

Job. The Faith to Challenge God

Biblical scholar Michael Brown brings Job to life for the twenty-first-century reader, exploring the raw spirituality of Job, his extraordinary faith, his friends' theological errors, the mysteries of God's speeches, and the unique answers to the problem of suffering offered in the book of Job. Undergirded by solid Hebrew scholarship but written with clarity for all serious students of Scripture, the commentary provides an important introduction to the study of Job, a new translation, a series of theological reflections, and additional exegetical essays providing in-depth discussion of key passages.



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Job Chapter 1:1-3

¹There once was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and this man was full of integrity^{1} and upright. He feared God and turned away from evil.

²Seven sons and three daughters were born to him,

³and his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a large number of servants. So this man was greater than anyone else in the East

Job Chapter 1:4-5

⁴It was the custom of his sons to host a feast, each when his turn came around, and they would invite their sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵When the days of feasting had run their course, Job would send for his children and have them ritually purified, and he would get up early in the morning and sacrifice burnt offerings for each of them. For Job said to himself, “Perhaps my children sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” This is what Job did all the time.

Job Chapter 1:6-8

⁶On a particular day, the divine beings{2} came to present themselves before YHWH, and the Adversary came along with them. ⁷And YHWH said to the Adversary, “Where have you come from?” The Adversary answered YHWH, “From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it.”

⁸And YHWH said to the Adversary, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a man full of integrity and upright, one who fears God and turns away from evil.”

Job Chapter 1:9-12

⁹The Adversary answered YHWH,

“Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰You’ve put a protective hedge around him, his family, and all that he has; you’ve blessed the work of his hands so that his possessions have spread throughout the land. ¹¹But stretch out your hand and strike all that he has and he will surely curse you to your face.”

¹²And YHWH said to the Adversary, “Alright then, everything he has is in your power. Just don’t raise your hand against him.” The Adversary then left the presence of YHWH.

Job Chapter 1:13-16

¹³On a particular day, Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine in the house of their eldest brother ¹⁴when a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys grazing nearby them ¹⁵when the Sabeans fell upon them and took them. They struck the servants with the sword, and I escaped—I alone—to tell you." ¹⁶While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up and devoured the sheep and the servants, and I escaped—I alone—to tell you."

Job Chapter 1:17-18

¹⁷While he was still speaking, another came and said, “The Chaldeans divided up into three bands. They made a raid and carried off the camels and they struck the servants with the sword, and I escaped—I alone

—to tell you.” ¹⁸While he was still speaking, another came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine in the house of their eldest brother ¹⁹when, suddenly, a mighty wind came from across the desert and struck the four corners of the house and it fell on the young people [5](#) and they died, and I escaped—I alone—to tell you.”

Job Chapter 1:20-22

²⁰Job got up, tore his robe, shaved his head, fell to the ground, prostrated himself in worship ²¹and said, “Naked I came out of my mother’s womb and naked will I return there. YHWH gave and YHWH took away. May YHWH’s name be praised!” [{6}](#) ²²In all this, [{7}](#) Job did not sin or attribute anything unseemly to God. ²¹and said, “Naked I came out of my mother’s womb and naked will I return there. YHWH gave and YHWH took away. May YHWH’s name be praised!” [{6}](#) ²²In all this, [{7}](#) Job did not sin or attribute anything unseemly to God.

Job Chapter 2:1-3

¹On a particular day, the divine beings{1} came to present themselves before YHWH, and the Adversary came along with them to present himself before YHWH.{2} ²And YHWH said to the Adversary, “Where have you come from?” The Adversary answered YHWH, “From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it.” ³And YHWH said to the Adversary, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a man full of integrity, one who fears God and turns away from evil and who still holds fast to his integrity, even though you incited me to destroy him without cause.”{3}

Job Chapter 2:4-6

⁴The Adversary answered YHWH, “Skin in exchange for skin. A man will give everything in exchange for his life. ⁵But stretch out your hand and strike his very bones and flesh and he will curse you to your face.” ⁶And YHWH answered the Adversary, “Alright then, he is in your power. Only you must spare his life.”

Job Chapter 2:7-10

⁷The Adversary then left the presence of YHWH and struck Job with a horrific inflammation [{6}](#) from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. ⁸So he took a potsherd with which to scrape himself and sat among the ashes. ⁹His wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!” ¹⁰He said to her, “You speak like one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we receive only the good from YHWH and not receive the bad?” In all this, [{7}](#) Job did not sin with his lips.

Job Chapter 2:11-13

¹¹When Job's three friends heard about all the calamities that had come upon him, each one came from his own home—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They met together to go and console him and comfort him. ¹²But when they looked up from a distance, they couldn't recognize him. So they raised their voices and wept, and each one tore his robe, and they tossed dust in the air over their heads towards the sky. ¹³Then they sat with him on the ground for seven days and nights, none of them saying a word, for they saw that his pain was great.



The ways and dealings of God

J.C. Philpot (1802 - 1869) Was known as “TheSeceder”. He resigned from the Church of England in 1835 and became a Strict & Particular Baptist. While with the Church of England he was a Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford. After becoming a Strict and Particular Baptist he became the Editor of the Gospel Standard magazine.

J.C. Philpot

The ways and dealings of God with his people, in providence and in grace, are usually in the outset shrouded in mystery, and yet in the end shine resplendently forth as stamped with the most perfect wisdom, mercy, and grace.

When Luther, on his return from the Diet of Worms, was seized by armed men in masks, and carried off to the lonely castle of Wartburg, it seemed as if his life and work were both about to be suddenly extinguished. The consternation of his friends was almost unparalleled. "A cry of grief," says D'Aubigne, "resounded through Germany. Luther has fallen into the hands of his enemies." But in that quiet retreat, hidden alike from friend and foe, he had time and opportunity to translate the Scriptures into his native language, and thus deal Rome a far heavier blow, and advance the cause of God a thousand times more than if he had been permitted again without molestation to occupy his pulpit at Wittenberg.

J.C. Philpot

When Bunyan was haled to prison, and his labors in the gospel were thus suddenly and violently brought to a close, this heavy stroke would doubtless appear, both to himself and his attached people, an utter extinguishment of his light and usefulness. But should we have had his "Grace Abounding," or his "Pilgrim's Progress," if it had not been for his gloomy cell in Bedford Jail? Has not the church of God the greatest reason to bless the wisdom of the Most High in permitting ungodly men to triumph for a season? For though they might stop his tongue which could not reach hundreds, they set loose a pen which has been blessed to thousands.

And just a few...

Job is Old Testament?

Testaments is a matter of formatting.

Even the chapter and verses of our current Bible came into being with the Geneva Bible (1560 complete). Does not mean chapter and verse are wrong they just help.

Even punctuation was not there. Even spaces! (They did it to conserve space.)

The Bible is a singular work.

The Covenants never stop, they just get upgraded. The Law was phased out.

James 5:11

11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the [a]endurance of Job and have seen the [b]outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful.

Name of Job

As for the name Job (*'iyyov*), it is of uncertain etymology. If it is derived from the root for “to hate, to be an enemy,” there are two possibilities: the first relating it to a passive nominal form, hence “the hated one, the persecuted one,” the second relating it to an active nominal form hence, “the enemy, the hater.” But while it might be feasible, although clearly somewhat of a stretch, to think that parents would name their child “the hated/persecuted one,” it is hard to imagine that parents would name their child “the enemy/hater.” The other possibility is to relate the name to other Semitic names that basically mean, “Where is (my/the) f/Father?”

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