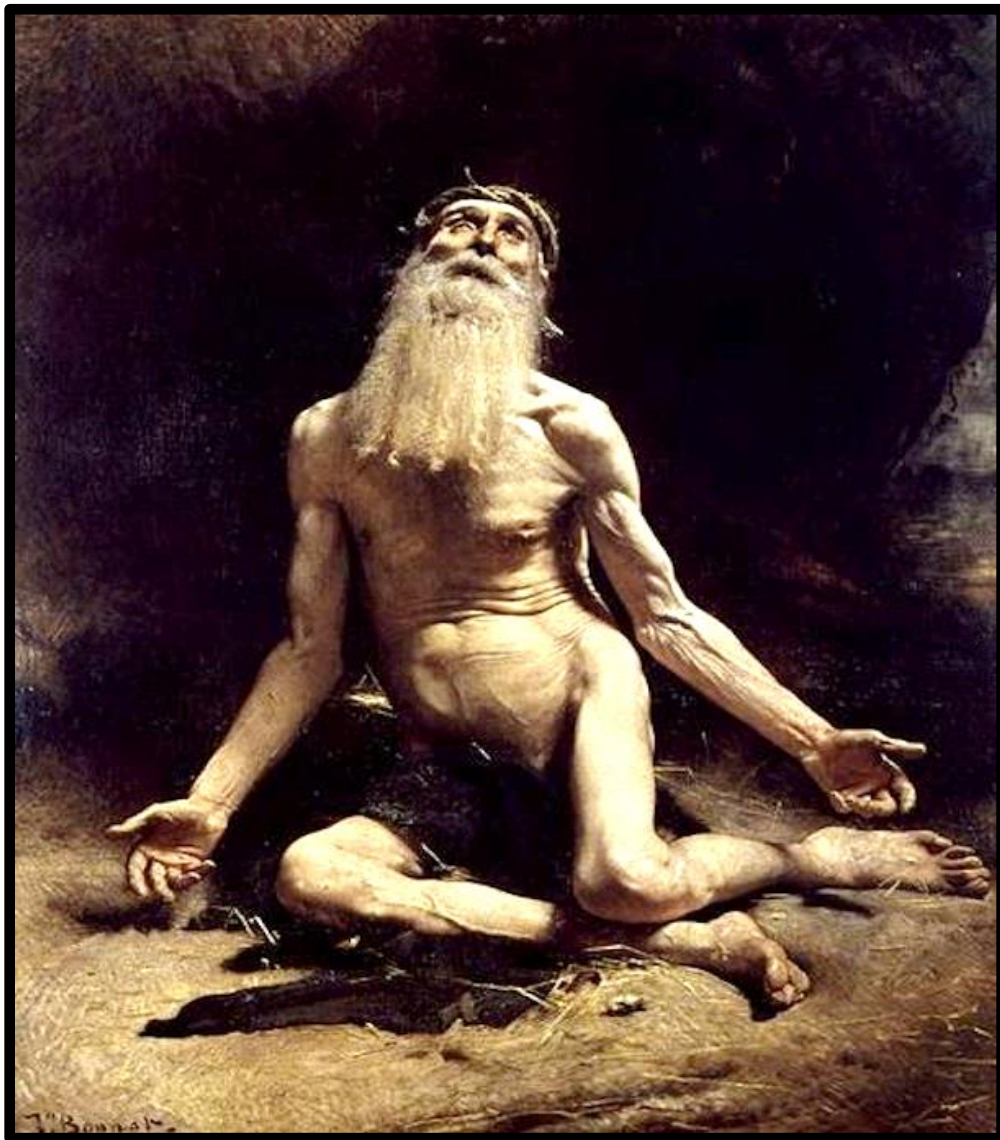


LIVING GODS WILL

Vessel of God

JOB



Job by Léon Bonnat

Born: **The land of Uz before 2100 BC**

Died: **Unknown**

Job lived in the land of **Uz**.

Job was a **righteous** and **prosperous** man.

Job was tested by **Satan** with severe trials.

Job held fast to his **faith in God** and was redeemed.

The life of **Job** demonstrates that humans are often unaware of the many ways God is at work in the life of each believer. **Job's** life is also one that prompts the common question, "**Why do bad things happen to good people?**"

It is the age-old question, and difficult to answer, but believers know that God is always in control, and, no matter what happens, there are no coincidences—nothing happens by chance. **Job** was a believer; he knew that God was on the throne and in total control, though he had no way of knowing why so many terrible tragedies were occurring in his life.

Job was "**blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil**" (**Job 1:1**). He had ten children and was a man of great wealth. The Bible tells us that one day Satan presented himself before God and God asked Satan what he thought of **Job**.

Satan accused **Job** of honoring God only because God had blessed him. So, God allowed Satan to take away **Job's** wealth and his children. Later, God allowed Satan to afflict **Job** physically. **Job** grieved deeply but did not charge God with wrongdoing (**Job 1:22; 42:7–8**).

Job's friends were certain that **Job** must have sinned in order to deserve punishment and argued with him about it. But **Job** maintained his innocence, though he confessed that he wanted to die and did ask questions of God.

A younger man, **Elihu**, attempted to speak on God's behalf before God, Himself, answered **Job**. **Job 38–42** contain some of the most stunning poetry about the magnitude and might of God. **Job** responded to God's discourse in humility and repentance, saying he had spoken of things he did not know (**Job 40:3–5; 42:1–6**).

God told **Job's** friends that He was angry with them for speaking falsehoods about Him, unlike **Job** who had spoken truth (**Job 42:7–8**). God told them to offer sacrifices and that **Job** would pray on their behalf and God would accept **Job's** prayer.

Job did so, likely forgiving his friends for their harshness himself. God restored **Job's** fortunes two-fold (**Job 42:10**) and "**blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part**" (**Job 42:12**). **Job** lived **140 years** after his suffering.

Job never lost his faith in God, even under the most heartbreaking circumstances that tested him to his core. It's hard to imagine losing everything we own in one day—property, possessions, and even children. Most men would sink into depression and perhaps even become suicidal after such massive loss.

Though depressed enough to curse the day of his birth (**Job 3:1–26**), **Job** never cursed God (**Job 2:9–10**) nor did he waver in his understanding that God was still in control. **Job's** three friends, on the other hand, instead of comforting him, gave him bad advice and even accused him of committing sins so grievous that God was punishing him with misery.

Job knew God well enough to know that He did not work that way; in fact, he had such an intimate, personal relationship with Him that he was able to say, "**Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face**" (**Job 13:15**). When **Job's** wife suggested he curse God and die, **Job** replied "**You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?**" (**Job 2:10**).

Job's plight, from the death of his children and loss of his property to the physical torment he endured, plus the harangue of his so-called friends, never caused his faith to waver. He knew who his Redeemer was, he knew that He was a living Savior, and he knew that someday He would physically stand on the earth (**Job 19:25**).

He understood that man's days are ordained (**numbered**) and they cannot be changed (**Job 14:5**). The spiritual depth of **Job** shows throughout the book. **James** refers to **Job** as an example of perseverance, writing, "**Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as 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**" (**James 5:10–11**).

There are also several scientific and historical facts in the book of **Job**. The book implied the earth is round long before the advent of modern science (**Job 22:14**). The book mentions dinosaurs—not by that name, but the description of the behemoth is certainly dinosaur-like—living side by side with man (**Job 40:15–24**).

The book of **Job** gives us a glimpse behind the veil that separates earthly life from the heavenly. In the beginning of the book, we see that Satan and his fallen angels are still allowed access to heaven, going in and out to the prescribed meetings that take place there. What is obvious from these accounts is that Satan is busy working his evil on earth, as recorded in **Job 1:6–7**.

Also, this account shows how Satan is "**the accuser of the brethren,**" which corresponds to **Revelation 12:10**, and it shows his arrogance and pride, as written in **Isaiah 14:13–14**. It is amazing to see how Satan challenges God; he has no scruples about confronting the Most High. The account in **Job** shows Satan as he truly is—haughty and evil to the core.

Perhaps the greatest lesson we learn from the book of **Job** is that God does not have to answer to anyone for what He does or does not do. **Job's** experience teaches us that we may never know the specific reason for suffering, but we must trust in our sovereign, holy, righteous God. His ways are perfect (**Psalm 18:30**).

Since God's ways are perfect, we can trust that whatever He does—and whatever He allows—is also perfect. We can't expect to understand God's mind perfectly, as He reminds us, "**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts**" (Isaiah 55:8–9).

Our responsibility to God is to obey Him, to trust Him, and to submit to His will, whether we understand it or not. When we do, we will find God in the midst of our trials—possibly even because of our trials.

We will see more clearly the magnificence of our God, and we will say, with **Job**, "**My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you**" (**Job 42:5**).

THE TIMELINE OF JOB

It is possible that **Job** lived **before 2100 BC**. He was born after **Noah** and before **Abraham**. **Job** was a non-Israelite.

First, **Job** was old enough to be married (**Job 2:9**)(**Job 19:17**)(**Job 31:10**).

Second, he had 10 children (**Job 1:2**). In addition, it appears that these 10 children were adults because they each had their own homes (**Job 1:4**), and **Job** made sin sacrifices for each of them (**Job 1:5**).

Third, **Job** had built a reputation as "**the greatest of all the men of the east**" (**Job 1:3**). This takes time.

Fourth, after his trials, **Job** was still young enough to father 10 more children (**Job 42:13**).

Now, keeping these facts in mind, let us look at tradition. Jewish tradition holds that **Job's** latter years were twice his former years. If this is true, and the Bible says that **Job** lived **140 years** after his trials (**Job 42:16**), then **Job** would have been about **70** when his trials occurred.

This seems to fit well with our facts above, and also makes sense from several other points of view as well.

For one, after his trials, God gave **Job** double the number of livestock that were taken from him (**Job 1:3**)(**Job 42:12**). (**Job 42:16**) continues, saying that **Job** lived for 140 years after his trials.

If **Job** was 70 at the time his trials began, and lived for 140 years after them, then God also gave **Job** double the years to live. This being the case, **he would have lived to be 210 years old.**

According to most scholars, the book of **Job** should be placed chronologically near the beginning of **Genesis**, just before **Abraham**. If this is true, then Terah, Abraham's father, would have been living at the same time as **Job**, and lived to almost the same age: 205 (**Gen 11:32**).

From the flood onward, people lived shorter and shorter lives. Abraham lived to be 175 (**Gen 25:7**). By the time of the Psalmists, a normal old age was about the same as ours today: 70-80 years old (**Ps 90:10**).

Finally, I believe that it is also important to consider (**Job 42:16**), which says that **Job** lived to see 4 generations of children and grandchildren during the 140 years of life after his trials. I do believe that based on the above, **Job** was probably in about the first third of his life, or 70, when his trials began.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Job 1:9 So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? **10** Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. **11** But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" **12** And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

Job 2:6 And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life." **7** So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. **8** And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes. **9** Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" **10** But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job 19:25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; **26** And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, **27** Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Job 42:10 And the Lord restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed, the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Job 42:16 After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. **17** So Job died, old and full of days.



Job Tormented by His Wife by Gaspard de Crayer