

# Bible Book of Whenever (BBOW)

artwork by Amos Oaks

## Job

*Hello, Friends, and Welcome!*

### Here's the reading plan for Job

One way to read Job is to start by reading the Story of Job (found in chapters **1, 2,** and **42**). After that, you might read the cycles of Job and his friends speeches (three cycles of speeches), followed by the Lord's speeches to Job. This way, you would read through Job in approximately two weeks. If you read the book this way, you might follow this outline:

1. Job's Story (**1, 2, 42**)
2. Job's First speech (**3**) (*this introduces the first round of speeches*)
3. Eliphaz speaks (**4-5**), then Job responds (**6-7**)
4. Bildad speaks (**8**), and Job replies (**9-10**)
5. Zophar speaks (**11**), Job replies (**12-14**)
6. (*The second round of speeches starts here*) Eliphaz (**15**), then Job (**16-17**)
7. Bildad (**18**), then Job (**19**)
8. Zophar (**20**), then Job (**21**)
9. (*The third round of speeches start here*) Eliphaz (**22**), Job (**23-24**)
10. Bildad (**25**), Job (**26-31**)
11. Elihu, a new speaker (**32-37**)
12. God starts speaking (**38-42**)

A second reading approach:

With 42 chapters, you might read a chapter a day, and double up a few times to finish Job in a month.

Here's the Swedish Marking System:

- ? Something I don't understand, or would like to know more about, etc.
- ★ Something I think is really good, helpful, inspiring, etc.
- ➔ Something I need to think about, work on, etc.

# The Place of Job in the Old Testament

Job is the first of five books commonly referred to as "**The Books Of Poetry.**" These include Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. They are called such because they are written in poetic style in contrast to the narrative (story) style of most other books, they are also often referred to as "**Wisdom Literature**" (especially Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes). Oswald Chambers (1874-1917) offered this concise summary of the five books:

- \* **Job - How to suffer**
- \* **Psalms - How to pray**
- \* **Proverbs - How to act**
- \* **Ecclesiastes - How to enjoy**
- \* **Song of Solomon - How to love**

Most Scholars believe Job is likely the oldest book in the Bible.

## Elsewhere in the Bible

- Job is mentioned in **Ezekiel 14:14, 20** along with Noah and Daniel as examples of righteous men.
- Paul quotes from Job on several occasions in his writings (cf. **1Co 3:19** with **Job 5:13** and **Ro 11:35** with **Job 41:11**).
- James holds up Job in his letter as an example of patience in suffering (**James 5:10-11**).

## Some Unique Features of Job

- Job contains the longest place (for lengthy chapters) in the Bible where God himself speaks (**Job 38-41**).
- Job contains the longest place in the Bible where Satan speaks (**Job 1-2**).
- Job provides a rare insight into heaven, revealing a conversation between God and Satan before the Angels around the divine throne.

## Some Key Verses

Most likely the most famous verse in Job:

- Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither; The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord (**1:21**)

A favorite verse of the Oaks family (which was a favorite of Patricia's mother, Lila Combs):

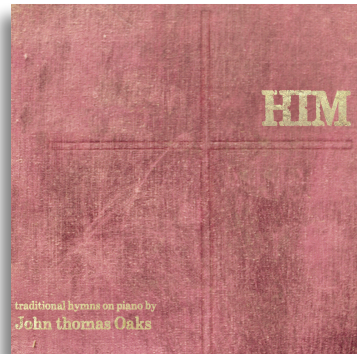
- Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him (**13:15**).

A verse asking one of the biggest questions:

- If a man dies, will he live again (**14:14**)?

And the verses a famous song is based on:

- I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God (**19:25-26**).



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