

INTERACTIVE TRAVEL GUIDE

DESTINATION: *Job 1-42*

Job is the first book in the section of Poetical Books. The opening chapter of the Book of Job begins in the throne room of Heaven, where we observe a conversation between God and Satan regarding the faithfulness of a man named Job. Satan is allowed to test Job's allegiance to God by causing him to suffer the loss of his health, wealth and even family – but is forbidden to take his life. Even with the lack of comfort and support of Job's four friends – and even his wife – Job is left pondering why, yet never loses his faith.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

TRIP PLANNER:

The book of Job is a powerful story, which in the end displays God's sovereignty. Even in the midst of Job's tragic circumstances we see that God was always in control of all that was happening. Job can be divided into three parts:

1. The Dilemma - Chapters 1-2
2. The Debate of Job and his four friends - Chapters 3-37
3. The Deliverance of Job - Chapters 38-42

PLACES OF INTEREST:

Land of Uz - This is the central location in the Book of Job. The exact location of Uz is unknown, but many have speculated that it was probably near Edom. In the beginning of the book, Job 1:3 shows us that Job lived to the east of the Jordan, and some believe Uz might have been located in Syria or northwest Mesopotamia.

Heaven - As the book of Job opens, we are quickly taken into the Heavenly Throne Room of God. As the angels of God came and presented themselves, Satan also came with them and had to ask permission of God to attack Job.

PEOPLE OF INTEREST:

Job - The main character of the book that shares his name. He is characterized as being upright and blameless, one who feared God and shunned evil. Job was wealthy and the greatest of all the people of the East. Hand-picked by God, Job was allowed to be tested and tried, losing family, prosperity and his own health.

Satan - In chapter one, Satan comes with the Heavenly angels to present himself before God. Ever seeking to devour the devout, God gives permission to Satan to begin his attack on Job, hoping Job will curse God.

Job's Wife - After Job had lost his wealth, health, and his children it was his wife who asked Job the question, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die."

Eliphaz the Temanite - One of Job's friends, probably a descendant of Eliphaz, son of Esau (Job 4:1), who came to comfort Job, but instead discouraged him, dogmatically telling Job that all calamity is God's judgment upon sin.

Bildad the Shuhite - Job's second friend to speak. He was descended from Shuah, son of Abraham and Keturah, whose family lived in Arabia. He picked up where Eliphaz left off, trying to convince Job the destruction that had befallen his life was a result of some hidden or covered sin.

Zophar the Naamathite - The third in order of Job's friends. He too believed Job's tragedies were a result of sin and could be divine punishment. Zophar contended with Job to turn from his ways lest a heavier judgment come upon him.

Elihu the Buzite - The youngest of Job's friends and last to speak. Elihu was assertive and approached Job giving him half the truth. He condemned Job for his self righteousness and declared the glory and majesty of God. What Elihu failed to realize is that trials and tribulations can befall even the most godly of men.

FUN FACTS:

Bear, Orion and Pleiades - Mentioned in Chapter nine and chapter 38, these were three of the great constellations of the heavens. Pleiades is also mentioned in Amos 5:8 and is poetically referred to as "the seven stars." Orion was the constellation next to Pleiades and was thought to resemble the form of a hunter. In ancient mythology, Orion was killed by the goddess Diana and placed in the sky as a constellation.

Gravity - In Job 26:7, we see the existence of gravity as Job declares that the earth hangs upon nothing. The earliest known theory of gravitation was from Aristotle in the 4th century B.C. Yet Newton didn't publish his work on the universal law of gravity until 1687—showing us that God is always one step ahead of the scientific community.

Potsherd - In chapter 2, Satan strikes Job with painful boils from his feet to his head. Job uses a potsherd, also known as a "shard," to scrape the boils from his body. A potsherd was a broken piece of pottery often found in archeological digs today.

Behemoth - The name has come to be used for any extremely large or powerful creature. The word Behemoth in Hebrew means beast, but here in Job something more specific is being talked about. Some believe what is being spoken of here is a mythological creature, and others assert that it might be a brontosaurus or some other dinosaur, although most scholars believe behemoth is nothing more than a hippopotamus.

Leviathan - Much like Behemoth, there are many thoughts as to what this mysterious creature actually is. References to Leviathan are made in Psalm 74, Psalm 104, as well as in Isaiah 27. Some have suggested Leviathan to be a whale or dolphin while others speculate that Job is referring to a crocodile. One thing is agreed upon, and that is that Leviathan is a large creature that dwells in the water.

