

Introduction To Job

1. The primary theme of the book of Job relates to the question of why afflictions fall upon the righteous man. Like Job's three friends, many people, including many religious people, believe that suffering is God's retribution for sin. **How does the book of Job answer this opinion?**

2. In the story of Job, God *allowed* the suffering, but who *caused* it?

3. Atheists cite human suffering as an argument against God. They fail to understand the value of suffering:
 - a. What does Romans 5:3-4 teach about suffering?

 - b. What does James 1:2-3, 12 teach about suffering?

 - c. What were the Jews to learn from their suffering? (see *Deut. 8:15-18*)

 - d. According to Proverbs 3:11, afflictions can be proofs of God's _____.

4. The book of Job can be divided as follows:
 - 1-2 - Job's Testing - Faithfulness
 - 3-27 - Three Cycles of Dialogue - Dispute
 - 29-31 - Job's Monologue
 - 32-37 - Elihu's Monologue
 - 38-42:6 - God's Monologue
 - 42:10-17 - Job's Restoration

5. Very little is known about either the time of the actual events of the book of Job, or the time of writing of the book. Given the absence of references to either the Jewish people, the prophets, the law of Moses, Tabernacle worship or Temple worship, it is safe to conclude that the events of the book of Job preceded Moses. In fact, there are several indicators that Job was a Patriarch, like Abraham:
- a. His lifespan — **Job lived past what age? (see 42:16 for help)**
 - b. His priestly role — **What did Job do for his family members? (1:5)**
 - c. The way his wealth was measured — **How was Job's wealth measured? (1:3)**
 - d. The reference to Sabean and Chaldean raiders fits the 2nd millennium BC (2000-1000) — **What did these raiders do? (1:15, 17)**
6. One of the proofs of inspiration is seen in the corroboration of different Bible writers. Both Ezekiel and James refer to "Job."
- a. What observation did Ezekiel make about Job, and with what two other men did he classify Job? (*Ezek. 14:14-20*)
 - b. What observation did James make about Job? (*James 5:11*)
7. Though neither Jewish history nor worship are mention in Job, the author makes frequent use of the covenant name for God, "Yahweh" (Lord). What does this suggest about the author of the book?