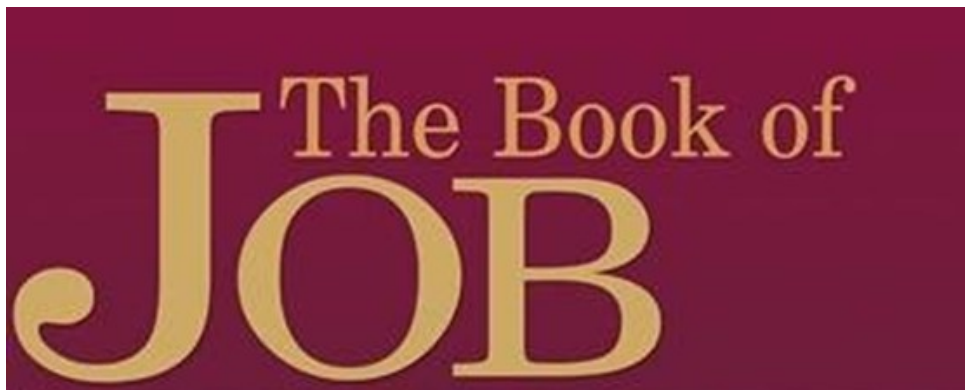




The Story of Job

Trusting God When Life Doesn't Seem to Make Sense

A Bible study series from the life of Job - Week 1

Job 1: 1-12

"When the author of Job picked up his writing utensil to write this book, he could have begun with a blunt, three-word sentence, 'Life is unfair.' Difficult, most of us have learned to handle. But unfair?" (Charles Swindoll)

Introduction: If something in your life has happened or is happening now that makes you say, "Life isn't always fair...", welcome to Job's world. And welcome to Job's journey of learning to trust God when life doesn't seem to make sense. Everyone struggles with all kinds of problems, difficulties, disappointments, headaches, heartaches, and sorrows. As a storm in life starts to subside, another battle begins - the battle of the heart. And the questions come as we wander: "Why would the God who loves me allow me to suffer like this?" Or "Why did this happen?" Or "Why didn't this happen?" Or "Why me, why now?" In this incredible story about suffering, we will learn why we can trust God even when life doesn't seem to make sense.

Meet Job. (Job 1:1-5)

1. Job was a godly man. (Job 1:1)

2. Job was a family man. (Job 1:2)

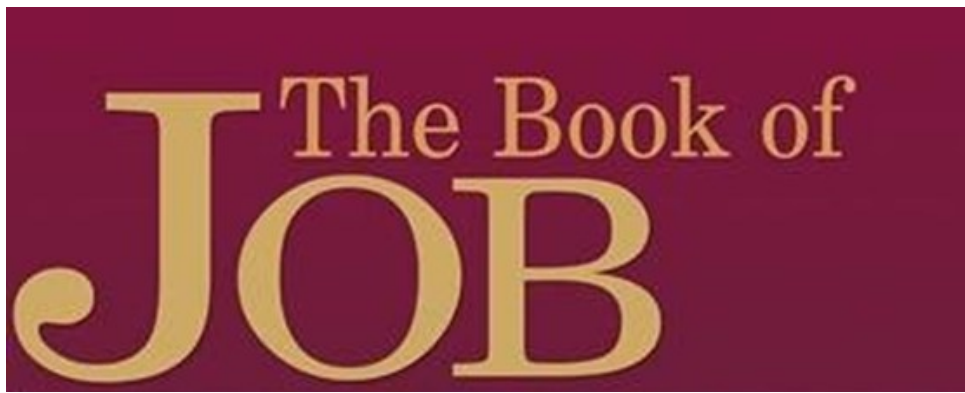
3. Job was a wealthy man. (Job 1:3a)

4. Job was a very well-known man. (Job 1:3b)

5. Job was a man who was the spiritual leader of his family and whose custom was to pray for them. (Job 1:4-5)

Something is always going on in Heaven regarding what's happening on Earth (Job 1:6-12)

Throne Control. Throne control means God is on Heaven's throne in absolute, supreme control over all the universe. Psalm 103:19 says: "The LORD has made the heavens His throne; from there He rules over everything." Remember, when your life or the world feels out of control, God is always in control, and we can fully trust Him.



When Our Faith and Questions Collide

Trusting God When Life Doesn't Seem to Make Sense
A Bible study series from the life of Job - Week 2
Job 1:13-22

From Week One: Meet Job. "In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil." (Job 1:1)

Ouch, but often true. Someone has suggested that when some Christians flee from evil like Job, they leave a forwarding address. They may not want to be stuck in sin, but they do want to stay in touch.

Four tragedies that brought great losses to Job

Tragedy #1 - The loss of oxen, donkeys, and servants.
(Job 1:13-15)

Tragedy #2 - The loss of sheep and more servants. (Job 1:16)

Notice this. The rightness or wrongness of what happens in life can only be judged by the measure of eternity, not the measure of this life. As only God can, we must see life's circumstances through the eternal picture. Only then do we trust what Abraham knew of God: "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25).

Tragedy #3 - The loss of camels and more servants. (Job 1:17)

Tragedy #4 - The loss of all his sons and daughters. (Job 1:18-19)

Three things faith won't always do when suffering

1. Choosing faith in God in the midst of suffering won't always eliminate the pain.
2. Choosing faith in God in the midst of suffering won't always eliminate our questions.
3. Choosing faith in God in the midst of suffering won't always provide a satisfying reason for the suffering.

What faith in God will do when suffering. Choosing faith in God in the midst of suffering will remind us that God is in control and that we can trust, "Because God's got this, He will get me through this."

Five ways Job responded to his life losses (Job 1:20-22)

1. **Job released his grief to God.** (Job 1:20a)
2. **Job remembered the greatness of God.** (Job 1:20b)
3. **Job reflected on the goodness of God.** (Job 1:21)
4. **Job remained guiltless before God.** (Job 1:22a)
5. **Job refused to assign any guilt to God.** (Job 1:22b)

You're not alone in asking your questions. The book of Job is estimated to contain about 330 questions, making it the book in the Bible with the most questions. Job himself asks well over 100 questions as he struggles with his suffering and seeks God for answers.

Some people say, "I know I'm not supposed to question God ..." I share that I don't question God (His character), but I never hesitate to bring my questions to Him. Wondering why something happened or didn't happen is entirely different from questioning God's goodness and faithfulness. Struggling with our questions is not the same as questioning God's sovereignty or attacking His character. Like Job, we can take our questions to God ("In all of this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.")