

## Job Outline

**Introduction:** Job is a rich theological masterwork. The central problem of Job is that of unjustified suffering- or why bad things happen to good people. A model of righteousness, terrible things happen to Job. Job's three friends, speaking on behalf of conventional religion argue he must have done something wrong. Job protests. Then, a fourth character, Elihu, speaks up reminding both sides of God's awesome mystery. Finally, God speaks to Job personally, rebuking Job for becoming self-righteous, but also rebuking Job's friends for speaking falsely, and in the end restoring Job two fold for his suffering.

### Section One: God and Satan talk about Job

Chapter 1: God and Satan talk about Job; God allows Satan control over Job

Chapter 2: Satan and God again; now Satan afflicts Job with disease; three friends introduced

### Section Two: Job's Friends Try to Help

Chapter 3: Job's song of complaint

Chapter 4: Eliphaz speaks- Job must have sinned

Chapter 5: Cont.

Chapter 6: Job responds no

Chapter 7: Continues with blues (Parody of Psalm 8)

Chapter 8: Bildad speaks- Job should repent; he must have done something

Chapter 9: Job wants to lay case before God but can't

Chapter 10: Job speaks to God asking why all this is happening

Chapter 11: Zohar speaks- you must have done wrong and are getting better than you deserve

Chapter 12: Job- God is doing this and no one understands it

Chapter 13: Job tells friends to be silent; prays to God

Chapter 14: More speech: "a mortal's days are few in number and full of trouble"

Chapter 15: Eliphaz speaks again- Job questioning wisdom and religion

Chapter 16: Job done with friends, wishes for death

Chapter 17: Job to God- why; why have you cut me off even from friends who understand?

Chapter 18: Bildad speaks again- repeats that God only punishes the wicked

Chapter 19: Job wants a trial; hopes in a redeemer

Chapter 20: Zohar speaks again- angry; God only punishes the wicked

Chapter 21: Job's response- the wicked often go unpunished

Chapter 22: Eliphaz- is it for your piety you are being punished?

Chapter 23: Job would take case to God if he could- but how?

Chapter 24: Job challenges God for allowing the world to be the way it is

Chapter 25: Bildad- how can Job SAY such things?

Chapter 26: Job sarcastic to friends- thanks for the help

Chapter 27: Job declares innocence; again notes wicked often not punished

Chapter 28: Where is wisdom speech

Chapter 29: Job remembers how great things used to be

Chapter 30: Notes that things are no longer this way

Chapter 31: Job's final challenge- if I've done anything wrong prove it to me

### Section Three: Elihu speaks against Job and Job's Friends

Chapter 32: Elihu angry with Job and with friends

Chapter 33: God speaks but not directly; if God helps the proper response is not self justification, but giving thanks to God

Chapter 34: God is a God of justice

Chapter 35: But people only cry out when they need something

Chapter 36: Job obsessed only with wicked- not taking into account everything else God does

Chapter 37: Ode to God's majestic works

**Section Four: God Responds to Job**

Chapter 38: God speaks to Job out of the whirlwind

Chapter 39: Cont.

Chapter 40: Job's response is silence

Chapter 41: God continues with great works

Chapter 42: Finale- Job humbled; God angry at friends; restores Job's life double

**Stories to know:** God and Satan in conference (Chapters 1:6-12); Job challenging injustice in the world (Chapter 24:1-25); God speaking to Job from the whirlwind (Chapter 38:1-7)