

ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 3 | LESSON 1

WISDOM LITERATURE – The Promise Pictured Through Israel’s Struggle

God is a PROMISE Caring God

Through Israel’s Journey, God pictures 1) His **DESIGN** and **DESIRE** to 2) **RESCUE** His people from sin and death through a future 3) **KING** who will 4) **RESTORE** them to Himself in the **LAND** 5) for their **JOY**.




“FOR I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES”

An Overview of Job A Good God in a Suffering World

Job 19:25; 42:1, 2

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. (Job 19:25)

Then Job answered the Lord and said: “I know that you can do all things, and that **no purpose of yours can be thwarted.**” (Job 42:1, 2)

	<p>THE HEAD – To trust that God is always for you, even when life is hard. Q - When things in your life do not go your way, do you trust God?</p>
	<p>THE HEART – To know God loves you no matter what hardships you are experiencing. Q - When things in your life do not go your way, do you know God loves you?</p>
	<p>THE HAND – To pray about everything and anything. Q - When things in your life do not go your way, do you pray, trusting that God has the situation under control?</p>

EMPHASIS

No matter what life might be in the HORIZONTAL, we are to place our confidence and trust in the one who controls the HORIZONTAL.

The Occurrence of the word LORD [YHWH] in the Book of Job					
1:6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 21	2:1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	12:9	38:1	40:1, 3, 6	42:1, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12

The more generic word “Elohim” [God] occurs in 114 verses throughout all the chapters in Job.

“The book of Job was written to those who struggle with the question of how God can be good when the world is filled with suffering.”¹

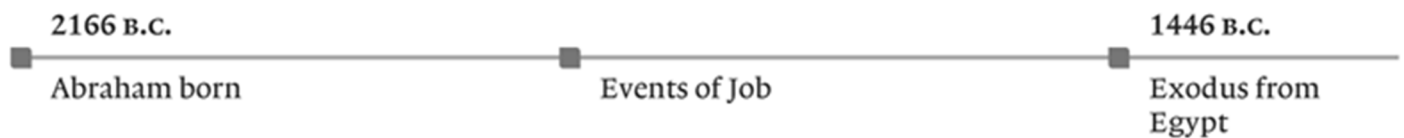
“The author does not provide a formal defense of God’s justice. Rather, as Job’s friends offer their inadequate answers, the author shows how their reasoning fails. Then, in chs. 38–41, the Lord speaks in his own defense, bringing Job to fuller understanding (ch. 42).”²

“Even during his suffering and confusion, [even] before God finally speaks, Job can triumphantly declare, “I know that my Redeemer lives” (19:25).”³

LITERARY CONTEXT

The book of Job is the first of the book within the Hebrew Wisdom Literature, along with Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. As wisdom literature, it is written in a poetic style. “Hebrew poetry does not have meter or rhyme, like the poetry of English, or most other modern, western languages. Rhythm is not achieved by repetition of similar sounds, as it is in rhymed verse; and not by rhythmic accent as in blank verse, but rather by the repetition of ideas. This is called parallelism, and is found throughout the poetical literature of the Bible.”⁴

HISTORICAL CONTEXT



“The unknown Israelite author of this book presents Job as a person living in Uz. Job’s godliness (1:1) matches the ideals of Israelite wisdom literature. He clearly knows Yahweh (1:21). The events of the book seem to be set in the times of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob).”⁵

“Scholars are generally agreed that it was written between the 7th and 4th centuries BCE.”⁶

The Book of Job is written as a GREAT DRAMA with scenes and actors. The ultimate and central figure is YHWH who keeps covenant with His child, Job.

BIBLICAL CONTEXT

Ezekiel 14:14, 20 In this passage, God is saying Jerusalem would not be spared even if Noah, Daniel, and **Job** were present.

James 5:11 "Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of **Job**, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful."

In each of the individuals cited, there were tremendous trials and each was asked to TRUST GOD.

STRUCTURE⁷

1. Prologue: Job's Character and the Circumstances of His Test (1:1–2:13)
2. Dialogue: Job's Conversation with his friends. His Suffering, and His Standing before God (3:1–42:6)
 1. Job: despair for the day of his birth (3:1–26)
 2. The friends and Job: can Job be right before God? (4:1–25:6)
 1. First cycle (4:1–14:22)
 2. Second cycle (15:1–21:34)
 3. Third cycle (22:1–25:6)
 3. Job: the power of God, place of wisdom, and path of integrity (26:1–31:40)
 4. Elihu: suffering as a discipline (32:1–37:24)
3. God's Challenge: The Lord answers Job (38:1–42:6)
4. Epilogue: The Vindication, Intercession, and Restoration of Job (42:7–17)

QUESTIONS GOD ASKS JOB IN CHAPTERS 38-42

In God's first response, He calls out to Job. In the last chapter [42:1-3], Job acknowledges his inadequacy.

- Job 38:2 "Who is this that darkens counsel By words without knowledge?"
- Job 42:1 Then Job answered the LORD and said, 2 "I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. 3 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' "Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."

Again, God's asks Job a question. And again, Job acknowledges his inadequacy.

- Job 38:24 By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth?
- Job 40:4 Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.

Job 38:4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding,

There are multiple questions in chapters 38-42. All such questions are unanswerable by Job. Job acknowledges his full inadequacy and simply TRUSTS GOD.

JESUS IN THE TEXT

“From a gospel point of view, both Job and his friends argue on the wrong basis. Job accuses God; his friends defend God. But all four of them are viewing God in action-consequence terms. The gospel teaches a different version of God: God loves his own with a love that operates apart from and beyond questions of merit. ‘God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us’ (Rom. 5:8).”⁸

Like Job, our Savior and Lord suffered at the hands of the COVENANT KEEPING GOD. God was faithful to us through His Son. Job pictures in shadow form the very heart of God for His people through suffering. Jesus is our ultimate JOB.

“The book of Job helps free us from believing in a “score-keeping” God. We are brought to see the God who is, who is all, and who is love.”⁹

APPLICATION

- In our most perplexing moments, God is caring for His people in keeping His promises.
- Human suffering is often beyond our understanding, yet God is in control.
- God does not always answer our questions, yet God loves us.
- Remain faithful despite confusion and unanswered questions.
- Job’s friends are an example of how NOT to comfort those that are hurting.

VISUALS

MEMORY VERSE

Job 19:25; 42:1,2

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. (Job 19:25)

Then Job answered the Lord and said: “I know that you can do all things, and that **no purpose of yours can be thwarted.**” (Job 24:1, 2)

RESOURCES

ENDNOTES

¹ ESV Study Bible

² ESV Study Bible

³ ESV Study Bible

⁴ <https://www.jeffrandleman.com/genre-of-job/>

⁵ ESV Study Bible

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Job

⁷ ESV Study Bible

⁸ <https://www.crossway.org/articles/the-gospel-in-job/>

⁹ <https://www.crossway.org/articles/the-gospel-in-job/>