



## Understanding the Book of Job

1. 42 Chapters long. Not as well understood as many believe.
2. Trivia from Job
3. One of the most ancient books of the entire Bible.
  - a. From the age of the Patriarchs (Abraham, Issac and Jacob in the book of Genesis)
  - b. Reference to the ancient cities of Egypt  
Job 3:14  
14 with kings and counselors of the earth,  
who built for themselves places now lying in ruins,
  - c. and the Flood  
Job 22:16-17  
16 They were carried off before their time,  
their foundations washed away by a flood.  
17 They said to God, 'Leave us alone!  
What can the Almighty do to us?'
  - d. Predates the Exodus, the Law, the Red Sea, Canaan and all the kings of Israel.
4. Job is a Historical Character mentioned by Ezekiel and James.  
Ezek 14:12-14  
12 The word of the LORD came to me: 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, 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.

James 5:11

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.

5. The Drama unfolds in the Land of Uz

- a. Uz is sometimes identified with the kingdom of Edom, roughly in the area of modern-day southwestern Jordan and southern Israel.

Lam 4:21

21 Rejoice and be glad, O Daughter of Edom, you who live in the land of Uz.

- b. Genesis may also place it in Edom.

Gen 36:19-28

19 These were the sons of Esau (that is, Edom), and these were their chiefs.

20 These were the sons of Seir the Horite, who were living in the region:

28 The sons of Dishan:

Uz and Aran.

- c. See Map

6. Job's diseases may have been leprosy complicated with elephantiasis and would have been both loathsome and painful.

7. The other Characters

- a. Hurting Wife

- b. Three False Friends

- i. Eliphaz – Preaches from personal experience

- ii. Bildad – Holds Tradition as his authority

- iii. Zophar – Dogmatic Fatih (Black & White thinker)
  - c. An Impetuous Youth
    - Elihu – Believes He is God's answer to everything
8. The Nature of Book
- a. His Terrible Trials (1-2)
  - b. His Fickle Friends (3-37)
    - A series of sermons or speeches in a give a take dialogue with Elipha, Bildad, Zophar and eventually Elihu
  - c. His Glorious God (38-41)
    - Job poses questions to his God
  - d. His Bountiful Blessings (42)
    - Job receives a 10 fold blessing
9. Why Job Suffers
- a. That the Enemy, Satan, might be silenced (1:9-11; 2:4,5)
  - b. That Job might see God (42:5)
  - c. That Job might see himself (40:4; 42:6)
  - d. That Job's friends might learn not to judge (42:7)
  - e. That Job might learn the power of pray ing for others. (42:10)
  - f. To demonstrate that God is able to bring Good even in the darkness (42:10)