

The Book of Job: Blessed Be the Name of the Lord

Introduction

1. The name *Job* is related to the Hebrew word for *enemy*. Who will be thought of as an enemy in this book? Job 13:24.
2. There is a conflict between suffering Job and his three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. After Job loses almost everything, his friends come to console him. They didn't do a very good job of it, though. They claim that the righteous are blessed and prosper, while the wicked suffer. So, what do you think their opinion of Job will turn out to be?
3. At the same time, there is a conflict between God and Satan. The name *Satan* means *accuser* in Hebrew. Satan accuses Job in 1:9. What is the accusation? So, is the main question of the book, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" Or, is it, "Why do God's servants serve Him? For the reward and blessings we can get out of Him? Or, do we serve Him out of love?" The flip side of that is just important. Does God bless us on the basis of our good works or on the basis of His grace?
4. The conflict between God and Satan is revealed to the reader but is hidden from Job. Job remains clueless throughout the entire book as to why he suffers the loss of nearly everything. The book will raise the question, "Is it wise to speculate why a particular tragedy happens in your life?"
5. There is argument about who wrote this book and whether Job was a real person. Yet, there are clues in the Old Testament regarding the background of Job. First, the names of Job's friends are mentioned in other places. See Job 2:11 32:2, Genesis 36:10-11, Genesis 25:1-2, and Genesis 22:21. This would place the friends some time after Esau. Job lived in Uz (1:1), which is said to be in Edom (Lamentations 4:21). Edom is the land where Esau settled. Therefore, Job appears to be an Edomite, a

descendant of Esau, who lived during the time that Israel was living in Egypt.