intercession for his elect/children (see **Romans 8**).

- **Chapter 19:** This is a key chapter where Job expresses his faith in one of the most famous verses in the book of Job: *“But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last.”* (**Job 19:25**). Job is confident that God will one day redeem him from all the pain. And he will stand before him again.
- **Chapters 20 - 23:** Job is in the middle of his three friends who are all trying to convince him that his suffering is because of Job's sin. They keep asking him to find his sin! Job responds with a feeling of desperation. He can't find what he did wrong. He is defensive, trying to find fault with why he is suffering.

Enjoy the continued dialogue between Job and his friends this week, realizing that:

1. not all suffering is because of our sin, and
2. God is our redeemer in our suffering (this becomes very clear in **chapter 42**)

Under His Grace,
David