

# Job

- ▣ The **Problem of Pain**
- ▣ Jesus Christ as my Redeemer
- ▣ Oldest book in world
- ▣ Time: between Genesis 11-12
- ▣ Son of Issachar? (Gen 46:13)
- ▣ Prologue – Dialogue – Epilogue
- ▣ Prose – Poetry – Prose

# Job

- ▣ “The greatest poem” ever written...
- ▣ **Job was a**
  - Perfect man (1:1)
  - Prosperous man (1:2-4)
  - Praying man (1:5)
  - Popular man (29:21,25)
  - Proven man (42:10,12)
  - Personal relationship with God!
- ▣ **Why do the godly suffer?!** (Ps 37, 73, Heb 12)
- ▣ **“Baffled to fight Better”**

# Outline 1

- ▣ The Disasters of Job (1-2)
- ▣ The Debates of Job (3:1-42:6)
- ▣ The Deliverance of Job (42:7-17)

# Outline 2

- ▣ Job in the hands of Satan  
(1-2:10), under God;
- ▣ Job in the hands of his friends  
(2:11-31:40), and
- ▣ Job in the hands of God...  
(32-42).

- ▣ Often, the question is asked: “Why do the righteous suffer?”. There is no easy answer to this question, but Job teaches me that there is an Answer - God Himself ...and a renewed **Revelation** of and **Relationship** with Him.

Zophar, one of the 3 friends of Job, said: If you *Prepare your heart* (KJV), if you devote your heart to Him... If you *Pray* ("stretch out your hands to Him") ...If you *Put away the sin* in your hand and house (Job 11:13,14), ...Then... you'll lift up your face without shame, you'll stand firm and without fear, you'll forget your trouble, your life will be bright, you'll be secure, you'll rest in safety and lie down without fear (v15-19). *While this seems right, God does NOT always work like this. He is God, He rules, He decides in wisdom and love and sometimes even IF a child of His does all the above-mentioned, life may still be full of troubles and shame and suffering!*

*If I try to “diagnose” and “treat” every person I meet, I’ll be a “worthless physician” (13:4). I read in the Good News Bible that Job said to his friends: “You cover up your ignorance with lies; you are like doctors who can't heal anyone”; ... “you are all physicians of no value and have no remedy to offer” (Ampl); ... “You graffiti my life with lies. You're a bunch of pompous quacks!” (MSG). In response to his suffering AND his friends’ sick diagnosis and suggested treatment, Job said (13:15;KJV):*

*“Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him”!*



As I read the story of Job, I get the impression that Job is wrong and his friends are right, but that is an oversimplification and a misrepresentation of what God shows me here. I rather see that *the friends are wrong* and **God is right**... The friends are wrong in their approach to Job's suffering and trials and struggle, because they focus on certain *creeds* and *rules of religion* and *principles* of how things should work in the Christian life, and do not focus on our ***relationship*** with a Person, the Lord Himself. This makes them "worthless physicians" (Job 13:4) and wounding friends; and ..one of the "bitterest hurts in life is to be wounded 'in the house of your friends'" (OC).



When I focus on Rules and not Relationship with God, I become a Pharisee, a wounding “friend” to others. When I become devoted to Principles and not to a Person, the Lord Jesus Christ, I become a hyper-conscientious, religious, hurting hypocrite. This is sad. Job said that such religiosity is “nonsense” (21:34).

In Job 38-39 I read of *God's Response* to what Job and his friends had said, and to what had happened. God asked him a series of questions about His *creation* (38:1-38) and His *creatures* (38:39-39:30). This is followed (Ch 40-42) by *Job's Reaction*, which shows that he was humbled regarding his own wisdom and power. ...After this severe trial, in which Job had to face(1) the onslaught of Satan, as well as (2) the onslaught by his friends and his wife, and (3) the onslaught of his own heart, he had a new encounter with God, ...and experienced *God's Restoration* of his life (Job 42:10-17).