

JOB

(Book of Job)

Job is a very unique book about a very unique man. It is not possible to place the book within a specific time period---since it is not known when Job lived. (Some think he may have lived as early as the time of Abraham).

The book of Job is best known as a study of suffering, patience, and questions about why God does things the way he does. It also is a refutation of the common belief (through the ages!) that if one suffers it is because of his own sins.

Job was a wealthy and righteous man whom Satan persuaded God to allow to be stricken with a variety of calamities, including loss of his family and his wealth. He was afflicted with painful boils and lived in misery day and night---so much so that his own wife urged him to curse God and die.

A large portion of the book consists of dialogue between Job and four supposed friends who claimed to be trying to comfort him. It was basically a continual stream of accusations that Job had done something wrong and should just confess and make things right with God. Of course Job kept denying the charges.

Finally, near the end, (chapter 38) the Lord speaks. He asks a series of questions which Job cannot answer, questions which reflect the awesome power and wisdom of God.

In the epilogue (42:7-17) the Lord expressed his anger toward the "friends" who had made all the charges against Job. They were ordered to offer sacrifices for their wrongdoing. Job prayed for them to be spared further punishment from God.

At the end of the story, Job's health is restored. His wealth becomes twice as great as before. He had seven sons and three daughters---the most beautiful women in the land. Job lived for another 140 years.