

Job

Satan slanders a righteous man's motives named Job, before God. So God allows Satan to test his character, and Job and his friends argue about why terrible things are happening to him. Many scientific references are included here.

Author: Nobody knows, most likely Job himself or Elihu his friend mentioned in Job.

In Job – Jesus is the Mediator between God and man

Job 19:25 "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth."

Job: 26:7 "He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; He suspends the earth over nothing."



TEACHER: 42 CHAPTERS

The entire story of Job is told in 45 verses. But it takes 42 chapters to get there. Job is called a righteous man by Ezekiel, on par with Noah and Daniel. That is real impressive company. Noah was the Godliest man on this planet in his generation, and Daniel's testimony is still one of the most famous in biblical history. Still today their stories are the 1st we tell our children. Job is described as an honest and innocent man who honored God and stayed away from evil. James 5 coins the phrase "patience of Job," that we have all heard. Think for a moment about that. Job was patient. Have you ever had your patience tested? That is not fun. Job was patient. What does that mean? Does anyone recall the "love chapter?"

1st Corinthians 13. The verb love is defined in 1 Corinthians. 16 different verbs describe what "love" does. What is the 1st word in that list?" Patience. 1st Corinthians 13:4 "Love is patient...." If love is patient, then patience is love. Job was patient with God's absence of delivery, because he loved God. He loved God more than his money, his possessions, his sons, his daughters, his wife, even his own health and body. The more we love God, the more patient we will be when he delays His response. This bible study will be unique in that we will study the prologue and epilogue, and then cover the material in-between last.

CH. 1

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STUDENT:

A man named Job lived in the land of Uz. He was an honest and innocent man; he honored God and stayed away from evil. ² Job had seven sons and three daughters. ³ He owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred teams of oxen, and five hundred female donkeys. He also had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East. (NCV)

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TEACHER:

It is not unusual to read about a wonderful moral man. It is not unusual to read about a very wealthy man. Libraries are full of the 2. It is somewhat rare to read about a godly man who is very wealthy, but those stories are out there. It is rarer still to read about a godly wealthy man, who loses all his wealth, family and health. It is even rarer than that to read of a godly wealthy man, who loses his health, wealth and family and keeps his soul. But a godly man, with great riches, to lose his wealth, health, his 10 children dying, and regains his health, wealth and a new family, and the end is better than the 1st state, and NEVER loses his faith in God? That you only see here, in this book. And he did this without the Bible, without the church. No New Testament. No Old Testament. He did it alone with God.

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STUDENT:

⁴ Job's sons took turns holding feasts in their homes and invited their sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ After a feast was over, Job would send and have them made clean. Early in the morning Job would offer a burnt offering for each of them, because he thought, "My children may have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Job did this every time. (NCV)

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TEACHER:

A man who fears and obeys God, prays for his sons and his daughters. Not just when they are kids, we all do that. Big deal. These were business age people with kids of their own. Homes of their own. Wealthy kids.

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STUDENT:

⁶ One day the angels came to show themselves before the LORD, and Satan was with them. ⁷ The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "I have been wandering around the earth, going back and forth in it."

⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? No one else on earth is like him. He is an honest and innocent man, honoring God and staying away from evil." (NCV)

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TEACHER:

Why did God ask Satan where he was? God knew where he was. In my heart I have a strong conviction of where Satan had been. I think he was circling the camp where Job lived and wanted a slice of Job but wasn't able to get near him. That aside, the reason God asked him that, may have been for our benefit. The question and answer session reveals that Satan gets called before God on occasion. That Satan must answer to God. That Satan can't hurt anyone without God's permission. That God limits Satan for our benefit. It reveals that God brags about his children when we are good. That God is proud of us when we are innocent, and honest. When we stay away from evil, God is proud of us, and brags about us.

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STUDENT:

⁹ But Satan answered the LORD, "Job honors God for a good reason. ¹⁰ You have put a wall around him, his family, and everything he owns. You have blessed the things he has done. His flocks and herds are so large they almost cover the land. ¹¹ But reach out your hand and destroy everything he has, and he will curse you to your face." (NCV)

TEACHERS:

The conversation reveals something new. Satan questions motives. We have seen this before. Can you think of a time in scripture? Job is written during the time of Genesis sometime after the Tower of Babel. Satan questioned God's motives in the Garden of Eden when he tempted Adam and Eve. In Genesis 3 the Devil says, "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (NIV) The lesson to me? To us?

"Satan questions people's motives. Don't be like Satan." DH

STUDENT:

¹² The LORD said to Satan, "All right, then. Everything Job has is in your power, but you must not touch Job himself." Then Satan left the LORD's presence. (NCV)

TEACHER:

How many of you know people like Satan? They bug you, question your motives, want something they don't deserve, and as soon as you give them what they want, they leave. Do NOT look at your spouse, I wasn't talking about them.

STUDENT:

¹³ One day Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine together at the oldest brother's house. ¹⁴ A messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were eating grass nearby, ¹⁵ when the Sabeans attacked and carried them away. They killed the servants with swords, and I am the only one who escaped to tell you!" (NCV)

STUDENT:

¹⁶ The messenger was still speaking when another messenger arrived and said, "Lightning from God fell from the sky. It burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who escaped to tell you!" (NCV)

STUDENT:

¹⁷ The second messenger was still speaking when another messenger arrived and said, "The Babylonians sent three groups of attackers that swept down and stole your camels and killed the servants. I am the only one who escaped to tell you!" (NCV)

STUDENT:

¹⁸ The third messenger was still speaking when another messenger arrived and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine together at the oldest brother's house. ¹⁹ Suddenly a great wind came from the desert, hitting all four corners of the house at once. The house fell in on the young people, and they are all dead. I am the only one who escaped to tell you!" (NCV)

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TEACHER:

Keep in mind that Job was not privy to the conversation between Satan and God. He was innocent. He just lost all 500 teams of oxen, 500 donkeys, and all the hands that took care of them, all stolen. He then lost 7,000 head of sheep, and all the servants who cared for the sheep, all killed. He then lost 3,000 camels, and all the staff that took care of them were killed as well. The last straw came next, all 10 children were killed at the same time, at the same place. The only things he had left were the 4 messengers, and a wife who, let's face it, wasn't exactly a motivational speaker. What would you have done? Job, with a broken heart, worshipped.

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STUDENT:

²⁰ When Job heard this, he got up and tore his robe and shaved his head to show how sad he was. Then he bowed down to the ground to worship God. ²¹ He said:

“I was naked when I was born, and I will be naked when I die.

The LORD gave these things to me, and he has taken them away.

Praise the name of the LORD.” ²² In all this Job did not sin or blame God. (NCV)

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TEACHER:

Sobering.

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CH. 2

STUDENT:

On another day the angels came to show themselves before the LORD, and Satan was with them again. ² The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?”

Satan answered the LORD, “I have been wandering around the earth, going back and forth in it.”

³ Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you noticed my servant Job? No one else on earth is like him. He is an honest and innocent man, honoring God and staying away from evil. You caused me to ruin him for no good reason, but he continues to be without blame.”

⁴ “One skin for another!” Satan answered. “A man will give all he has to save his own life. ⁵ But reach out your hand and destroy his flesh and bones, and he will curse you to your face.”

⁶ The LORD said to Satan, “All right, then. Job is in your power, but you may not take his life.” (NCV)

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TEACHER:

Satan again accuses Job of ulterior motives.

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STUDENT:

⁷ So Satan left the LORD's presence. He put painful sores on Job's body, from the top of his head to the soles of his feet. ⁸ Job took a piece of broken pottery to scrape himself, and he sat in ashes in misery.

⁹ Job's wife said to him, “Why are you trying to stay innocent? Curse God and die!”

¹⁰ Job answered, “You are talking like a foolish woman. Should we take only good things from God and not trouble?” In spite of all this Job did not sin in what he said. (NCV)

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TEACHER:

Enter Job's wife. She carries the same sentiment that the world carries. Why be good if it doesn't matter? How many in the church today, only serve God because there is something in it for them? Next, Job's friends arrive.

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STUDENT:

¹¹ Now Job had three friends: Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. When these friends heard about Job's troubles, they agreed to meet and visit him. They wanted to show their concern and to comfort him. ¹² They saw Job from far away, but he looked so different they almost didn't recognize him. They began to cry loudly and tore their robes and put dirt on their heads to show how sad they were. ¹³ Then they sat on the ground with Job seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him because they saw how much he was suffering. (NCV)

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TEACHER:

Should any of you be trying to chase down a date for the time of this story, these verses we just read will be your biggest clue. A Temanite is a descendant of Teman, a son of Eliphaz, Esau's 1st born. Shuhite refers to a descendant of Shuah, the son Abraham had with Keturah, the woman Abraham married after Sarah died. So in conclusion we may concur that Job was some generations after Abraham. Naamathite offers no better clue. The moniker Naamathite refers to a citizen of the city of Naamath. Another clue comes at the end of the book in chapter 42. It says he lived another 140 years after the events in this book. That means he had to be around 200 years old. Abraham lived to 175 years old. About the same range. These clues lead me to conclude Job lived during the time of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, or soon thereafter. After 7 days of silence Job curses the day he was born in chapter 3. For the next 39 chapters Job and his friends try to reason why such unthinkable things had happened to him. Now we go to the end of the book of Job to see how it turns out. After a word from the Lord adjusting Job's sorrow to gratitude, Job asks God for forgiveness.

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CH. 42

STUDENT:

Then Job answered the LORD:

² "I know that you can do all things and that no plan of yours can be ruined.

³ You asked, 'Who is this that made my purpose unclear by saying things that are not true?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand; I talked of things too wonderful for me to know.

⁴ You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak.

I will ask you questions, and you must answer me.'

⁵ My ears had heard of you before, but now my eyes have seen you.

⁶ So now I hate myself;

I will change my heart and life.

I will sit in the dust and ashes." (NCV)

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TEACHER:

Complete confession. "I hate myself, I will change my heart and life." Not a popular sinner's prayer in today's church crowd, but God liked it.

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STUDENT:

⁷ After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not said what is right about me, as my servant Job did. ⁸ Now take seven bulls and seven male sheep, and go to my servant Job, and offer a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will listen to his prayer. Then I will not punish you for being foolish. You have not said what is right about me, as my servant Job did." ⁹ So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite did as the LORD said, and the LORD listened to Job's prayer. (NCV)

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TEACHER:

Notice in the next portion that God blesses Job after he prays for his friends. Good example.

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STUDENT:

¹⁰ After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD gave him success again. The LORD gave Job twice as much as he had owned before. ¹¹ Job's brothers and sisters came to his house, along with everyone who had known him before, and they all ate with him there. They comforted him and made him feel better about the trouble the LORD had brought on him, and each one gave Job a piece of silver and a gold ring. (NCV)

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TEACHER:

And after the "testing" comes the "testimony."

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STUDENT:

¹² The LORD blessed the last part of Job's life even more than the first part. Job had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand teams of oxen, and a thousand female donkeys. ¹³ Job also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴ He named the first daughter Jemimah, the second daughter Keziah, and the third daughter Keren-Happuch. ¹⁵ There were no other women in all the land as beautiful as Job's daughters. And their father Job gave them land to own along with their brothers.

¹⁶ After this, Job lived one hundred forty years. He lived to see his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. ¹⁷ Then Job died; he was old and had lived many years. (NCV)

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TEACHER:

The 39 chapters from 3-41 we are going to cover in topical highlights. Stay with me and you will get something out of it. Please for your own sake, read these 39 chapters at home this week, and keep in mind that we are listening to a conversation that is close to 4,000 years old, about a man who just buried all 10 of his children, and doesn't have a penny to his name after serving God with near perfection his entire life.

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Topic #1.

Science in the Book of Job.

Scientific Truth: The Earth floats in space. At this time the scholars thought was that the Earth was set on the back of animals like elephants or giraffes, or on the gods. But Job correctly states,

"God stretches the northern sky out over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing." Job 26:7 (KJV)

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Scientific Truth: The air has weight. Science until relatively recently felt air was weightless.

"To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure." Job 28:25 (KJV)

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Scientific Truth: Light moves. Science felt at the time that light was fixed in space.

"Where is the way where light dwelleth? And as for darkness, where is the place thereof,

²⁰ That thou shouldst take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldst know the paths to the house thereof?" Job 38:19-20 (KJV)

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Scientific Truth: Oceans are fed by springs not just rain and rivers as was thought at the time.

"Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth?" Job 38:16 (KJV)

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Scientific Truth: The Earth has a molten core. Science had no concept of a heat under a flat earth's surface.

Notice the core is not on fire, there is no available oxygen, and it is molten.

"As for the earth, out of it cometh bread: and under it is turned up as it were fire." Job 28:5 (KJV)

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Topic #2 Messianic Prophecy in Job:

²⁵ For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

²⁶ And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

²⁷ Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me. Job 19: 25-27 (KJV)

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They have gaped upon me with their mouth; they have smitten me upon the cheek reproachfully; they have gathered themselves together against me.

¹¹ God hath delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked. Job 16:10-11 (KJV)

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Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

¹⁶ He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him. Job 13:15-16. (KJV)

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He alone stretches out the skies and walks on the waves of the sea. Job 9:8

(This is my favorite messianic prophesy. He alone walks on the waves of the sea. He was showing us that God could be identified when He came by this miracle, and that when you see Him, He was the author of creation.)

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Topic #3 Need for a Mediator between God and man.

"God is not human like me, so I cannot answer him. We cannot meet each other in court.

³³ I wish there were someone to make peace between us, someone to decide our case.

³⁴ Maybe he could remove God's punishment so his terror would no longer frighten me.

³⁵ Then I could speak without being afraid, but I am not able to do that. (NCV) Job 9:32-35

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Also now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and my record is on high.

²⁰ My friends scorn me: but mine eye poureth out tears unto God.

²¹ O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbour! Job 16:19-21 (KJV)

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Topic #4 New Testament quotes from Job.

1 Corinthians 3:19 quoting Job 5:13

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

1 Corinthians 3:19

He taketh the wise in their own craftiness:

And the counsel of the froward is carried headlong. Job 5:13

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James 5:11

We say they are happy because they did not give up. You have heard about Job's patience, and you know the Lord's purpose for him in the end. You know the Lord is full of mercy and is kind. James 5:11

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TEACHER:

We will close with 39 verses. 1 from each chapter. Take turns and anybody comment as we pass through.

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STUDENTS: 1 or 2 Verses from each chapter. All from The New Century Version.

"Let the day I was born be destroyed, and the night it was said, 'A boy is born!'"

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"Think about the many people you have taught and the weak hands you have made strong.
Your words have comforted those who fell, and you have strengthened those who could not stand."

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"God does wonders that cannot be understood; he does so many miracles they cannot be counted."

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"Teach me, and I will be quiet. Show me where I have been wrong."

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"Why don't you pardon my wrongs and forgive my sins?"

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"Surely God does not reject the innocent or give strength to those who do evil.

God will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy."

"Your enemies will be covered with shame, and the tents of the wicked will be gone."

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"He alone stretches out the skies and walks on the waves of the sea.

It is God who made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades and the groups of stars in the southern sky."

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"Your hands shaped and made me."

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"Your life will be as bright as the noonday sun, and darkness will seem like morning.

You will feel safe because there is hope; you will look around and rest in safety."

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"But only God has wisdom and power, good advice and understanding.

What he tears down cannot be rebuilt"

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"How many evil things and sins have I done? Show me my wrong and my sin.

Don't hide your face from me; don't think of me as your enemy."

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"Will the dead live again? All my days are a struggle; I will wait until my change comes.

You will call, and I will answer you; you will desire the creature your hands have made."

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"People without God can produce nothing."

“Even now I have one who speaks for me in heaven; the one who is on my side is high above.
The one who speaks for me is my friend. My eyes pour out tears to God.
He begs God on behalf of a human as a person begs for his friend.”

“Honest people are upset about this; innocent people are upset with those who do wrong. But those who do right will continue to do right, and those whose hands are not dirty with sin will grow stronger.”

“The lamp of the wicked will be put out, and the flame in their lamps will stop burning.”

‘I know that my Defender lives, and in the end he will stand upon the earth.
Even after my skin has been destroyed, in my flesh I will see God.
I will see him myself; I will see him with my very own eyes. How my heart wants that to happen!’

“The heavens will show their guilt, and the earth will rise up against them.
A flood will carry their houses away, swept away on the day of God’s anger.
This is what God plans for evil people; this is what he has decided they will receive.”

“No one can teach knowledge to God; he is the one who judges even the most important people.”

“Obey God and be at peace with him; this is the way to happiness.
Accept teaching from his mouth, and keep his words in your heart.
If you return to the Almighty, you will be blessed again. So remove evil from your house.”

“God knows the way that I take, and when he has tested me, I will come out like gold.
My feet have closely followed his steps; I have stayed in his way; I did not turn aside.
I have never left the commands he has spoken; I have treasured his words more than my own.”

“I wish the Almighty would set a time for judging. Those who know God do not see such a day.”

“God rules and he must be honored; he set up order in his high heaven.
³ No one can count God’s armies. His light shines on all people.”

“God stretches the northern sky out over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing.
He wraps up the waters in his thick clouds, but the clouds do not break under their weight.”

“I will teach you about the power of God and will not hide the ways of the Almighty.”

“Wisdom cannot be bought with fine gold or with valuable onyx or sapphire gems.
Gold and crystal are not as valuable as wisdom, and you cannot buy it with jewels of gold.
Coral and jasper are not worth talking about, and the price of wisdom is much greater than rubies.”

“I put on right living as if it were clothing; I wore fairness like a robe and a turban.
I was eyes for the blind and feet for the lame. I was like a father to needy people.”

“I cried for those who were in trouble; I have been very sad for poor people.”

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"But I made an agreement with my eyes not to look with desire at a girl."
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"I am young, and you are old. That is why I was afraid to tell you what I know. I thought, 'Older people should speak, and those who have lived many years should teach wisdom.' But it is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty that gives understanding. It is not just older people who are wise; they are not the only ones who understand what is right."
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"The Spirit of God created me, and the breath of the Almighty gave me life."
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"So listen to me, you who can understand. God can never do wrong! It is impossible for the Almighty to do evil. God pays people back for what they have done and gives them what their actions deserve. Truly God will never do wrong; the Almighty will never twist what is right."
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"God does not answer evil people when they cry out, because the wicked are proud. God does not listen to their useless begging; the Almighty pays no attention to them."
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"God is great and powerful; no other teacher is like him."
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"Job, listen to this: Stop and notice God's miracles."
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"Who put wisdom inside the mind or understanding in the heart?
Who has the wisdom to count the clouds?"
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"Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you watch when the deer gives birth to her fawn?
Do you count the months until they give birth, and know the right time for them to give birth?"
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Then the LORD spoke to Job from the storm: "Be strong, like a man!"
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No one has ever given me anything that I must pay back, because everything under the sky belongs to me.
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NEXT LESSON PSALMS
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"Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him."

Job 13:15

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



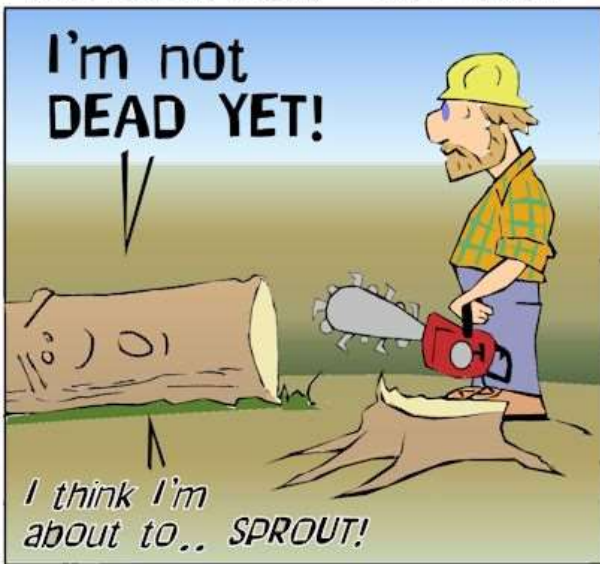
Then the Lord answered Job from the STORM. **Job 38:1**

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



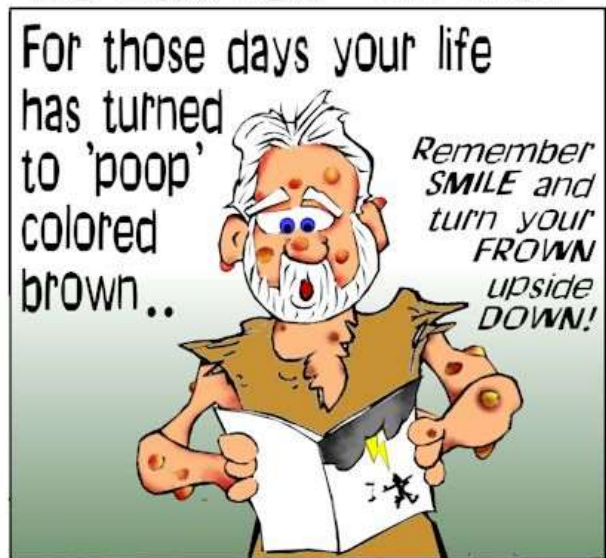
With his lucky rod baited with a freshly picked nightcrawler Norman caught a LEVIATHAN in exception to the Lord's words in **Job 41:1**. "Can you catch a leviathan with a fish hook?"

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Even a tree has hope. If it is cut down it will sprout again and grow. **Job 14:7**

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Nothing says you care like giving a Hallmark card. **Job 4**

GENESIS 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. [CONTINUUM]

• TIME



- PAST
- PRESENT
- FUTURE

• SPACE



- HEIGHT
- WIDTH
- DEPTH

• MATTER



- SOLID
- LIQUID
- GAS

JOB 26:7

He.... hangeth the earth upon nothing.

JOB 38:14

It is turned as clay to the seal...

ISAIAH 40:22

It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth.

The earth is round, existing in time, spinning on its axis, and floating in space.

But sure...the Bible isn't science.



