

The Book of Job #1

Theme verse could be Psalm 34:19 – book deals with 2 questions

- 1) Is it consistent with God's righteousness to afflict a righteous man?
- 2) Can we judge someone's spiritual condition based on outward condition

I. Let us Look at Some General Observations About Book and Man

- A. The book obviously belongs in the canon of scripture
 1. Quoted in the New Testament – Job 5:13, 17; 39:27-30; James 5:11
 - a. When quoted in I Cor. 3:19 – uses formula "it is written"
- B. Much debate as to the era in which this book takes place
 1. Seems to be after the time of Abraham
 - a. Reference to flood (Job 22:15, 16) and fall (Job 31:33)
 - b. Land Uz probably named after one of 3 (Gen.10:23, 22:21, 36:28)
 2. Seems also to be before giving of Law in Exodus
 - a. Job serves as a family priest (Job 1:5) – changed after law
 - b. Lifespan of Job (170 – 200) consistent with this time (42:16)
 - c. Name of God used over 30 times is "Shaddai": Ex. 6:3; Gen. 17:1
 1. Name particularly revealed to the patriarchs
 - d. Only idolatry mentioned is that of sun, moon etc.
 - e. No references to earlier writings – but to traditions
- C. There are different ideas about the meaning of the name "Job"
 1. Magician (Jerome) love or desire; joy; one at enmity

II. Let us Look at Some Qualities Given to Describe Job

- A. Believers have some pre-eminent grace operating in them
 1. John (Love) Moses (Meekness) Job (Patience) – James 5:11
 - a. Job singled out in Ezekiel 14:14, 20 with Daniel and Noah
- B. First indication is in the word in Hebrew for "man" used
 1. Three words for man – "Adam" "Enosh" "Ish" – last is best
 - a. Psalm 49:2 (original –"Sons of Adam & Sons of Ish") Isaiah 2:9
 2. May even indicate that Job had position of Magistrate –Job 29
- C. First adjective in verse 1 – Hebrew "Tawm" – perfect
 1. Better to translate it as complete – not referring to sinlessness
 2. God uses this adjective to describe Job twice (Job 1:8; 2:3)
 - a. But Job fears to use this (Job 9:20-22)- God highlights our graces
 3. As Christians there is sense in which we are and aren't perfect
 - a. Perfect in Justification (Heb. 10:14; Col. 2:10) – one time act
 - b. Not perfect in sanctification (I Thess. 5:23) – Ongoing work
 4. Word can also mean sincere – or with one desire – Single heart
- D. Second word is Hebrew – Means straight (Psalm 15:2, 3)
- E. Third adjective is one who fears God- (Deut. 6:13 with Matt 4:10)
 1. Can refer to inward heart condition or outward worship
 - a. But one will always lead to other – Heb. 12:28; Gen. 22:12
- F. Fourth characteristic is one who turns away from evil (Ps. 1:1)
 1. Not the fact that he doesn't do it-but he hates it – Heb. 1:8, 9
- G. Spiritual blessings are greatest blessings- (Job 1:1 with 1:2)