

An Old Testament Glance

The Poetry Books – Job, Part 1

Written	1900 BC	Period*	2100-1900 BC	Author	Unknown
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*Dates are sometimes hard to know. They can vary depending on scholars & sources of information.

Job 1 -2	Job Faces Hard Times
Job 3-37	Job's Three Friends Explain the Hard Times
Job 38-39	God Speaks about Who is in Charge
Job 40-42	Job Responds in Humility

1. From Job 1:1,
 - a. Where did Job live? _____
 - b. What kind of man was he?

- c. Describe his financial condition.



Basically, no one knows where "Uz" is. Does anyone care? I care even though it probably doesn't matter. Maps are a guess but I like this one.

2. In Job 1:3, how is he described? _____

Did you notice the word "East"? This could be a reference to territory east of the Jordan River, land not inside the land of Canaan (the nation of Israel).

"Esau" & "Edom" both mean "red" (as in hair or complexion). Esau's descendents settled in the Land of Edom (south of Israel & the Dead Sea). The Horites led by a guy named Seir already lived there (probably in caves). Before Esau ran the Horites out, intermarriage probably occurred – so the families got mixed together.

3. Who was one of these descendents? (Gen. 36:28) _____

4. From Lamentation 4:21, in what country is the "Land of Uz"?

Jeremiah mentioned "the Land of Uz" another time too (Jeremiah 25:20) as he was listing many other countries in the region.

5. Check the map again to see where Job's three friends were from:

- a. Where was Eliphaz from? (Job 2:11) _____
- b. Where was Bildad from? (Job 2:11) _____ (Location or family)
- c. Where was Zophar from? (Job 2:11) _____
- d. Where was Elihu from? (Job 32:2) _____ (Location or Family)

If the map is anywhere near close to being correct, the hometowns of these men were in the area & within traveling distance of UZ.

6. Your next question should be, "Why were these men out in the boonies in the farming area where Job lived."

- a. Job 6:19 _____
- b. Job 6:19 _____
- c. Job 22:24 _____
- d. Job 28:19 _____

As you can see, merchants (salesmen) travelled there to sell their goods. Why not? There was money there.

7. Money & wealth would attract robbers. How do we know?

- a. Job 1:15 _____
- b. Job 1:17 _____

Notice the map again. Do you see the robbers' homeland? It appears that most of what we have discussed is happening in or near the Land of Edom.

Abraham was rich as seen in Genesis 13:1. As we saw earlier in Job 1:3, Job was rich too. **Let's see how rich in today's economy:**

- a. Job owned at least 11,500 business **animals** worth almost **\$5,000,000**.
- b. Job owned at least 9200 working acres** worth **\$6,000,000**.
- c. 1 square mile of property = 640 acres. He owned nearly **14 square miles**.
- d. His total assets in our money would be approximately **\$11,500,000**.

Earning money is OK. He was a godly man. He was respected & successful. Was he doing something wrong? WHY WOULD GOD TEST HIS FAITH SO SEVERELY?

An Old Testament Glance

The Poetry Books – Job, Part 2

Written	1900 BC	Period*	2100-1900 BC	Author	Unknown
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Job 1 -2	Job Faces Hard Times
Job 3-37	Job's Three Friends Explain the Hard Times
Job 38-39	God Speaks about Who is in Charge
Job 40-42	Job Responds in Humility

Job probably lived after Abraham & before Moses. Some think that Moses became aware of Job's life and could have been the author of the book of Job.

1. What was Job's attitude after he lost everything? (Job 2:10)

2. What was Job's wife's attitude about it all? (Job 2:9)

3. Job's friends arrived (Obviously people he knew before):

a. How did they respond to him at first? (Job 2:11-13)

b. How do you feel about the way they handled things when they first came?

4. What did Job wish for in front of his friends? (Job 3:3,11)

5. Analyze the words of Job's friends:

a. What is Eliphaz trying to tell Job? (Job 4:7,17)

b. What is Bildad trying to tell Job? (Job 8:5-6)

c. What is Zophar trying to tell Job? (Job 11:13-15)

You can see that during this first round of discussions, the friends have a simple message: YOU ARE WICKED & SINFUL & NEED TO REPENT.

In the second round of discussions, Eliphaz tells Job he is stupid to think the way he does (Job 15); Bildad tells Job that the wicked being punished is not a new concept (Job 18); Zophar gives a sermon describing wicked people (Job 20).

6. What does Job say to defend his integrity?

- a. Job 27:4 _____
- b. Job 27:5 _____
- c. Job 27:6 _____
- d. Job 29:14 _____
- e. Job 29:15 _____

*Then, comes the 4th guy, Elihu. He said that **God was just** (Job 34), **God was good** (Job 36), and **God was great** (Job 36:24-33). He, then, **accused Job of being self-righteous, proud, and hung up on himself** (Job 35).*

Before Job could react to this speech, God stepped in to speak – Job 38

7. God said lots of things. List 2.

- a. Job 38:4-5 _____
- b. Job 40:2 _____

The word "why" appears 9-10 times in Job's responses:

Why was I born? (3:11) Why did I live? (3:12) Who do I have no purpose? (3:23) Why am I a target for everyone? (7:20) Why am I spinning my wheels? (7:21) Why is my God persecuting me? (19:22) Why is my impatience criticized? (21:4) Why is my integrity questioned? (27:12)

8. Should we be asking God **why** we are having suffering & hard times? Explain.

*Maybe the lesson here is **HOW** we are to suffer & go through hard times.*

9. What did Job learned at the end of all this?

- a. Job 42:2 _____
- b. Job 42:3 _____
- c. Job 42:5 _____

WHAT A QUESTION. "LORD, HELP ME KNOW HOW TO HANDLE HARD TIMES."