

A LOOK AT THE BOOK JOB

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AUTHOR

The book of Job gives no indication of who may have written it. Long list of candidates:

Job- Detailed knowledge of events indicates that the author was an eyewitness.

Elihu- another eyewitness- seems to understand what God is doing.

Moses- the writer for other biblical records from this period- proximity of Uz to Midian.

Solomon- wrote other similar wisdom literature.

God did not intend for us to know who wrote it. The message shows its divine source.

DATE

Suggested dates range from 2000 to 200 B.C. The date will be determined by who wrote the book. Job probably lived during the patriarchal age, around 2000 B.C.

Job's age- After restoration, Job lived another 140 years (42:16-17)

If the Genesis record provides basis for determining the normal life span, this would place Job at about the time of Terah, Abraham's father (Gen. 11:32).

The lifestyle was that of an agricultural society.

Wealth was measured by number of cattle owned, rather than by silver and gold.

The basic societal unit was the family.

Job functioned as the family priest.

Absence of any reference to the Mosaic law or to Israel is also significant.

BACKGROUND

Similar to Melchisedek, Job arrives and leaves without reference to his ancestors, nor to the future of his descendants. When God called Abraham, other people were trusting God apart from the descendants of Abraham. No record is given of how they came to their relationship with God. Some may have learned of Him in their homes, through parents who remembered the experience of their ancestor Noah and remained faithful to his God.

THEME AND PURPOSE

Job was written to answer the question: "**Why do the righteous suffer?**"

Job's "friends" answer that suffering is the result of sin.

This doesn't explain Job's suffering.

Sometimes suffering comes to perfect God's people and to teach them to trust Him more.

While God never directly answers the question, He changes the perspective.

When a person sees God as He is, he still may not understand, but he is willing to trust Him and

His purposes for His people.

Job no longer needs to know why.

Job is as much a book about God and the way He deals with His people, as it is a book about suffering.

The book reveals Him and His dealings with those who love Him.

It will also help us to learn what our attitude should be in the light of God's revelation of Himself.

In addition to the problem of suffering and the revelation of God, Job presents a concrete example of the spiritual conflict existent in the universe.

Although Job was never aware of his role, he was part of a larger conflict between God and Satan, for control of the lives of men.

When Satan saw a man faithfully and voluntarily submitting to God's rule over His life, he set out to cause his fall.

In spite of all Satan's efforts against him, Job remained faithful to God.

Job's example is a warning to all God's people of Satan's purposes and method of attack in their lives.

DOCTRINAL INSTRUCTION

Identify what each of the following believe about God.

Then identify their view of suffering.

Satan Job (first) 3 friends Elihu God Job (end)

PRACTICAL LESSONS

What lessons do we learn about our own lives today from studying Job?

