

OT-OV

Lesson 101

1. Last week I completed our study of the book of Esther. When time expired we were about to begin an analysis of the book of Job.

2. The author of the book is unknown and the time of the writing is arguably around c. 1550 B.C. Most expositors think Moses wrote the book. It is a story of the testing of a righteous man over against the perfection of God.

Doctrine of Job

1. The narrative of Job and his experiences are history not fiction as many over the years have contended.

2. This conclusion is required by the reference to Job elsewhere in the Bible (see Eze 14:14, 20 and Jam 5:11).

Eze 14:13 "Son of man, if a country sins against me by being unfaithful and I stretch out my hand against it to cut off its food supply and send famine upon it and kill its men and their animals,

Eze 14:14 even if these three men--Noah, Daniel and Job-- were in it, they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign LORD ...

Eze 14:19 "Or if I send a plague into that land and pour out my wrath upon it through bloodshed, killing its men and their animals,

Eze 14:20 as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, even if Noah, Daniel and Job were in it, they could save neither son nor daughter. They would save only themselves by their righteousness.

Jam 5:11 As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

3. Job's homeland was somewhere to the east of Palestine near the border of the desert. There are several indications that he lived in the patriarchal age in what we would today call Saudi Arabia.

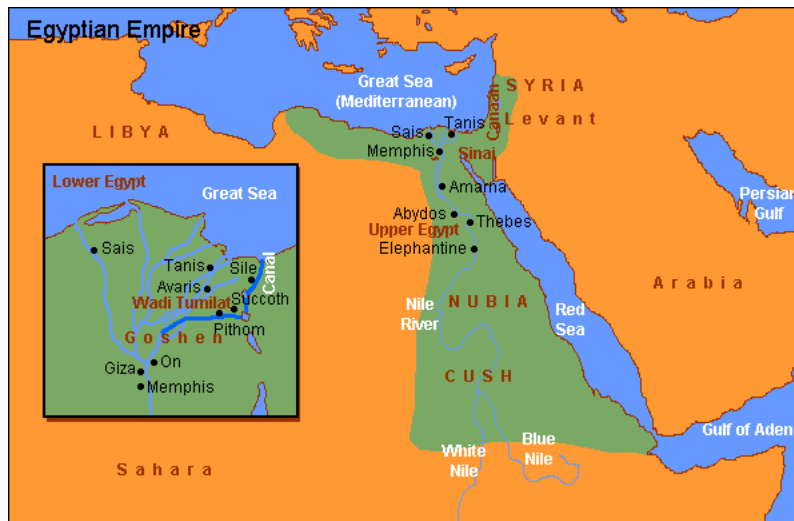
4. Reasons why most expositors believe Job lived just before or at least during the age of the patriarchs.

- the longevity of Job,
- the flourishing of true religion supported by special divine revelation before the Abrahamic covenant

- certain early social and ethnic features such as the nomadic status of the Chaldeans
- the patriarchal form of worship and sacrifice,
- land marks mentioned
- his name--Job was a name prominent in the 2nd millennium B.C. but not found in the 1st millennium.

5. Wycliffe writes: "The name Job occurs in the Berlin Execration texts from Egypt and in the Amarna letters as well in Akkadian texts from Mari and Alalakh.

6. Best information would seem to teach Moses learned about Job from his Midianite father-in-law during his stay in Midian. Job's trials were taught from year to year family to family over a significant period of time and finally recorded in writing by Moses even before he penned the first five books of the Old Testament.



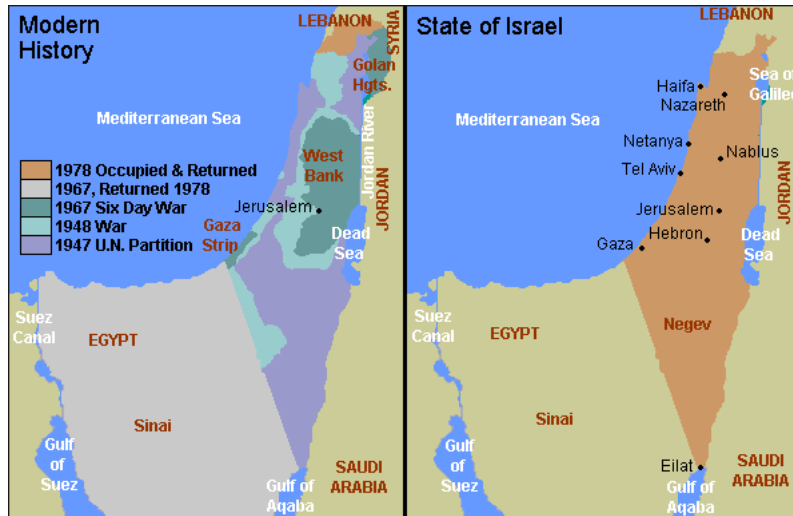
7. That Job was involved early on in the angelic conflict is made clear in the first and second chapters of Job.

Job 1:1 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 1:2 He had seven sons and three daughters,

Job 1:3 and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East ...

7.1 Job lived in east of Palestine in what is now western Saudi Arabia.



Job's First Test

Job 1:6 One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.

Job 1:7 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

Job 1:8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

Job 1:9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied.

Job 1:10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

Job 1:11 But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

Job 1:12 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Job 1:13 One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house,

Job 1:14 a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby,

Job 1:15 and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

Job 1:16 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

Job 1:17 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

Job 1:18 While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house,
Job 1:19 when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

Job 1:20 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship

Job 1:21 and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

Job 1:22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Job's Second Test

Job 2:1 On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him.

Job 2:2 And the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

Job 2:3 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."

Job 2:4 "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life.

Job 2:5 But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face."

Job 2:6 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."

Job 2:7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head ...

Job 2:9 His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

Job 2:10 He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

8. Materially prosperous and genuinely pious Job had continued for perhaps some 70 years in the manifest favor of God and men.

8.1 Then the sudden, well-nigh total reversal of all his earthly circumstances introduced the great crisis that gives Job's life special significance in the angelic conflict.

9. Out of the agony and enigma of his sufferings arose the complaint of Job (Job chapter three) and a long formal discussion between him and his three philosophical friends (Job 4-31).

10. The debate served to demonstrate the foolishness of the traditional wisdom of the world which led his wife and friends to false judgment that Job's sufferings were the consequence of a radical defection from the protocol of God.

11. But it took the revelation of the voice of the Lord Himself out of a whirlwind, a revelation prepared for by the ministry of His young servant Elihu (Job 32-37), to bring the anguished sufferer back to the peace of a humble and trusting devotion to his Lord (Job 38:1-42:6).

11.1 A sample of the message from the young Elihu:

Job 32:2 But Elihu ... became very angry with Job for justifying himself rather than God.
Job 32:3 He was also angry with the three friends, because they ... condemned Job and had not helped him think straight ...

Job 32:6 So Elihu ... said: "I am young in years, and you are old; that is why I was fearful, not daring to tell you what I know.

Job 32:7 I thought, 'Age should speak; advanced years should teach wisdom.'

Job 32:8 But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding ...

Job 32:10 "Therefore I say: Listen to me; I too will tell you what I know.

Job 32:11 I waited while the three of you spoke, I listened to your reasoning; while you were searching for words,

Job 32:12 ... not one of you has proved Job wrong; none of you has answered his arguments ...

Job 32:20 I must speak and find relief; I must open my lips and reply.

Job 32:21 I will show partiality to no one, nor will I flatter any man;

Job 32:22 for if I were skilled in flattery, my Maker would soon take me away...

Job 33:1 "But now, Job, listen to my words; pay attention to everything I say ...

Job 33:3 My words come from an upright heart; my lips sincerely speak what I know ...

Job 33:5 Answer me then, if you can; prepare yourself and confront me.

Job 33:6 I am just like you before God; I too have been taken from clay ...

Job 33:8 "But you have said in my hearing-- I heard the very words--

Job 33:9 'I am pure and without sin; I am clean and free from guilt ...

Job 33:12 "But I tell you, in this you are not right, for God is greater than man.

Job 33:13 Why do you complain to him that he answers none of man's words?

Job 33:14 For God does speak-- now one way, now another-- though man may not perceive it.

Job 33:15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men as they slumber in their beds,

Job 33:16 he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings,

Job 33:17 to turn man from wrongdoing and keep him from pride,

Job 33:18 to preserve his soul from the pit, his life from perishing by the sword.

Job 33:19 Or a man may be chastened on a bed of pain with constant distress in his bones,

Job 33:20 so that his very being finds food repulsive and his soul loathes the choicest meal.

Job 33:21 His flesh wastes away to nothing, and his bones, once hidden, now stick out ...

Job 33:26 He prays to God and finds favor with him, he sees God's face and shouts for joy; he is restored by God to his righteous state.

Job 33:27 Then he comes to men and says, 'I sinned, and perverted what was right, but I did not get what I deserved.

Job 33:28 He redeemed my soul from going down to the pit, and I will live to enjoy the light.'

Job 33:29 "God does all these things to a man-- twice, even three times--

Job 33:30 to turn back his soul from the pit, that the light of life may shine on him.

Job 33:31 "Pay attention, Job, and listen to me; be silent, and I will speak ...

Job 34:4 Let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good.

Job 34:5 "Job says, 'I am innocent, but God denies me justice.

Job 34:6 Although I am right, I am considered a liar; although I am guiltless, his arrow inflicts an incurable wound ...

Job 34:9 For he says, 'It profits a man nothing when he tries to please God.'

Job 34:10 "So listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do evil, from the Almighty to do wrong.

Job 34:11 He repays a man for what he has done; he brings upon him what his conduct deserves.

Job 34:12 It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice ...

Job 34:14 If it were his intention and he withdrew his spirit and breath,

Job 34:15 all mankind would perish together and man would return to the dust.

Job 34:16 "If you have understanding, hear this; listen to what I say.

Job 34:17 Can he who hates justice govern? Will you condemn the just and mighty One?

Job 34:18 Is he not the One who says to kings, 'You are worthless,' and to nobles, 'You are wicked,'

Job 34:19 who shows no partiality to princes and does not favor the rich over the poor, for they are all the work of his hands?

Job 34:20 They die in an instant, in the middle of the night; the people are shaken and they pass away; the mighty are removed without human hand.

Job 34:21 "His eyes are on the ways of men; he sees their every step.

Job 34:22 There is no dark place, no deep shadow, where evildoers can hide.

Job 34:23 God has no need to examine men further, that they should come before him for judgment.

Job 34:24 Without inquiry he shatters the mighty and sets up others in their place.

Job 34:25 Because he takes note of their deeds, he overthrows them in the night and they are crushed.

Job 34:26 He punishes them for their wickedness where everyone can see them,

Job 34:27 because they turned from following him and had no regard for any of his ways.

Job 34:28 They caused the cry of the poor to come before him, so that he heard the cry of the needy ...

Job 34:31 "Suppose a man says to God, 'I am guilty but will offend no more.

Job 34:32 Teach me what I cannot see; if I have done wrong, I will not do so again.'

Job 34:33 Should God then reward you on your terms ...

Job 35:5 Look up at the heavens and see; gaze at the clouds so high above you.

Job 35:6 If you sin, how does that affect him? If your sins are many, what does that do to him?

Job 35:7 If you are righteous, what do you give to him, or what does he receive from your hand?

Job 35:8 Your wickedness affects only a man like yourself, and your righteousness only the sons of men.

Job 35:9 "Men cry out under a load of oppression; they plead for relief from the arm of the powerful.

Job 35:10 But no one says, 'Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night,

Job 35:11 who teaches more to us than to the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the air? ...

Job 35:16 So Job opens his mouth with empty talk; without knowledge he multiplies words ...

Job 36:2 "Bear with me a little longer and I will show you that there is more to be said in God's behalf ...

Job 36:5 "God is mighty, but does not despise men; he is mighty, and firm in his purpose.

Job 36:6 He does not keep the wicked alive but gives the afflicted their rights.

Job 36:7 He does not take his eyes off the righteous; he enthrones them with kings and exalts them forever.

Job 36:8 But if men are bound in chains, held fast by cords of affliction,

Job 36:9 he tells them what they have done-- that they have sinned arrogantly.

Job 36:10 He makes them listen to correction and commands them to repent of their evil.

Job 36:11 If they obey and serve him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment.

Job 36:12 But if they do not listen, they will perish by the sword and die without knowledge.

Job 36:13 "The godless in heart harbor resentment; even when he fetters them, they do not cry for help ...

Job 36:15 But those who suffer he delivers in their suffering; he speaks to them in their affliction.

Job 36:16 "He is wooing you from the jaws of distress to a spacious place free from restriction, to the comfort of your table laden with choice food.

Job 36:17 But now you are laden with the judgment due the wicked; judgment and justice have taken hold of you ...

End Lesson