

## August 1–7: Job 1–3; 12–14; 19; 21–24; 38–40; 42, “Yet Will I Trust in Him”

### Overview

Job is a work of literature as opposed to a book by or about a prophet. We see some “literary license” taken throughout the book, for example, when God and Satan get together and make a wager

It reads like a play. In one chapter a friend states his argument and in the next chapter Job responds. The first 2 chapters are the prologue for a lengthy work of Hebrew poetry. Then the last chapter is the epilogue.

There are 4 main players in this epic poem, Job and 3 friends. The basis of their discussion is - if God is just then why do righteous people suffer and why do wicked people prosper?

Because it is a literary work some have concluded that the story of Job is fiction. The best evidence we have that he lived and the story is true comes from a statement by the Lord

D&C 121:10

Thou art not yet as Job; thy friends do not contend against thee, neither charge thee with transgression, as they did Job.

He is also referred to by James in the New Testament

James 5:11

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

### The Character of Job

Lets read about Job's character

Job 1:1

1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

What do we learn about Job in this passage?

(perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil)

Job 1:3,21-22

3 His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

What do we learn about Job in this passage?

Wealthy, not caught up in wealth, knows where his blessing come from

George Albert Smith

"We do not own any part of the earth or its riches. At most we are only temporary tenants. We leave it all here when we pass on. Naked we came into the world, and naked we depart. This is the Lord's earth, and keeping his commandments is the rent we pay for the blessings of life and all that we will enjoy here and hereafter." (CR, April 1945)

What do you think is meant by the phrase, "nor charged God foolishly"?

He didn't blame God for his problems

Robert D. Hales

"The great lesson of Job is that, 'in all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.' Too often when adversity strikes, we use it as a justification to commit sin and turn away from the teachings of Jesus Christ, the prophets who lead us, and our family and friends. Job maintained his testimony and was blessed for his unwavering faith that God lived and that he would dwell in God's presence." (CR, Oct. 1981)

The Lord describes Job's righteous attributes

Job 2:3

3 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

What do we learn about Job in this passage?

(a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?  
and still he holdeth fast his integrity)

Job serves those in need – teaching those who lack understanding and strengthening those who are weak

Job 4:3-4

3 Behold, thou hast instructed many, and thou hast strengthened the weak hands.  
4 Thy words have upholden him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the

feeble knees.

What do we learn about Job in this passage?

(instructed many, strengthened the weak)

Job feasts on the words of God and to follow them

Job 23:11-12

11 My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined.

12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

What do we learn about Job in this passage?

Esteemed the Lord's words more than food and kept His ways

Again we read about his service and charity

Job 29:12-16

12 Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.

13 The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.

14 I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem.

15 I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame.

16 I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out.

What do we learn about Job in this passage?

Charitable

He lives the principal of loving his enemies

Job 31:28-30

28 This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above.

29 If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him:

30 Neither have I suffered my mouth to sin by wishing a curse to his soul.

What do we learn about Job in this passage?

Did not wish evil on his enemies

Would you expect someone who is living this kind of life to receive great blessing

from the Lord?

### Afflictions Suffered By Job

Lets read the afflictions he suffered

Job 1:14-17

14 And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them:

15 And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

16 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

17 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

From what affliction did Job suffer?

Loss of his means of livelihood and the death of his servants

Job 1:18-20

18 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

19 And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

From what affliction did Job suffer?

Death of his sons and daughters

Job 2:7; 7:5

7 ¶ So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

5 My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome

From what affliction did Job suffer?

Illness and pain

Job 7:3-4,13-14

3 So am I made to possess months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me.

4 When I lie down, I say, When shall I arise, and the night be gone? and I am full of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day.

13 When I say, My bed shall comfort me, my couch shall ease my complaint;

14 Then thou scarest me with dreams, and terrifiest me through visions:

From what affliction did Job suffer?

Rest is no relief. The little sleep he does get are full of nightmares

Job 19:13-19

13 He hath put my brethren far from me, and mine acquaintance are verily estranged from me.

14 My kinsfolk have failed, and my familiar friends have forgotten me.

15 They that dwell in mine house, and my maids, count me for a stranger: I am an alien in their sight.

16 I called my servant, and he gave me no answer; I entreated him with my mouth.

17 My breath is strange to my wife, though I entreated for the children's sake of mine own body.

18 Yea, young children despised me; I arose, and they spake against me.

19 All my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me.

From what affliction did Job suffer?

(they whom I loved are turned against me)

Job teaches us that it is essential that anyone seeking to follow Christ suffer chastening, trials, and afflictions

Job 5:17-18

17 Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

18 For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.

What does Job know about God's interaction with man that gives him comfort?

(happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty)

Isaiah 48:10

10 Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

Why are afflictions necessary?

Orson F. Whitney

“No pain that we suffer, no trial that we experience is wasted. It ministers to our education, to the development of such qualities as patience, faith, fortitude and humility. All that we suffer and all that we endure, especially when we endure it patiently, builds up our characters, purifies our hearts, expands our souls, and makes us more tender and charitable, more worthy to be called the children of God... and it is through sorrow and suffering, toil and tribulation, that we gain the education that we come here to acquire and which will make us more like our Father and Mother in heaven.” (In - Spencer W. Kimball, Faith Precedes the Miracle, pg. 98)

Eldred G. Smith

As Job conquered, he became more perfect. As it was with Job, so shall it be with us. We also must withstand trials and difficulties through which we attain perfection. This process thus strengthened Job until he uttered that immortal testimony: ‘For I know that my redeemer liveth’ (Job 19:25).

“Many of us say, ‘I believe,’ but can we say as Job did, ‘I know.’ Can we say we know that God lives, and that Jesus is the Christ?... Through the tempering process of life we may become strengthened even to perfection, as we conquer and endure to the end, that we too may have a testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ.” (CR, Oct. 1958)

## Strength Through Faith In Christ

Lets read how Job finds strength in his afflictions

We already read how all his friends and family had turned against him  
In this passage he states that the 3 friends in this story are making him more miserable instead of comforting him

Job 16:1-7

1 Then Job answered and said,

2 I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all.

3 Shall vain words have an end? or what emboldeneth thee that thou answerest?

4 I also could speak as ye do: if your soul were in my soul’s stead, I could heap up words against you, and shake mine head at you.

5 But I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the moving of my lips should assuage your grief.

6 Though I speak, my grief is not assuaged: and though I forbear, what am I eased?

7 But now he hath made me weary: thou hast made desolate all my company.

Why do well meaning loved ones sometimes fail to comfort during times of afflictions?

They lack understanding

Looking forward to the resurrection, he even thinks that death may give him comfort from all his afflictions

Job 14:13-14

13 O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!  
14 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

Lets read how Job found comfort in ways that don't fail.

Job 19:23-26

23 Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!  
24 That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!  
25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:  
26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:  
27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

Why do you think having a testimony of Christ helped Job during his afflictions?

Spencer W. Kimball

“The question asked by Job has been asked by millions who have stood at the open bier of a loved one: 'If a man die, shall he live again?' (Job 14:14).

“And the question has been answered acceptably to numerous of them as a great, sweet peace settles down upon them like the dews of heaven. And innumerable times hearts that were weary in agonizing suffering have felt the kiss of that peace which knows not understanding. And when a deep tranquility of soul has brought a new warm assurance to minds that were troubled and hearts that were torn, those numerous could repeat with beloved Job, ‘For I know that my redeemer liveth,’” (CR, April 1969)

Lets read some aspects of Jobs testimony of Christ that brought him comfort

Job 27:4-6

4 My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit.  
5 God forbid that I should justify you: till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me.  
6 My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.

What does verse 6 tell you about Job?

He knows he has lived right

Alma 5:14-16

14 And now behold, I ask of you, my brethren of the church, have ye spiritually been born of God? Have ye received his image in your countenances? Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts?

15 Do ye exercise faith in the redemption of him who created you? Do you look forward with an eye of faith, and view this mortal body raised in immortality, and this corruption raised in incorruption, to stand before God to be judged according to the deeds which have been done in the mortal body?

16 I say unto you, can you imagine to yourselves that ye hear the voice of the Lord, saying unto you, in that day: Come unto me ye blessed, for behold, your works have been the works of righteousness upon the face of the earth?

How do people receive such comfort?

Joseph Smith

"Those, then, who make the sacrifice will have the testimony that their course is pleasing in the sight of God, and those who have this testimony will have faith to lay hold on eternal life, and will be enabled, through faith, to endure unto the end, and receive the crown that is laid up for them that love the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Lectures on Faith, The Law Sacrifice, 10)

Eternal Perspective

The Lord reminds Job that the plan of happiness was established before the creation and that he was a participant

Job 38:4-7

4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

We've read how Job knew of the after-life. He also knows about the pre-mortal existence

How would this understanding of the totality of his existence be a comfort to him?



Spencer W. Kimball

"If we looked at mortality as the whole of existence, then pain, sorrow, failure, and short life would be calamity. But if we look upon life as an eternal thing stretching far into the premortal past and on into the eternal post-death future, then all happenings may be put in proper perspective."  
(Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Spencer W. Kimball, pg.15)

Lets read how Job is greatly blessed for his faithfulness.

Job 42:12-17

12 So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

13 He had also seven sons and three daughters.

14 And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Keren-happuch.

15 And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren.

16 After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations.

17 So Job died, being old and full of days.

Henry B. Eyring

"The Lord blessed him beyond all he had lost. But perhaps the greatest blessing for Job was to have increased in holiness through adversity and repentance. He was qualified to have greater happiness in the days he had yet to live.

"Greater holiness will not come simply by asking for it. It will come by doing what is needed for God to change us." (CR, Oct. 2019)