



## HMR Men's Neighborhood Bible Study

### Job - A Man of Trials, Tribulations, and Faithfulness

Lesson #5: Job 27 - 31 (Final Debate from Job)

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 | 7:00 PM | Prepared by Chris Alexander  
[drchrisalexander@outlook.com](mailto:drchrisalexander@outlook.com)

#### Series Overview

The book of Job provides one of the greatest narratives addressing the interaction of God, man, and Satan. We not only observe God's Sovereignty displayed in this incredible book, but the book dispels the notion that *bad things can't happen to good people*. The trials and tribulations to which Job was subjected, including the loss of his sons, daughters, wealth, and health, were used to display the incredible power God has in controlling the events in our lives and the faithfulness that one man could exhibit while enduring some of life's greatest challenges.

During the "time of COVID" we need to study men like Job in all their humanity struggle with the unknowns of life, while also trusting in God's overall goodness and mercy. When we know God has a plan, specifically one for our lives, it makes almost any experience bearable. As Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 12:10 (NIV): *That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Provided below is the outline for our series that will cover 42 chapters in the book of Job over a 7-lesson period. All Scripture is God-breathed and intended to transform our lives. The book of Job is no exception as God intended for us to learn from Job's experiences. God's desire is that as we endure trials and tribulations in our own lives, we remain laser-focused on Him and His plan for our lives. It is essential that we believe He has everything under control, that nothing surprises Him, and through all circumstances His desire is to transform us to be more like Jesus.

Focus	Dilemma of Job	Debate of Job					Deliverance of Job
Lesson Number	1 September 8	2 September 22	3 October 6	4 October 20	5 November 10	6 November 17	7 December 1
Divisions	Controversy between God and Satan	First Cycle of Debate	Second Cycle of Debate	Third cycle of Debate	Final Debate from Job	Solution per Elihu	Controversy between God and Job
Biblical Passage	Job 1:1 to 2:13	Job 3:1 to 14:22	Job 15:1 to 21:34	Job 22:1 to 26:14	Job 27:1 to 31:40	Job 32:1 to 37:24	Job 38:1 to 42:17
Topics	Conflict & Prose	Debate & Poetry					Repentance & Prose
Location	Heaven & Earth	Land of Uz (North Arabia)					Heaven & Earth
Time	Patriarchal Period (c. 2,000 B.C.)						

Well, we've reached the final debate from Job. Everything in this series is pushing us towards the final "discussion" between Job and God, where God lays down the gauntlet. In this week's lesson I'd like us to explore the concept of "faith" and its role in pressing through difficult time. I would argue having faith and confidence in God's sovereign ability to control the uncertainty in our lives and future events is the hallmark of a mature follower of Jesus. A man's faith determines how he deals with adversity and the world around him. Men who have strong faith are not swayed by events; rather, they trust in God and His ability to deal with things we can't. I would argue that Job was a man of faith. Even though he was angry and frustrated with God (and for reasons we can all understand!), he "stayed the course" and did not quit. Many a man has given up on life, including ending their lives, for far less than Job experienced.

1. According to Hebrews 11: 1, what is faith? How would you describe your faith, especially during difficult times?
  
2. In Chapter 28 Job does an excellent job providing insights on wisdom. Of all the books in the Bible, Proverbs is the best at conveying what wisdom is from God's standpoint.
  - a. Read Proverbs 1:1-7. What is wisdom and how is it different than knowledge?
  
  - b. How does wisdom impact the choices we make?
  
  - c. Earlier in this series we discussed the concept of "worldview". As followers of Jesus how might our view of wisdom be different than the world (or those who do not follow Jesus)?
  
3. Job describes in details certain aspects of his life (Job 29). He was clearly a man of stature and highly regarded in the community. In reading this chapter, what attributes, experiences, or characteristics do you see in Job's life you would like in your own?
  
4. I love it when men are honest with God in the Bible. David did this often in reading through Psalms and Job does it in Chapter 30. Let's look specifically at verses 20 through 23.
  - a. Knowing how the story turns out (i.e., that God restores Job and his life), how could we encourage Job?
  
  - b. Has there ever been a time in your life when you served as a great encouragement to someone? What did you say to them?
  
5. Like a lawyer pleading the case of his client before a judge, Job presents his argument before God in Chapter 31. Provided below are six (6) divisions, or themes, in this chapter. This list is an excellent "assessment inventory" for evaluating specific areas of our lives. In which of these areas do you believe men struggle today?
  - a. Sexual purity (verses 1 through 12)
  - b. As an employer (verses 13 through 15)
  - c. Caring for the needy (verses 16 through 23)
  - d. Materialism (verses 24 through 28)
  - e. Dealing with enemies and opposition (verses 29 through 34)
  - f. A final plea for help (verses 35 through 40)
  
6. **Wrapping it all up.** Obviously, none of us want to experience what Job did. As a man, I cannot imagine anything worse than some of the things Job had to ensure. I would say losing his children would be at the top of my list. Bad things happen to us because of *The Fall of Man* (Genesis 3), but sometimes it is a results of sin in our lives. In Hebrews 12:4-11 we find, "The Lord disciplines the one He loves." As we leave tonight, let's consider areas in our lives where God might be disciplining us. As a good father, God's discipline sometimes involves dealing with sin and bad attitudes in our lives. God is always concerned about making us more like Jesus.

**Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM (Job 32 to 37: Solution per Elihu).