

**Job: The Greater Question Answered**  
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Job 42:5-6

*I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."*

What do you fear? Why do you fear it? Probably 1 of 3 happens Job.....family, wealth, health

- Lesson of Job: joy/peace in submissive faith.....Bow to God's will. 1:21
  - trust God WHEN you don't understand BECAUSE you don't understand

1<sup>st</sup> of 5 Poetry/Wisdom Books.....poetic style rather than narrative

- Job is actually one long Hebrew poem with prose bookends. It's poetry and history.
  - Considered theological and literary masterpiece.

Author/Date mystery: one of the oldest, if not the oldest book in the Bible....between Genesis 11-12?

- Job was a real person, events actually happened. Ezra 14:14, James 5:11
  - Honest portrayal of God allowing a good man to suffer.

**Job Outline**

Chapters 1-3	Job's distress.
Chapters 4-37	Speeches by Job and his 4 friends— Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, Elihu.
Chapters 38-41	God humbles Job through questions too great to answer.
Chapter 42	God honors Job.

3 not right "Suffer causes sin, deserves blessings because righteous". Job 4:8, 21:30, Psalm 73:13

- None deserve/earn God's favor/blessing!
  - Not always blame suffer on lifestyles. many reasons suffer:
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Elihu: Job righteous not perfect...suffering is part of refining/sanctifying process.
- Job did not suffer because he sinned but sinned because he suffered. Job 1:8, 9:20; 38:1, 42:3
  - *blameless* = perfect, complete, not wanting, Not "sinless".
- Job's suffering drove him to say things about self that overly optimistic and disrespectful things about God.
  - Suffering brought Job's hidden pride to surface.

Job is really about God's sovereignty, greatness, goodness, love, not man's suffering.

- Power/Sovereignty over creation....including Satan. Job 1:8-11, 2:3b-6  
Most God's words/60?'s about order/beauty/terror of creation.

- If cannot fathom complexity of God's purposes in natural order, how can understand God's purposes in evil/suffering? Job 28:28, 12:23-24, Psalm 84:11

- Be overwhelmed with our ignorance/inabilities, not impressed with our knowledge/finite capabilities

- no business instructing/condemning the Maker and Ruler regarding how He runs the world.....His might is purposeful.

Job is about the Lords' goodness/love connected with His purposes/end goals.

- God's deep compassion, love humbled Job so he would repent/trust Him. Job 42:1-6

- stripped of sources of earthly joy, he learned to totally trust in Lord.

- God brings him through his time of trial: Job asks questions of God, seeks answers from God, becomes angry with God—yet remains faithful, repents

Peace/joy not ultimately from God's restoring earthly security/riches but deeper, more profound understanding of both God/himself.

- Job saw desperate condition and longed for mediator between him/God and a future Redeemer. Job 14:4, 9:33; 19:25, 1 Timothy 2:5, Ephesians 1:7

- God deserves praise simply for who He is.....apart from His blessings.

16 times Job asked "Why".....God never answered that question.

- God did answer JOB more important question....WHO
  - Sovereign great, good Lord in control and cared for/sustained him.

Not always understand why happen and God not obligated to explain.

- trust God WHEN not understand BECAUSE not understand. Job 1:21, Psalm 18:30

*"The book of Job is about true worship, a person bowing down in the darkness to the one who is God, leaving even our most agonized unanswered questions at His feet. For we are creatures, and He alone is the Creator. Because Job is about God and the worship of God, it is also about the humility to admit that there is so much about the world that we do not understand. Wisdom with a capital W is God's preserve. It is presumptuous of us to act as if we had made the world, which is what we do the moment we suggest that we could run the world better than God."*

Christopher Ash