

## Intro to Poetry

Poetical Books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon

Poetry not only communicates truth, but it moves the soul. Poetry allows the reader to feel the emotions of the writer. The truth of God appeals to the whole man, not only his intellect. People like to read Psalms because people can identify with the emotions of the psalmist. But Psalms are more than just balm for the soul. They teach us.

Psalms can also be commentaries on OT narrative and can provide insight into the spiritual aspect of the narrative.

Bible poetry isn't about rhyme and meter. It's about compounding ideas.

Isaiah 1:3

The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider.	Ox <i>knows</i> owner Donkey    ----        master's crib
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Gap Theory relies on Isaiah

For thus says the Lord, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in <b>vain (tohu)</b> , Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the Lord, and there is no other." - Isaiah 45:18	The earth was without <b>form (tohu)</b> , and <b>void (abohu)</b> ; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. - Genesis 1:2
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*Art of biblical poetry.* - Robert Alter

*How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* – Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart

# Job

Theme – ~~Why do the righteous suffer?~~

Author – Unknown. Maybe Job?  
Christian tradition holds that Job wrote it, but there is no clear Jewish tradition.

Date – Unknown. Probably the same time as Abraham or Isaac or Jacob.

Job is the oldest book in the Bible. The Hebrew that is used is really ancient and is really difficult to translate.

The Exodus was around 1446 BC, so that was the earliest that Genesis was written. Job is at least 800 years older (before 2100 BC).

## Outline

- I. The stage is set
  - A. Activity behind the scenes in heaven (ch 1:1-12)
  - B. Activity on the earth against Job (ch 1:13-22)
  - C. Activity behind the scenes in heaven (ch 2:1-6)
  - D. Activity on the earth against Job (ch 2:7-10)
- II. The fighters are ready
  - A. Job is broken and enters the ring (ch 3)
  - B. Round 1
    - i. Eliphaz jumps in from the top ropes (ch 4-5), Job responds (ch 6-7)
    - ii. Bildad is tagged into the fight (ch 8), Job responds (ch 9-10)
    - iii. Zophar the ring guy (ch 11), Job responds (ch 12-14)
  - C. Round 2
    - i. Eliphaz comes in with a folding chair (ch 15), Job responds (ch 16-17)
    - ii. Bildad is tagged into the fight (ch 18), Job responds (ch 19)
    - iii. Zophar the ring guy (ch 20), Job responds (ch 21)
  - D. Round 3
    - i. Eliphaz takes his gloves off (ch 22), Job responds (ch 23-24)
    - ii. Bildad is tagged into the fight (ch 25), Job responds (ch 26-31)
  - E. Elihu the commentator (ch 32-37)
- III. God the Organizer enters the venue
- IV. Job is restored

### ***Job 1:1-5***

Note: Blameless is not sinless. Blameless means he never got a speeding ticket, never stole a candy bar, never cursed or did anything that anyone might accuse him of.

God seems to have justified Job's life so to question Job's integrity is to question God.

“Much later in the book we will catch a glimpse of what Job actually did with his money, and with his time and energy: he rescued the needy; he cared personally for the handicapped and the dying; he brought orphans into his home; he even took the power barons of his day to court and argued the case for the underprivileged (see 29:12-17; 31:16-21).”

– "The Gospel According to Job" Mike Mason

### ***Job 1:6-12***

Sons of God had to present themselves, including The Satan (the adversary), and they have to give an account of what they've been doing.

1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

*1:8 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"*

Considered – literally “set - your heart - over.” God **set** Adam in the the garden (Genesis 2:8). Every intent of the thoughts of his **heart** were evil continually (Genesis 6:5). The Spirit of God moved **over** the face of the waters (Genesis 1:2).

If you're going to overthrow a fortified position, you reconnoiter, you examine the blueprints, you watch who comes and goes, you set your entire concentration on that target.

*1:9 Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him?*

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### ***Job 1:13-22***

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- Oxen and donkeys were stolen and the servants killed – Job's business is destroyed.
  - Sheep and servants consumed by fire from heaven – Job's bank account is destroyed.
  - Camels are taken and servants killed – Job's personal possessions are destroyed.
  - Sons and daughters are killed – Job's family is destroyed.

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*that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand*

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*- Ephesians 6:13*

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- Job made his stand against fear and did not give in to panic.
  - Job made his stand against make-believe pretending and appropriately mourned.
  - Job made his stand against pride and humbled himself before God.
  - Job made his stand against self and decided to worship God.
  - Job made his stand against a time-bound mindset and chose to think in terms of eternity.
  - Job made his stand against unbelief and did not give in to vain questionings of God.
  - Job made his stand against despair and saw the hand of God, even in catastrophe.
  - Job made his stand against anger and did not blame God.

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### ***Job 2:1-6***

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Skin is the largest organ on your body.

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God sets a limit on the Satan: you can touch Job but do not take his life.

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### ***Job 2:7-10***

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His symptoms:

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- Intense pain (30:17).
  - Peeling and darkened skin (30:30).
  - Painful itching pus-filled, erupting sores (2:7, 2:8, 7:5).
  - Anorexia, emaciation (19:20).
  - Fever (30:30).
  - Depression (7:16, 30:27-28).
  - Weeping (16:16).
  - Sleeplessness (7:4), Nightmares (7:14).
  - Putrid breath (19:17), Difficulty breathing (9:18).
  - This condition lasted for months (7:3, 29:2).
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### ***Job 2:11-13***

Job's friends sit there for 7 days, which was a usual time of grief.

- They are to be admired because they came to Job.
- They are to be admired because they wept for and with Job.
- They are to be admired because they sat in silence with Job for seven days.
- They are to be admired because they intended all the best for Job and were persistent in wanting and doing what they thought was best for Job.
- They are to be admired because they spoke their opinion about Job and his condition to Job himself, instead of speaking about him to others.

As men, we want to figure things out. Why did this happen? How can I fix it?

Job is going to start working through all this and what follows is 32 chapters of men trying to figure things out.

### **Chapter 3**

Job talks a lot about darkness and creation and he wishes to have never been born. He speaks about the grave as if those who are dead are at rest. Job's view of death is very interesting and we'll see how he's probably moved by emotion.

He's in a deep emotional state, yet he never considers suicide.

***3:25 - For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me,  
And what I dreaded has happened to me.***

Literally "The fear (my fear) that I feared-feared, is come upon me, and that fear I was afraid of has come upon me."

This paints a picture that Job is terrified of God. He won't even use a negative word like "curse" next to a reference to God.

1:5 – it maybe be that my sons have sinned and [blessed] God in their hearts

1:11 – touch all that he has, and he will surely [bless] You to Your face

2:5 – touch his bone and flesh and he will surely [bless] You to Your face

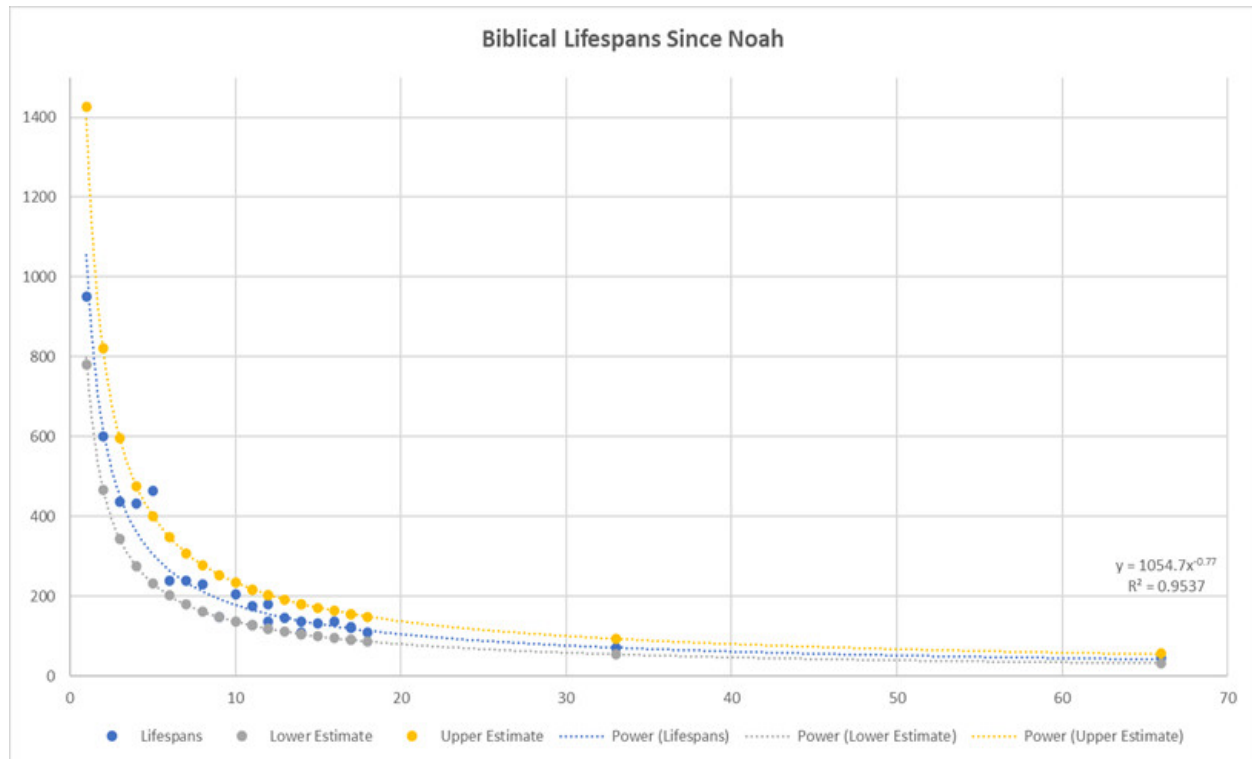
2:9 – [Bless] God and die

How about our lives? Do we have a fear of God that He's always watching in case we sin so He can smite us?

Is this a bar room bet between God and the Satan? Remember the Tapestry of scripture. God is going to use the Satan to do something unexpected.

# Life ages after the flood

## Exponential decay curve



Preflood – lifespans were pushing 900's.

The flood is an impact event that limits genetic diversity.

Post flood – lifespans start to decay exponentially.