

# READING JOB FOR PROFIT, PLEASURE, & PURPOSE!

Job is almost a maze for most readers...chapters 1&2 good, chapter 3...well OK, chapters 4-27 totally lost, 28:28 OK, 32-37 Elihu...not a clue, chapters 38-42 God is speaking but I'm not sure what any of it means!

Preaching is often not much better...chapters 1,2,42 and maybe 28:28 plus random, assorted verses...

**Job 39:21** He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in his strength: He goeth on to meet the armed men.

**Job 8:11** Can the rush grow up without mire? Can the flag grow without water?

**Job 4:7** Remember, I pray thee, who ever perished, being innocent? Or where were the righteous cut off?

**Job 4:8** Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, And sow wickedness, reap the same.

**Job 42:7** And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. **Job 42:8** Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.

I'm no expert but here are some **suggestions** for actually reading Job:

## 1. Read Job in one setting.

Occasionally this is good. This will help with #2.

## 2. Read job from multiple views / vantage points

Birdseye view: way up, looking down

Wormseye view: slow, methodical thinking

Walkereyes view: walk through the book

## 3. Read Job in various translations

KJV / NKJV

ESV

NIV

NRSV

NASB

Translations are always about **tradeoffs**:

Accuracy vs readability

Original vs modern audience

New vs old language

KJV:	ESV:	NRSV:
<b>Job 36:32</b> With clouds he covereth the light; And commandeth it not to shine by the cloud that cometh betwixt. <b>Job 36:33</b> The noise thereof sheweth concerning it, The cattle also concerning the vapour.	<b>Job 36:32</b> He covers his hands with the lightning and commands it to strike the mark. <b>Job 36:33</b> Its crashing declares his presence; the cattle also declare that he rises.	<b>Job 36:32</b> He covers his hands with the lightning, and commands it to strike the mark. <b>Job 36:33</b> Its crashing tells about him; he is jealous with anger against iniquity.

I consider this concept **essential** for Job

#### 4. Read Job in **various**

This is more or less essential also when reading Job. This really is not optional.

**Revelation 1:3** **Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear** the words of this prophecy, **and keep** those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

**1 Timothy 4:13** Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

**Luke 4:16** And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, **and stood up for to read.** **Luke 4:17** And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

- Read it silently
- Read it out loud
- Listen to it read
- Read it in groups
- Read it as a conversation / dialogue
- Read it with appropriate emotions

Job is highly emotional and those emotions are meant to be experienced!

#### 5. Read Job as Prose | Non-Poetry **AND** Poetry

Prose | Non-Poetry: Chapter 1, 2, 40, 42

Poetry: Chapters 3-41

The majority of Job is poetry → a heightened form of speech/language

These were probably the actual words~ or Job, the 3 friends, Elihu, & God. Yes, this seems strange to us but would not have been so to them.

- This was a highly oral culture
- This was before the printing press
- The men had time to formulate their thoughts
- This is not exactly formal or pure poetry
- Given time, this was how many cultures would think, write, respond, speak, discuss, & retell important matters.

Homer: Iliad, & Odyssey	Beowulf	Aeneid
The Divine Comedy	Paradise Lost	Pilgrim's Progress
Exodus 14-15	Judges	Many historical Psalms

## 6. Read Job | Keep reading Job **with** your questions **and** your lack of understanding

Past chapter 2, maybe chapter 3, we all start struggling. By chapter 4...the wheels come off.

We will either read Job **with** our questions **and** our lack of understanding → or we will not read Job at all.

### Thoughts:

- Read **knowing** you don't
- Read **to un**
- Read knowing it takes serious
- Read knowing it takes EVERYONE time, effort, prayer, meditation, & consultation to understand.
- Read for **more than** understanding → read for the m | I | W

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; **And** to depart from evil is understanding.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: **And** the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: A good understanding have all they that do his commandments: His praise endureth for ever.

Ecclesiastes 8:12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, **yet** surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God**, and **keep** his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. Ecclesiastes 12:14 **For God shall bring every work into judgment**, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

## 7. (Please) **Don't** read Job as your favorite verses of Job collection!

Job 1:20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, Job 1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, And naked shall I return thither: The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.

Job 4:7 Remember, I pray thee, who ever perished, being innocent? Or where were the righteous cut off?

Job 4:8 Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, And sow wickedness, reap the same.

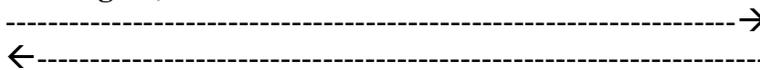
Job 14:1 Man that is born of a woman Is of few days, and full of trouble.

## 8. Read Job **sectionally** | in sections – noting the **natural** transitions

What does this mean?

Remember they are, to some degree, r

to each other!



Read it b

ways & keep the sections in con

### Suggestions:

1→

Job 2:11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him. Job 2:12 And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven. Job 2:13 So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and **none** spake a word unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great.

3

Job 3:1 **After this** opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day.

3, 4-5 →

**Job 3:1** After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day.

**Job 4:1** Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said,

**Job 6:1** But Job answered and said,

8 → 9

**Job 8:1** Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,

**Job 9:1** Then Job answered and said,

11 → 12-

**Job 11:1** Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said,

**Job 12:1** And Job answered and said,

15 → 16-

**Job 15:1** Then answered Eliphaz the Temanite, and said,

**Job 16:1** Then Job answered and said,

18 →

**Job 18:1** Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,

**Job 19:1** Then Job answered and said,

20 →

**Job 20:1** Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said,

**Job 21:1** But Job answered and said,

22 →

**Job 22:1** Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said,

**Job 23:1** Then Job answered and said,

25... →

**Job 25:1** Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,

**Job 25:2** Dominion and fear are with him, He maketh peace in his high places. **Job 25:3** Is there any number of his armies? And upon whom doth not his light arise? **Job 25:4** How then can man be justified with God? Or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?

**Job 25:5** Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; Yea, the stars are not pure in his sight. **Job 25:6** How much less man, that is a worm? And the son of man, which is a worm?

**Job 26:1** But Job answered and said,

**Job 27:1** Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,

28

**Job 28:1** Surely there is a vein for the silver, And a place for gold where they fine it.

29 →

**Job 29:1** Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,

**Job 31:40** Let thistles grow instead of wheat, And cockle instead of barley. **The words of Job are ended.**

32 →

**Job 32:1** So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.

**Job 32:2** Then was kindled the wrath of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram: against Job was his wrath kindled, because he justified himself rather than God. **Job 32:3** Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job. **Job 32:4** Now Elihu had waited till Job had spoken, because they were elder than he. **Job 32:5** When Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, then his wrath was kindled.

38 →

**Job 38:1** Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

**Job 39:1** Knowest thou the time when the wild goats of the rock bring forth? Or canst thou mark when the hinds do calve?

**Job 40:1** Moreover **the LORD** answered Job, and said, **Job 40:2** Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? He that reproveth God, let him answer it.

**Job 40:3** Then Job answered the LORD, and said,

**Job 40:4** Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. **Job 40:5** Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: Yea, twice; but I will proceed no further.

**Job 40:6** Then answered the LORD unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

**Job 41:1** Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? Or his tongue with a cord which thou lettest down?

**Job 42:1** Then Job answered the LORD, and said,

**Job 42:2** I know that thou canst do every thing, And that no thought can be withholden from thee. **Job 42:3** Who is he that hideth counsel Without knowledge? Therefore have I uttered that I understood not; Things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. **Job 42:4** Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. **Job 42:5** I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: But now mine eye seeth thee. **Job 42:6** Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent In dust and ashes.

**Job 42:7** And it was so, that **after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. Job 42:8** Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.