



Prosperity, Perseverance, and the Purpose of Job

Lesson 2

Today's Overview of the Book of Job Will Introduce Us to...

- The Key **PLAYERS** in the Story
- The Big **PICTURE** in the Story
- The Main **PURPOSE** in the Story

The Key Players in the Story

1. Job and His **INTEGRITY** in Prosperity and Adversity

- The **hero** of our epic story is a man named Job! (1:1; 42:17)
- The **focus** is on his blameless integrity. (1:1, 5, 8-9, 22; 2:3-4, 9-10; 4:6; 8:20; 9:2-22; 27:5; 31:6)
- The **point** is Job's ability to persevere through prosperity and adversity without losing his integrity. (1:22; 2:10; James 5:11)

We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance (perseverance) of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful. James 5:11

2. God and His **SOVEREIGNTY** Over Prosperity and Adversity

- The **greatest** and **most glorious** Person in the story is God Himself (38:1-42:6)
- The **focus** is on God's sovereignty over prosperity and adversity. (1:12, 21; 2:3, 6; 42:10-12)
- The **point** is God's worthiness to be worshipped in both prosperity and adversity! (1:21; 2:10)

3. Satan and His **HOSTILITY** against God and His People (1:12; 2:3, 6)

4. Job's Wife and Her **NEGATIVITY** as a Spouse (2:9)

5. Job's Friends and Their **SUPERIORITY** as a Miserable Comforters (4—37)

Throughout the book we will see Job's **TENACITY** and in the end God's **PITY** during unanswered questions and unsolved mysteries of undeserved suffering.

"We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance (perseverance) of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful." James 5:11

The Big Picture of the Story

A Chart, an Outline, and a Dramatic Reading

- ACT 1** [Prologue – Prose] **UNDESERVED SUFFERING of Blameless Job** (1–2)
- ACT 2** [Dialogue – Poetry] **UNANSWERED QUESTIONS with Miserable Comforters** (3–37)
and UNSOLVED MYSTERIES from Majestic Yahweh (38:1—42:6)
- Job's Lamentations: Cursing and Crying** (3)
- Round One** (4—14)
- Eliphaz the Experienced Responds (4–5) and Blameless Job Replies (6–7)
 Bildad the Brutal Responds (8) and Blameless Job Replies (9–10)
 Zophar the Zealous Responds (11) and Blameless Job Replies (12–14)

Round Two (15—21)

Eliphaz the Experienced Responds (15) and Blameless Job Replies (16–17)
Bildad the Brutal Responds (18) and Blameless Job Replies (19)
Zophar the Zealous Responds (20) and Blameless Job Replies (21)

Round Three (22—31)

Eliphaz the Experienced Responds (22) and Blameless Job Replies (23–24)
Bildad the Brutal Responds (25) and Blameless Job Replies (26–31)

Elihu's Four Dissertations: Explaining and Exhorting (32—37)

God's Two Interrogations of Job (38:1—42:6)

ACT 3 [Epilogue – Prose] UNDESERVED BLESSING of Blameless Job (42:7-17)

The Main Purpose of the Story

1. Does the Bible teach a "**PROSPERITY Gospel**" where God promises to always bless those who trust in Him and obey Him with blameless integrity? If you are sick or poor all you have to do is "name it and claim it" by faith and God will come through with health and wealth?

Why is God permitting this to happen to me? A person like me doesn't deserve to be treated like this by Him!

2. Or does the Bible teach a "**PERSEVERING Gospel**" that calls for trusting God in both the good times of prosperity and the bad times of adversity...even in the very bad times of undeserved suffering?

Will I worship God in good times and bad times? Is His majesty worthy of my integrity in both prosperity and adversity?

3. From a **EARTHLY** human perspective the problem in the Book of Job is understood as...

God is on trial for allowing undeserving suffering to come upon His blameless servant!

Why does God allow His blameless servant to suffer?

4. From a **HEAVENLY** divine perspective the problem in the Book of Job is revealed to be...

Job is on trial to see whether he will serve God in times of adversity like he does in times of prosperity!

Why does Job worship and fear God? Is it for what he gets from God – health and wealth?

Why does God bless His servants? Is it to buy their devotion or to bribe them to worship Him?

The Gospel According to Job

Persevere through Prosperity and Adversity with Integrity, Because God's Majesty Is Always Worthy of Our Worship!

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD. Job 1:21

"Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity? Job 2:10

Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him. Job 13:15

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Such trials show the proven character of your faith, which is much more valuable than gold—

gold that is tested by fire, even though it is passing away—and will bring praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. You have not seen him, but you love him. You do not see him now but you believe in him, and so you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, because you are attaining the goal of your faith—the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:6-9

What about You and Me?

- **WHY** do we serve God and seek to be blameless in our integrity? Is it because of **WHAT** God does or not do for us or is it because of **WHO** He is all the time—in both the good times of prosperity and the bad times of adversity?
- How am I **tempted** to be **less faithful** to God during times of prosperity? How am I **tempted** to be **less faithful** during times of adversity?
- How does **our response** to undeserved suffering **reveal our true motives** for loving God and living for Him?
- How has **our response to adversity** been more like a **prosperity gospel** than a **persevering gospel**?