

**“THROUGH THE BIBLE”**

Union Chapel M.B. Church

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***JOB (Old Testament Wisdom-Job 28:28)***

**\*\*\**(OVERVIEW PART 1)*\*\*\***

**INTRODUCTION**

To give each of us a **WORKING KNOWLEDGE** of the Book of Job, this *Overview* will consist of a brief outline of the Book:

- I. **Character, Trials, and Testing of Job (Job 1-3)**
- II. **Job and The Advice of His Friends (Job 4-31)**
- III. **Audience with The Omnipotent God (38-42)**

***The characters in this drama: Job and Mrs. Job. His miserable friends: Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, Elihu. God, and Satan (the “Adversary”). The Book is very old (ancient). It is considered to have been written before the time of Moses, and suggest that “people knew about God (personal) before mankind had been given a written revelation.” The Book does not mention the Law, Abraham, or the Covenants. The author is not known.***

***The Book’s Most Prominent Word: WHY?***

***Job is included among the Poetical Books of Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and Lamentations. The poetry, which is Hebrew, repeats an idea.***

We will explore Outline I and III. Please read the scriptures of Outline II. Job dialogues with his friends around the theme, “**Why does God allow the righteous to suffer? It’s a mystery to them!**” So, Job ends up challenging God to speak directly to him. God shows up and speaks/questioning him out of a “*whirlwind*” (**chp. 38**). God used a similar technique with Moses (**Ex. 19:16-20**). Please remember, we are all subject to “*divine cross-examination!*”

In the Old Testament *wisdom tradition*, each new generation must be taught wisdom. Faith in God was to be integrated into life’s daily details. Solomon and the people of Israel participated in this tradition (**I Kings 4:29-34**). Dr. Jeremiah states,

“...the Hebrew word for wisdom means **“skill”**: *living life according to the patterns God built into creation. It is best understood as the right use of knowledge-knowing what, when, and how to do something.*” The study of **Matthew 12** teaches us that the Lord describes Himself as *“one greater than Solomon (v. 42), for in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:3).*

### I. Character, Trials, and Testing of Job (Job 1-3)

**Character**: When Job is introduced, immediately we are very impressed. He is a man of integrity, faithfully devoted and obedient to God. In Job’s city (Uz), he was known and considered to be a man of great wealth/influence, goodness, righteousness, good deeds, godly. He served as family priest, worshipping regularly, and offering prayers and sacrifices to God on their behalf (constantly). In other words, *blessed!* It appears, his obedience to God led to his prosperity. If we investigate again the message of the Books of Deuteronomy, Joshua and Judges, disobedience (*sins of the covenant*) lead to adversity and suffering.

**Trials**: Behind the Scenes: The setting/dialogue of a court case. The Satan (*“third party influencer”*) shows up for the attack (**Job 1:6-8**). A *“Divine-Accuser”* conflict is set when God asks the Accuser, **“What do you think about My boy, Job?” (Job 1:9-12).**

**Testing**: God gives permission and opens up the *“hedge.”* The tragedies, attacks, and the pain to quickly begin. He will also become the Sufferer (**Job 2:1-10**). **Note**: Job was not aware of what happened in the *“sons of God”* council meeting. However, he will be forced to *“walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7)*. His perspective will eventually be summarized by trust (**Job 13:15a**). **The pattern of developing faith, applies to us as well!** We can keep on trusting God even when...

**THE NEXT STUDY TIME**: *“Outline III.”*

**NOTES**: *I’ll give you one: “No matter how good we think we are; we need to see ourselves as God sees us!” (J. Vernon McGee)*