

Who is Job?

1. Job the man: “the hated or **persecuted** one”

A. He lived in the land of **Uz**

I. 1:19 **Job lived near the desert**

II. 1:3, 14; 42:12 **the territory was fertile for farming and raising livestock**

III. 1:3

IV. 1:17 **Job’s homeland was vulnerable to Chaldean raiding parties** to the east of the land of Israel and south and east of Edom in northern Arabia?

V. Uz is also the name of three Old Testament figures:

a. Genesis 10:22 & 1 Chronicles 1:17

b. Genesis 22:21

c. Genesis 36:28 & 1 Chronicles 1:42

B. He is **married** (2:9)

C. He has **children** 7 sons & 3 daughters – *what do vs 4 & 5 say about him?*

D. He is **wealthy** with herds of sheep camels, oxen, donkeys and many servants (1:3)

E. He has a great **reputation** vs 3 He was the greatest (gadovl - a modified verb = “a shaker and a mover”) man among all the people of the East.

2. Job the man of God, vs 1 This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. (look at vs 5)

A.I. blameless – tam = **having integrity and showing it in a moral sense**

B.I. upright – yasar = **denotes the character of God and those who reverence Him**

B.II. feared God – yare = **describes a “God-fearer”, someone seeking to respect and honor God**

A.II. shunned evil – sur ra = **to turn away from unethical, immoral activity**

*How do these verses characterize Job's life...relationship with God...what would we say about Job?*



When did Job live, and who is the author of the book?

1. Date of Job's life

A. **earliest** Biblical figures?

B. Evidence points to him living during the **patriarchal** period because,

I. there is no reference to the **Exodus**

II. the patriarchal name for God – "LORD" – YHWH – is used more than **25** times

III. Job served as the **priest** for his family - the Mosaic Law had not yet been given

IV. the length of Job's life (42:16) is comparable to those living during the time of the patriarch (Gen 25:7; 35:28)

V. some speculate that Job lived prior to the patriarchal period, coming from the line of **Shem** following the flood

2. Authorship of Job

A. While Luther espoused the author of Job to be Solomon (because of his vast knowledge of foreign countries/cultures), most scholars accept the Talmudic tradition that **Moses** authored Job (due to similar words used in the Pentateuch as well as Job; that Moses lived in Midian, adjacent to Uz, and would have known of the account of Job)

B. From Luther's "Table Talks" we hear, *"Job didn't speak the way it is written (in his book), but he thought these things. One doesn't speak that way under temptation. Nevertheless, the things reported actually happened. They are like the plot of a story which a writer, like Terence, adopts and to which he adds characters and circumstances. The author wished to paint a picture of patience. It's possible that Solomon himself wrote this book, for the style is not very different from his. At the time of Solomon the story which he undertook to write was old and well known. It was as if I today were to take up the stories of Joseph or Rebekah. The Hebrew poet, whoever he was, saw and wrote about those temptations, as Virgil described Aeneas, led him through all the seas and resting places, and made him a statesman and soldier. Whoever wrote Job, it appears that he was a great theologian."*

3. Style of writing

A. It is the first OT book classified as **poetry** – the prologue (chs 1 & 2) and epilogue (42:7-16) are **prose**

B. The poetry employed is Hebrew "**parallelism**" which expresses the rhyming of thoughts/ideas not sounds, ie vs 5, # 2 above