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*Job 1–2*

Cover to Cover: Introducing Job

*Note:**The questions raised at the beginning of Job are not answered until the end; or those raised today will not become clearer until we’ve finished !*

Context: Job is one of those books you almost need to read all at once to understand or you might mistake some of the things being said. Today we’re going to backtrack in our readings slightly and look at the introduction (chs. 1–2). This sets the stage for the wider story of Job we’ll consider in two parts and reflect upon in the coming weeks’ Life Groups, Suffering and Sovereignty.

We’re reading Job mid-way through Genesis because he probably lived during the time of the patriarchs. This ancient story has much to teach us about timeless questions that humans have asked of God. Today we’ll set the context and begin to probe some of these.

If you are interested in a short video resource on Job see: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/job/>

**Read**: Job 1–2

*BIG Questions to bear in mind:*

* *Where is this passage in the wider story of salvation history?*
* *In what ways does this passage point to Jesus? (Lk 24:27)*

*Questions:*

1. 1:1–5. Who was Job? What kind of man was he? What stands out from his life?
2. 1:6–12. God is holding court in heaven and a mysterious conversation takes place involving a figure known as Satan, or the Accuser.
3. Presuming this figure is Satan (1 Chr 21:1; Rev 12:9), what do you suppose he is doing in Heaven?
4. What is Satan’s logic in accusing Job?
5. What do you make of God permitting Satan to test Job?
6. What limitation is placed on this testing?
7. 1:13–22. What all does Job suffer? What do you make of his response in v. 21.
8. How is v. 22 important?
9. What question immediately arises when we compare Job’s suffering and his righteousness?
   1. These questions form the backbone of the subsequent conversations among the friends.
10. 2:1–10. What new scheme does Satan devise to test Job? What does this look like in vv. 7–8? What all has Job suffered?
11. Like v.22, how is v. 10b important?
12. 2:11–13. These friends will be shown to be miserable comforters and poor theologians (the two are connected). Here, however, they do well. How so?
13. Have you ever had to comfort someone in great grief or distress? How does this help us fulfil 2 Cor 1:3–4?

Even if you don’t have the answers for these questions, put together a list of all of the questions this story raises. Keep track of these as we continue to explore the book of Job.