

## The Book of Job — Abridged

Narrator	<p>The Book of Job is found in the Bible just after the Book of Esther. Some say Job wasn't a real person. If he did live on the earth, he would have lived long before Esther. He would have lived before Moses, and even before Abraham.</p>
Job	<p>My name is Job. I lived in Uz, a land to the east of the River Jordan. Although many think Moses wrote my book, the story of my life likely found its way to Moses by way of Jethro, his father-in-law.</p> <p>Some doubt I was actually a real person, but if I weren't real, why would James talk about my patience? Why would the Savior mention me to Joseph Smith? I was as real as Daniel or Noah, who are mentioned with me in the book of Ezekiel.</p> <p>In my first years on the earth, I was known to be perfect and upright. I feared God and avoided all evil. I was blessed with a wife who gave me seven sons and three daughters.</p> <p>God also blessed me with a large estate, with seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and many servants. Some said I was the greatest of all the men of the east.</p>
Narrator	<p>But Job's life would take a turn for the worse.</p> <p>For the Lord said unto Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? There is none like him on the earth. He is perfect and upright. He fears God, and avoids all evil."</p> <p>Satan answered, "He is only good because you have protected him and his household. If he were to lose all that he has, he would curse you."</p> <p>The Lord replied, "I will let you destroy all that he has, so long as you do not hurt him physically."</p>

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Job	<p>My life was turned upside down when four messengers came to me, one right after another.</p> <p>The first said, “The oxen were plowing, and the donkeys feeding beside them when thieves from the south attacked and took them away. They killed your servants, and I am the only one who escaped.</p> <p>The second said, “A fire came from heaven. All the sheep were burned and your servants consumed. I only escaped to tell you.”</p> <p>Then came the third who said, “The Chaldeans attacked and have carried all the camels away. They have killed your servants, and I am the only one who escaped to tell you.”</p> <p>Immediately there came the fourth who said, “Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine at your oldest son’s house. There came a great wind from the wilderness which lifted the house and then threw it down to the ground. All those inside were killed. I am the only one who survived to tell you.”</p> <p>I arose in my grief, ripped my clothing, shaved my head, and fell down upon the ground. Then I prayed to the Lord saying, “Naked came I into the world and naked shall I leave the world. The Lord can give and the Lord can take. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”</p>
Narrator	<p>The Lord spoke with Satan a second time: “What do you think now of my servant Job? There is none like him on the earth. He remains perfect and upright. He is still a man of integrity, even though you destroyed him without cause.</p> <p>Then Satan replied, “But he still has his health. If he were to lose his health, he would curse you to your face.</p> <p>The Lord responded, “He is yours to hurt, so long as you spare his life.”</p> <p>Satan gave Job horrible sores on his entire body from the bottom of his feet to the top of his head.</p> <p>When Job’s wife found him sitting in ashes and scraping his sores with a piece of broken pottery, she asked, “Are you still faithful to your God? You should curse God and die.”</p>

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Job	I told her she spoke foolishly. If we receive good from the hand of God, we can also receive the bad.
Narrator	In all this Job did not say an unkind word unto his God.  Job's friends heard of all the horrible things that had come upon him, so they went to visit him. For 7 days Job did not speak to them. Finally he spoke:
Job	Why was I born? Why was I conceived? Why didn't I die in my mother's womb? Why didn't I die at birth? The things I feared most, all happened to me.
Narrator	Eliphaz was the first friend to speak to him.
Eliphaz	The things which happened to you do not happen to good people. All this would have been avoided if you were righteous. Even the angels are not perfect. You must be wicked, because a man will always reap what he sows. If you seek God, he will spare you. You should be happy, because if God corrects you, he must love you. Don't despise the chastening of the Almighty. As I consider all that has happened to you, I know it is for your own good.
Job	How I wish God would destroy me and let me die. My skin is covered with worms and filth. My skin is broken and hideous. My soul longs for death. Help me understand what I've done that is wrong. I have not lied to you. I haven't done anything wrong. I can't sleep at night, and when I do sleep I have nightmares. I have no hope. Why does God treat me this way?
Narrator	A second friend Bildad asks him,

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Bildad	<p>Does God ever pervert justice or fail to do what's right? This will all stop if you turn to God and pray to the Almighty; If you are pure and upright; surely he will help you and make you healthy and prosperous again. God does not cast away a perfect man, but he will not help those who are evil. If you will be righteous again, God will give you laughter and joy.</p>
Job	<p>My soul is weary of my life; If I be wicked, woe unto me; and if I be righteous, yet will I not lift up my head. I am full of confusion. I am innocent, but I don't think this makes a difference. God destroys the innocent and the guilty alike. Please God, just leave me alone so I can find a little comfort before I die.</p>
Narrator	<p>Then his friend Zophar talks to him.</p>
Zophar	<p>You probably deserve a harsher punishment. You must prepare your heart, and stretch out your hands to Him. You must put the iniquity in your hands far away. You must not let wickedness dwell in you, Only then will your misery be just a memory.</p>
Job	<p>My neighbors all make fun of me, They call on God and he answers them. But I, a just upright man, am laughed to scorn. I do not know why the Lord has done this to me. But I do know his hand cares for the soul of every living thing, and is the breath of all mankind. I am not inferior to you. You would all be wiser if you kept silent. Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him, and I will remain faithful before Him. Dear God, what have I done wrong? Please tell me my transgression and my sin. Please hide me in the depths of hell until your anger has been exhausted.</p>

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Narrator	Eliphaz speaks again:
Eliphaz	<p>All this talking is a waste of time.          Your own words condemn you.          You don't pray enough.          You have turned against God.          The wicked are always in pain.          You have stretched out your hand against God          in defiance of the Almighty.          The wealth of the wicked will never endure.</p>
Job	<p>You are horrible at trying to comfort me.          I am tired of your company.          God has broken my spirit, but not because I did something wrong.          My prayers are pure.          None of you are wise.          I have no hope. I wait for death.</p>
Narrator	Bildad has more to say:
Bildad	<p>Why do you think we are stupid?          The wicked live without light with traps all around.          They live frightened, dangerous lives,          and their strength is taken away by hunger.          Their skin is diseased. This is the life of the wicked          and those who do not know God.</p>
Job	<p>Why do you all make things worse for me?          Ten times you have told me I am wrong.          You are not ashamed at all that you might be wrong.          If I've made a mistake, then I am to blame.          That doesn't mean you need to add your judgments to my suffering.</p> <p>God has stripped me of my glory, and the crown from my head.          He has destroyed me in every way. He treats me as an enemy.          I have lost every one of my family and friends.          All my acquaintances stay far away from me.          Children despise me.          I deserve your pity, not your persecution.          Still, I know that my redeemer lives.          Though worms destroy this body, yet in the flesh I shall see God.</p>

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Narrator	Zophar piles on.
Zophar	Since man was placed on the earth, the triumph of the wicked is short-lived and the joy of the hypocrite lasts only a moment. Though the rich man swallows down riches, he will always throw them up. Because he does not help the poor, he will never feel good inside. Soon enough God will send the fury of his anger upon him and the earth shall rise up against him.
Job	Wicked men can live to an old age, still powerful, with children who have everything. Their houses are safe, filled with music and dancing. They can spend their days in wealth until the moment they go to their grave. Then comes their destruction.  Your words offer me no comfort, since they are totally false.
Narrator	Eliphaz continues:
Eliphaz	How can God take any pleasure in your situation? You are not helping feed or clothe the poor. You send widows away empty. If you were to get to know God, your problems would go away. Receive his law, put his words in your heart, and return to God. Then you will have gold and silver to spare. Pray to Him. He will hear you and lift you up.

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Job	<p>If only God would hear me.          If only I could find Him.          Then as a righteous man          I could convince him to help and strengthen me.          I go forward, but he is not there.          I look to the left and the right, but I cannot see him.          Even though I prefer his word to food,          still I am covered in darkness.</p> <p>Some use violence to steal from others.          They take from orphans and widows,          yet they find food in the wilderness and on their farms.          They leave the poor without clothing,          yet they always have clothing to keep out the cold.          They rebel against the light.          They steal, murder, and commit adultery,          yet go unpunished.</p>
Narrator	Bildad speaks again:
Bildad	<p>God rules over all.          His armies are numberless.          His light shines on everyone.          Can any man claim to be righteous          when we are like worms before him?</p>
Job	<p>How is this helping me?          Are you even listening to what I am saying?          You've actually made things worse          by blaming me for my own suffering.</p>
Bildad	<p>God is all powerful,          but how can we begin to understand His ways?</p>

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Job	<p>As long as I can breathe and can feel His Spirit, I will not speak wickedly or deceitfully. I won't convince you, but I will keep my integrity and will hold fast to righteousness. In my heart, I know I am not guilty.</p> <p>Though a man might find silver and gold, iron and brass Though he grow grain for bread and make fire to cook it Though he finds rubies and his eyes see every precious thing, Will he also find wisdom and understanding? For these cannot be purchased with gold or jewels or pearls. Wisdom is found only by those who have a fear of the Lord.</p> <p>How I wish I were as in months past when God preserved me and His light lit my path when He was with me when my children were nearby when I was held in high regard by young and old when people cared and listened to what I had to say when I could help the poor, the orphans, and the widows when I could protect the weak and comfort those who mourned</p> <p>But now the young men make fun of me In song and words they do all they can to torment me They stop me as I walk and throw me into the mud Though I helped those in trouble and I grieved for the poor, I am alone in my darkness, my disease, and my affliction My skin in black upon me and my bones are burned with heat.</p> <p>Does God not see my ways and count all my steps? If I have walked with vanity or deceit, then let God judge me that He may know of my integrity If I have stepped out of the way or taken something from a neighbor, If I have mistreated a servant or withheld from the poor If I eaten when the fatherless had nothing If I have had clothing when others did not If I have put my confidence and hope in gold If I were happy with the destruction of an enemy, If I were silent when I should have said something, Then I wish the Almighty would please tell me.</p>
Narrator	A younger man, Elihu, also decides to speak.

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Elihu	<p>Although I am young and you are old, I cannot stop myself from giving you my opinion. You three did not convince Job of his wickedness, nor did you answer his questions.</p> <p>I have heard you say you are clean and without transgression. But you are not justified in what you say. By the Spirit, I will teach you wisdom.</p> <p>God is greater than any man and you should not argue with Him. It is impossible for God to do wickedness or iniquity. It is impossible for God to pervert judgment or to punish unjustly You have spoken without knowledge or wisdom You should be punished for this and for your rebellion against God.</p> <p>How can you think you are more righteous than God? His judgement is right before your eyes. God is obviously angry with you. So accept your punishment and trust in God. And don't bother to say another word.</p> <p>God is mighty and loves us all. If you will obey and serve Him you shall spend your days in prosperity and pleasures. If you will not obey, you will perish by the sword in ignorance. If you are wicked, judgement and justice will take hold of you. God is great.</p> <p>Oh, Job. Be still and consider the wondrous works of God. He does not respect those who think they are smarter than God.</p>
Narrator	Finally God speaks directly to Job out of the whirlwind.

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<p>God speaking directly to Job</p>	<p>Who are you to counsel me without knowledge?          Where were you when the earth was created,          when all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?          Have you commanded the morning to come          every day since you were born?          Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?          Where did the rain, ice, frost and dew come from?          Do you know the ordinances of the heavens,          and do you know the rules of the earth?</p> <p>Who has provided for the animals,          the lion, the goat, the ox, the ostrich?          Did you give the horse its might?          Can you tame a unicorn?          Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars?          Or that the eagle makes its nest on high?</p> <p>Will you find fault with the Almighty?</p>
<p>Job</p>	<p>I am of small amount. What shall I say to you?</p>
<p>God</p>	<p>Will you find fault with me?          Will you condemn me to justify yourself?          Can you speak like thunder, and bring low the proud?          or give strength to the hippopotamus?          Can you catch and tame a dragon?</p>
<p>Job</p>	<p>I know that you can do any thing,          but I do not know or understand all that you know.          For this reason I spoke as I did.          I am ashamed and I will repent.</p>
<p>Narrator</p>	<p>God then speaks to Eliphaz and Job's other friends:</p>
<p>God turns to Eliphaz and says:</p>	<p>I am angry with you and your friends          because nothing you have said to Job is true.          Take seven bullocks and seven rams          and offer them as a burnt offering.          Then if Job will pray for me to forgive you          I will accept his words and forgive your folly.</p>

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Narrator	<p>Then Job prayed for his friends and the Lord accepted his words.</p> <p>Once healed, Job invited all his brothers and sisters, and all his old acquaintances to eat with him in his home They did comfort him over all the adversity that had come upon him and each gave Job money and an earring of gold.</p> <p>The Lord blessed the latter end of Job's life even more than the beginning. For he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand female donkeys.</p> <p>He also again had seven sons and three daughters. And his daughters were fairer than all the daughters in all the land.</p>
Job	<p>I lived another one hundred and forty years. I lived to see and enjoy my grandchildren, my great-grandchildren, and even my great-great-grandchildren.</p> <p>I passed away old and full of days, with my life made sweeter having had to pass through my afflictions.</p> <p>I will praise my Lord forever and ever.</p>