

STUDY GUIDE FOR BOOK OF JOB

I. INTRODUCTION.

- a. First of 5 “Poetic” books.
- b. Fits into category of “Wisdom Literature”.

II. BACKGROUND.

- a. Seems to be set in ancient days of the patriarchs.
 - i. Lifestyle similar to Abraham’s.
 - ii. Longevity similar to that of patriarchs. (Job 42:16-17)
 - iii. Moses, the Law, events/institutions of Jews not mentioned.
- b. Author unknown.
- c. Setting-somewhere near Palestine—Arabia border.

III. BRIEF OUTLINE OF BOOK OF JOB.

- a. The Temptation of Job Decried. (Chapters 1 and 2)
- b. First Series of Controversy. (Chapters 3—14)
- c. Second Series of Controversy. (Chapters 15-21)
- d. Third Series of Controversy. (Chapters 22-31)
- e. Summing up the Controversy. (Chapters 32-37)
- f. Acquittal & Restoration of Job. (Chapters 38-42)

IV. SUBJECTS: THE PROBLEM OF “HUMAN SUFFERING” & THE PROBLEM OF “EVIL”.

V. THEMES/LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF JOB.

a. “DEFENSE” OF GOD IN VIEW OF THE PROBLEM OF “HUMAN SUFFERING”.

- i. All men suffer. But those who believe in God face a “special” challenge.
- ii. From Job, we gather various views on why Job is suffering, specifically and why men, in general suffer.
- iii. God knows all. We are limited in our experiences. (See Romans 8:28.)

b. THE “PATIENCE” OF JOB.

- i. James 5:11 (King James Version) “Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job...”
- ii. But is Job “patient” and is that really what James meant in 5:11?
- iii. More correctly translated “endurance”, “steadfastness” or “perseverance” (see early part of verse where “endure” is used).

c. HUMAN SUFFERING & PROBLEM OF “EVIL”.

- i. Why do men suffer?
 - 1. Tests character. (Job 1:6-12; James 1:2)
 - 2. Results from one’s personal sins. (Job 4:7-9; James 5:14-15)
 - 3. Purifies the sufferer. (Job 23:10)
 - 4. Chastens & humbles all God’s children. (Job 33:19,29-30; Heb. 12:5-7)
- ii. Must guard against “blaming God”—thinking that all suffering or any one case of suffering is punishment from God. (See Job 38:1-13)

VI. CONCLUSION.