

# Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

A scroll of aged, yellowish parchment with a dark red background. The scroll is unrolled, showing a central area with the word "Job" written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The parchment has a slightly textured appearance with some faint, darker spots. The scroll is rolled up at the top and bottom edges.

**Job**

# Introduction to Job

- Title = “Job”
  - Job is a real person
- Author—probably not Job
  - Minority but oldest view = Moses
  - Prevailing view = Solomon’s era, maybe Solomon himself
- Date
  - Events = ca. 1800 - 1500 B.C. (patriarchal period)
  - Writing = ca. 1450 - 930 B.C. (Moses to Solomon)

# Historical and Theological Themes

- “Righteous” man, Job (1:1, 8; 2:3)—became the suffering servant of YHWH
  - **Job’s view of himself**
    - Same view of calamity as his friends
    - Seems to accuse God in some sense
    - Can’t make sense of his circumstances
    - Doesn’t think he is sinless, just free of moral blemish

# Historical and Theological Themes

- “Righteous” man, Job (1:1, 8; 2:3)—became the suffering servant of YHWH
  - **God’s View of Job**
    - God boasts to Satan about Job
    - “My servant”
    - “complete, blameless, integrity”
    - “just, upright”
    - “fearing God”
    - “righteous, righteousness”

# Historical and Theological Themes

- The Attack Against Job
  - Satan—to show Job’s weakness and prove God wrong
  - YHWH—HIS purpose is for His glory and our good
  - Job’s three friends—well-intentioned opponents

# Historical and Theological Themes

- The Attack Against Job (con'd)
  - Three Friends:
    - **Eliphaz** "If you sin, you suffer." Experience teaches that sin leads to suffering.
    - **Bildad** "You must be sinning." Traditions teach that sin leads to suffering.
    - **Zophar** "You are sinning." Religion teaches that sin leads to suffering.

# Historical and Theological Themes

- The Attack Against Job (con'd)
  - Elihu
    - Angry young fourth friend
    - Make more sense than the others
    - He was rightly against Job's self-righteousness
  - Nobody really convinces anybody
  - Accusers' speeches get shorter and Job's defenses get longer and frustrated
  - The friends started well—Job 2:11-13



# Historical and Theological Themes

- The Sovereignty of YHWH (38-42)–THE dominant theme
  - Creator
  - Controller of the Universe

# Purpose of Job

*The proper response of the righteous man to suffering must be to worship and submit to God. God is concerned with your trusting response to suffering, not with necessarily giving you full knowledge of the suffering.*

# Literary Structure

- I. The Disasters of Job (1-2)
- II. The Dialogues of Job (3-37)
  - I. Job curses himself (3:1)
  - II. 1<sup>st</sup> Debate Cycle with 3 friends
  - III. 2<sup>nd</sup> Debate Cycle with 3 friends
  - IV. 3<sup>rd</sup> Debate Cycle minus Zophar
  - V. Job's Final Speech (29-31)
  - VI. Elihu's 4 speeches (32-37)
  - VII. God's Interrogations of Job
- III. The Deliverance of Job (38-42)

# Interpretive Issues

- Transcript vs. Poetic Rendering
- Sickness of Job
- Job's Wrong
  - Previous hidden sin?
  - No sin but a changed attitude?
  - No sin but God gives consolation?
  - Sin in the suffering followed by a changed attitude—Job 42:6

# Key Passages

- 14:14—Hope of immortality
- 19:25-26—Hope of a Savior and Resurrection
- 26:7—When the Bible speaks of science it is true
- 42:12-13—hope for the future

# Lessons

- Worship in trials—Job 1:20-21
- Acknowledge God's bigger purposes
- Purification in suffering
- Find peace on the ash heap