

An Overview of Job

Part 1

I. Introduction

- a. Over the next several weeks, we want to walk through the Book of Job
 - i. This study is not meant to be deep and exhaustive by any means
 - ii. This study will be very shallow, so far as study goes
 1. The goal of this study is to give you a good overview of this book so you can more easily see the details the next time you read it
 2. We will, no doubt, not even read every verse in the book as we go through it
 - a. Therefore, it will be of a great benefit for you to have read ahead prior to each study

b. The Author

- i. Most commentators doubt Job wrote the book which bears his name
- ii. Some believe Moses wrote this book
- iii. Others believe Solomon wrote it
- iv. The truth is, we have no idea who wrote this book any more than we know the author of Hebrews
 1. We do know God inspired the book and it is, therefore, good for study

c. The Date

- i. Most commentators agree that Job was written prior to the Egyptian captivity
 1. However, knowing exactly when is debated
 - a. A few put this book prior to the Flood
 - i. Though, this seems a mistake due to some content in the book itself
 - b. Some place the date around Babel
 - c. Others place this book during the time of the Patriarchs
 - i. Yet, Job lived nearly 200 years
 1. So, his lifetime could have spanned part of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob's life

d. Simply, there's no way to be sure of the date

II. Commentary

a. Job 1:1-5

i. Job is the central character of this book

1. He lived in the land of Uz

a. Most believe Uz was in modern southwestern Saudi Arabia, western Jordan or Southern Syria

i. At best, we have clues

1. However, nothing is conclusive

2. He was a godly man that served the Lord

3. God had blessed him materially and with family

b. Job 1:6-12

i. Satan came along with the angels to present himself before God

ii. God Himself commended Job for his uprightness and faithfulness

1. Satan disputed with God over Job

a. He challenged God that if He took all of Job's possessions, he would curse God

i. God allowed Satan to take all of Job's possessions without touching Job himself

iii. It should be pointed out that Job knew nothing of this

1. In fact, it is not recorded that Job ever knew of this during his lifetime

c. Job 1:13-19

i. Satan proceeds to take Job's material blessings as he was allowed by God

1. The Sabeans and Chaldeans raided Job's livestock and took them

a. These groups were located in Arabia so we can be somewhat confident that Uz was at least in this part of the world

2. Satan was allowed to bring fire down from heaven (in what form, we are not sure) to destroy livestock

3. Satan was allowed to control the weather by sending a wind to blow down the house where Job's children were feasting

a. The children were killed

d. Job 1:20-22

- i. Job *“tore his robe, and shaved his head, and fell to the ground”*
 - 1. Understandable for sure
- ii. He *“worshipped”* God
 - 1. This shows just how much piety Job had
 - a. He still cried out to the Lord and acknowledged that God alone controlled such things
 - i. We must see that even though Satan actually did these things to Job, he had to receive permission from God
 - 1. This ought to give us great confidence

e. Job 2:1-6

- i. Satan came with the angels of God again
 - 1. God reminded Satan of the faithfulness of Job
 - a. Satan again challenges God to take Job’s health from him
 - i. He believed this would finally cause Job to curse God
 - ii. God allowed it but restricted Satan from taking Job’s life

f. Job 2:7-10

- i. Satan struck Job with boils from head to foot
- ii. Job’s wife wrongly urged Job to *“curse God and die”*
 - 1. Job recognizes that God had been good to them and yet sometimes for reasons unknown to man, God allows adversity
- iii. Even to this point, *“Job did not sin with his lips”*

g. Job 2:11-13

- i. When all including Job’s wife failed him, three friends showed up to comfort him
 - 1. Eliphaz the Temanite
 - 2. Bildad the Shuhite
 - 3. Zophar the Maamathite
- ii. Job’s friends didn’t even recognize Job when they arrived because the disease had taken such a toll on his body
 - 1. For seven days, they silently mourned along with Job because of all this that Satan had brought on him