

# Discipleship University Bible Reading Guide

## Early Old Testament Foundations: Job 1- 28

For class to be held October 15, 2015

The writing style of the book of **Genesis** is *historical narrative*, which makes it fairly easy to understand even for children. The book of **Job** starts out as *historical narrative*, but in most of the book the writing style is *poetry*. Reading poetry for understanding can be challenging at times, although this epic poem by Moses isn't too hard to follow most of the time. Job was written for the purpose of seeking an answer to questions concerning human suffering and why a loving God allows it. As a part of that theme, the question of death is frequently brought up. By the end of the book there is a profound revelation of God.

Put priority on reading for a spiritual experience. Always pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and for a heart to conform to truth. Guide questions are to help the reader catch some of the key concepts and details.

**Job 1 & 2:** Read these first two chapters very carefully. They are among the plainest in all of Scripture in depicting the great controversy theme.

1. What was Job's status among men? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did God see Job? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did Job offer sacrifices in behalf of each of his children? What's the point of doing this? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Does the passage say where the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why was Satan allowed to come to this gathering of the sons of God? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What was Satan's complaint about how God treated Job?
7. Who caused all the disasters to come upon Job's possessions and his children? \_\_\_\_\_ Who had sovereignty over everything that happened? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How can you explain chapter 2, the last part of verse 3?
9. What two factors made Satan's 2<sup>nd</sup> assault on Job especially difficult?
10. How did Job respond to both rounds of attack?
11. What impresses you at first about Job's friends?

**Job 3-14: The first round of speeches.**

1. After 7 days of suffering in silence, who speaks up first? \_\_\_\_\_ What is his point?
2. What verse best summarizes Job 3? \_\_\_\_\_ **Note:** The form of poetry in much of Job is called *parallelism*, that is, a similar idea is expressed in two different sentences. For example, in verse 11 Job wishes he died from the womb. In the next line (the parallel) he wishes that he had given up the ghost when he was born.
3. What parallel do you see in verse 12? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In Verse 13? \_\_\_\_\_  
**Note:** Some Bible translations show the poetic structure and some do not. Being able to see the poetic structure helps the reader in following the flow of thought.
5. Who makes a speech in Job 4 & 5? \_\_\_\_\_ What seems to be his main purpose in speaking?
6. What is Job's complaint in chapter 6? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is Job's reply in Job 6:14-30 to the reproof of Eliphaz?
8. What does Job 7:9 & 10 teach us about séances and haunted houses?

9. Which friend speaks up in chapter 8? \_\_\_\_\_ Although he sees Job as an unrepentant sinner just as Eliphaz did, what advice does he give? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Summarize how Job responds in Job 9&10? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Who takes his turn to speak in chapter 11? \_\_\_\_\_ How would you compare his tone with that of Eliphaz and Bildad? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What does Zophar say that shows that he thinks Job is a hypocrite?
13. What are the key points in Job's defense in Job 12-14?
14. Who does Job think has brought disaster upon him? \_\_\_\_\_ What verse in chapter 13 impresses you the most as a statement of Job's faith? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What important concepts are found in Job 14:10-14?
16. How does parallelism help with understanding what verse 14 means? What does "change" refer to?

### **Job 15-21: The second round of speeches**

1. After listening to Job's defense, what does Eliphaz think of his speech?
2. Summarize Job's response in chapters 16 & 17. \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does Bildad say about Job in chapter 18?
4. In chapter 19 Job reproves his friends but sees God as the author of his afflictions. List the different people he writes (vss. 13-19) as having deserted him.
5. Even though Job assumes he must soon die, what hope does he see in the future?
6. What does Zophar say in rebuttal in Job 20?
7. What irony does Job describe in chapter 21:7-16? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What does Job say is the same for both the prosperous and the sorrowful or for both the righteous and the wicked?
9. What does Job call his friends' words and answers? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Job 22-26: The third round of speeches.**

1. Of what does Eliphaz accuse Job in 22:5-11?
2. What does Eliphaz urge Job to do?
3. Summarize Job's response in chapter 23.
4. What does Job describe throughout most of chapter 24? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How do verses 24&25 put the injustice and prosperity of the wicked into perspective?
6. What's the point of Bildad's third speech in Job 25?
7. What is Job emphasizing about God in chapter 26?

### **Job 27-28: Job begins his final speech**

1. What is Job saying in chapter 27:1-6?  
How does the poetic structure of parallelism help give understanding to what "spirit of God" means in verse 3? (See also Job 33:4). \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the results of living a wicked life in most of chapter 27?
3. In Job 28, Job describes the enterprises and efforts of mankind (and even the falcon and lion), but indicates something very important is not found in all these impressive activities. What does he say man can't seem to find? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How does Job say wisdom is gained?