



Bible In One Year

The Bible in One Year Week 4: Job (Part 1)

Job 1:1-3, 1:20-22, 42:1-6, 42:12-17; Romans 8:18-25

4 Quick Facts about Job

- **What kind of book is Job?** Job is a part of an Old Testament category of writings called _____ along with Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.
- **What's the historical context of Job?** We don't know much about the _____ of Job. It seems to fall somewhere after Noah and before Abraham. But it looks like historical details were intentionally left out to get us to focus on the message of the book.
- **What's the structure of Job?** Job has a clear structure: a short P_____ and E_____, then a large middle section of P_____. In this section, Job and his friends argue for *34 chapters* about whether Job is being punished by God for some sin or if he really is innocent.
- **Does Job explain the mystery of suffering?** Surprisingly, *no*. Job doesn't really answer "W____?" We can't ultimately comprehend why God allows suffering, because we can't ultimately comprehend what it's like to be God, running the universe. But we can still gain wisdom, perspective, and best of all, hope.

4 Perspectives from Job

- **Job confronts us with the depth of H_____ S_____**

"Why did I not perish at birth, and die as I came from the womb?...Why is light given to those in misery, and life to the bitter of soul, to those who long for death that does not come?...What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me." (Job 3:11, 20, 25)

- **Job confronts us with the mystery of E_____**

"God with his infinite perspective, and for reasons known only to himself, knows that we finite human beings cannot, indeed must not, 'make sense' of evil. For the final truth is that evil does not make sense. 'Sense' is part of our rationality that in itself is part of God's good creation and God's image in us. So evil can have no sense, since sense itself is a good thing. Evil has no proper place within God's creation. It has no validity, no truth, no integrity...Evil is not there to be understood, but to be resisted and ultimately expelled." (Christopher Wright, *The God i Don't Understand*
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- **Job confronts us with the mystery of G_____ P_____**

“These are indeed but the outskirts of his ways; and how small a whisper do we hear of him! But the thunder of his power who can understand?” (Job 26:14 NRSV)

- **Job reminds us that the Story ends with R_____**

“Evil labors with vast power and perpetual success—in vain: preparing always only the soil for unexpected good to sprout in.” (J.R.R. Tolkien)

“For the Almighty God, who...has supreme power over all things, being Himself supremely good, would never permit the existence of anything evil among His works if He were not so omnipotent and good that He can bring good even out of evil.” (Augustine)

For Further Study:

“Job (Wisdom Series)” by the Bible Project (YouTube)

<https://youtu.be/VpbWbyx1008>

“Overview: Job” by the Bible Project (YouTube)

https://youtu.be/xQwnH8th_fs

The Problem of Pain and A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis (Books)

<https://www.amazon.com/Problem-Pain-C-S-Lewis/dp/0060652969>

<https://www.amazon.com/Grief-Observed-C-S-Lewis/dp/0060652381>

Evil and the Justice of God by N.T. Wright

<https://www.amazon.com/Evil-Justice-God-Rev-Wright/dp/083083415X>