

OUTLINE OF JOB

1A THE SETTING AND BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK chap 1-2

1B The first satanic assault chap 1

1C Job's character chap 1:1-5

2C Satan's slander chap 1:6-12

3C Job's calamity chap 1:13-19

4C Job's humble and godly response chap 1:20-22

2B The second satanic assault chap 2

1C Job's character chap 2:1-3

2C Satan's slander chap 2:4-6

3C Job's calamity chap 2:7-8

4C Job's humble and godly response chap 2:9-10

5C Job's three friends come to comfort him chap 2:11-13

2A THE DIALOGUE OF JOB WITH HIS THREE FRIENDS chap 3-31

1B The lamentation of Job chap 3

2B The dialogue between Job and his three friends chap 4-31

Note: There are 3 cycles of dialogue. In each cycle, his three friends speak and Job replies after each one speaks. They all essentially say the same thing: suffering is always and only caused by sin, Job, you are suffering, so what sin have you committed? Confess it, and you will be restored. Job's response is also always the same: I have not knowingly practiced sin, there has to be another explanation. I wish God would explain Himself to me. You are miserable comforters, because you falsely accuse me of some unrepentant sin in my life.

1C The first cycle chap 4-14

2C The second cycle chap 15-21

3C The third cycle chap 22-31

3A THE NEW PERSPECTIVE OF ELIHU chap 32-37

1B Whatever the reason God sent this affliction, it is not Job's place to question God, to demand of God an answer, or to accuse Him of injustice.
e.g. chap 33:8-13, 34:10-12, 23, 35:2-3

2B God's purpose in affliction is to do men good – to save them and to enlighten them. e.g. chap 33: 29-30

4A THE DECLARATION OF GOD chap 38-41

1B God questions Job about the creation of the universe

2B God questions Job about the administration of the universe

Main point: God's wisdom and God's power are beyond human comprehension.

What God is saying to Job is this: If you have the knowledge and wisdom to be able to answer these questions, then perhaps you would have the competence and qualification to question me about my providential dealings in your life – but if you cannot even answer these relatively simple questions, then who are you to be questioning my wisdom and justice in these greater matters? God never answers Job's questions, He simply disqualifies the questioner from thinking he has the standing to question God about anything God does. Note 40:1-5,8

God's purpose is to bring Job to the point where he trusts in God apart from any explanations, and where he trusts God as being righteous and good, regardless of the unexplained adversities He brings into Job's life. God is worthy of such trust, and it is a supreme act of worship to yield such trust to Him. S.A. Prov 3:5-6

5A THE CONCLUSION OF THE STORY chap 42

1B Job repents chap 42:1-6

2B Job's three friends are rebuked chap 42:7-9

3B Job's substance is restored chap 42:10-17

THEME: The testing and teaching of the righteous through suffering

Key Verse: Job 23:10 But he knoweth the way that I take: *when* he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

The conclusion is this: Affliction is permitted by God to refine a man so that he may see God in all His greatness and majesty, and so that he may see himself in all his smallness and sinfulness, so that his pride may be broken and be replaced with humility and trust.