

## Job 1: An Introduction

- ✓ The world we live in has many questions for those who place their faith in God: "If God is good, then why is the world bad? If God is good, why do bad things happen? If God is good and is in control, why does He let evil continue?"
  - ✓ The best answer to the question of why do bad things happen is: "It's too early to tell."
  - ✓ **Why Too Early?:** The book of Job is a forty two chapter illustration of how wrong we can be about God, ourselves, and others, especially when things go bad.
  - ✓ So, we really need to do our best not to jump to conclusions too soon because, to be sure, ***IT IS*** too early to tell.
  - ✓ There is going to come a day in which it's all going to be said and done, it's all going to make sense and be revealed and be totally clear. That day is coming. *But it's not today! It's too early to tell!*
- 
- 
- 

- ✓ Since that is true, a word of early advice: be very careful when drawing conclusions about yourself and your circumstances.
  - ✓ Also, be especially careful when drawing conclusions about others and their circumstances.
  - ✓ We think we know, and that is a big problem for us. When we ask questions like, "I wonder what I did wrong?" or "I wonder what they did?"
  - ✓ What makes us think we are qualified to know the answer?
  - ✓ Book of Job is a book of bad things happening for unseen reasons: **Job 1:1-22**.
  - ✓ We're going to get to the tough stuff, but we need to do some housekeeping on this unusual book so we can have a better grip when the ride it gives us gets treacherous.
- 
- 
- 

### 1. The unusual characteristics of Job.

#### ✓ The Man

- To understand the overall message of the book of Job, we need to first have its details as a foundation beneath us.
  - Who was Job? Job was a man who, according to Scripture was **Verse 1**.
  - Do you know anybody like that? If you do, make a special note of those people because they are rare. Job was a rare man.
  - Many have wanted to dispute Job's status, the word on him could not be more clear.
  - There are no better words spoken about any individual anywhere in the entire Bible.
  - Job is going to be crushed before our eyes, he's going to be opened up, and we're going to find out what's really going on inside of this man.
- 
- 
-

## Job 1: An Introduction

### ✓ **His Wealth**

- In terms of that day and age, suffice it to say, Job was rich, super rich.
  - The Bible says that he was, in fact, the greatest: **Verse 3**.
  - Job was also very concerned about his children's spiritual conditions: **Verse 5**.
  - Job was an awesome and amazing person according to the testimony of the Scriptures, and the Scriptures can be trusted.
- 

### ✓ **His Book**

Job was not Jewish, in a primarily Jewish book (the Bible), this is unusual!

- It does not take place in Israel, one of few books of which that can be said (Esther, Daniel, part of Jonah).
  - It is considered the oldest book in the Bible and in history from the perspective of when it was written.
  - Almost the entire thing is written in poetry, but it doesn't rhyme in sound or in meaning.
  - Hebrew poetry and song almost never rhyme in sound but always do in meaning, **Psalms 119:1-2**.
- 
- 

- ✓ His book gives us a perspective on the spirit world and events in Heaven that we really don't get anywhere else.
  - ✓ The "sons of God" is not talking about human beings, but about angels: **Verse 6**.
  - ✓ Every time we find that phrase in the Old Testament it refers to angels (unless, this is the exception, which would be unlikely).
  - ✓ What is Satan doing in Heaven??
  - ✓ Don't we go to Heaven to get away from him? Yes and no.
  - ✓ The Devil is in Heaven doing his job, being the adversary and the accuser of all us sinners whom God loves.
- 

- ✓ We may be familiar with what sin has done to us, but not so familiar with what it has done to God.
  - ✓ Sin has given the Devil the right/job to accuse us before God.
  - ✓ It's not just us who he accuses; he also accuses God Himself.
  - ✓ What's fair and logical is: **Ezekiel 18:20**, but that's not what happens because: **2 Peter 3:9**.
  - ✓ The result is that God has to tolerate the Devil in the interim because He loves sinners.
- 
- 
-

## Job 1: An Introduction

- ✓ What is fair and logical will prevail, sin, all sin, will be paid for, this interim of grace is here for us to determine how we want that done
  - ✓ Either we pay for our own sins in Hell for all eternity or allow the Hell that Jesus went through on the cross to pay for our sins, the option is ours.
  - ✓ What's interesting is not only that Satan is in Heaven and roaming the earth, but that he's not in Hell (where everybody thinks he is!).
  - ✓ This is a part of the reason why it's too early to tell. We can't see what's happening in Heaven, and are, more often than not, not told what or why things are happening the way they do.
- 
- 
- 

### **2. Job leads us to some very disturbing conclusions.**

- ✓ Job 1 and 2 are, undoubtedly, some of the most difficult chapters in the entire Bible.
  - ✓ They are difficult because they call into question so many conclusions and assumptions that we have made about this life.
  - ✓ In our minds we believe life is a linear equation: "If I am good, good will always happen to me", was that true for Job?
  - ✓ "If I'm bad, bad things will always happen", Job's friends believed this and used it to mistreat him.
- 
- 
- 
-