

Information for this lesson is derived from multiple commentaries and book sources.

Let's Build Up A Hedge

Text: Job 1&2; Isaiah 5:1-7

Author: Although most of the book consists of the words of Job and his friends, Job himself was not the author. Several scholars believe that the author was an Israelite, since he (not Job or his friends) frequently uses the Israelite covenant name for God (Yahweh; NIV "the Lord"). Many attribute the writing to Moses... it is possible, but there are passages that suggest that might not be the case. It is safe to say the author is unknown.

Place: The faithful man Job lived in the "land of Uz" (Job 1:1). But where was the land of Uz? It's tricky to identify as the name "Uz" seems to be an informal name applied by the Israelites to a region and not the formal name of a country. Job 1:3 says that Job was, "the greatest of all the people of the East." But east of where?

One of the documents found along with the Dead Sea Scrolls is a non-Biblical document known as the "War Scroll". It identifies Uz as being, "beyond the Euphrates." But that document has been dated to be written at least 1,500 years after the time of Job and locating Uz that far east does not match with the information the Bible gives us.

Some believe Uz was located in northern Arabia based on the peoples that attacked and took Job's livestock. A case can be definitely be made for this location.

Time: Job's life on the Biblical timeline falls at approximately 2100BC (give or take a 100 years). If you attribute the writing to Moses, he was born some 600 years later that (approx. 1525BC). So that would put the writing of the book of Job some 650 to 750 years after Job lived. Job is lacking references to historical events, making it difficult to pinpoint a particular time... a definite time of writing is unknown.

Purpose: Precher Dee's opinion

Throughout recorded history people have asked, "Why do go things happen to bad people and bad things happen to good people?" or "How can God allow these bad things to happen?" The book of Job really does not address those questions, even though they are asked all through the book. In fact, instead of answering those questions, he decides to tell a story of a Godly man, Job, that is stricken with great, prolonged suffering, simply to relate to blessing of a strong faith.

The expression **patience of Job** comes from the New Testament Book of [James 5:11](#) - "You have heard of the **patience** of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, because the Lord is compassionate and merciful." The Greek word **ύπομονή** has also been translated as perseverance, fortitude, and endurance.

Here are the some basic principles of truth from Job.

1. God is the highest law in the universe.
2. God rewards great faith, sometimes in this life, but always in the next.
3. God's plan and purposes are at times only known to Him.
4. Mankind has a great spiritual enemy in Satan.

Key Verse:

Job 13:15a (NKJV) *"Though He slay me, yet I will trust Him."*

1. There are spiritual forces attacking our lives, families, marriages, and churches today. Describe some ways you see this happening?

2. Who is the primary enemy of our lives?

John 10:10 "The _____ comes only to _____, _____, and _____. I came that you may have _____ and have it _____."

1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your _____ the _____ prowls around like a roaring _____, seeking someone to devour."

3. What comparisons do we see between Job 1&2 and Isaiah 5:1-7?

Hint: (God's people were allowed to be attacked and overcome. How did this occur?)

4. Three times God describes Job's character qualities. What are they? (Job 1:1, 8, 2:3)

a) _____ c) _____

b) _____ d) _____

5. Job 1:6 says Satan had been roaming the earth. What do you think he was looking for?

6. What had Satan apparently missed Job? (Job 1:8-11)

7. What was placed around Job?

8. Why do you think placed the hedge around Job and blessed him?

9. Let's look at Job's qualities.

❖ What does it mean to be **blameless**? (Philippians 2:14-16; 2 Peter 3:14; 1 Timothy 5:7)

❖ Describe an **upright** person. (Proverbs 11:3, 6, 11)

❖ What does it mean to **fear God**? (Deuteronomy 5:29; Joshua 24:14-15)

❖ If we **turn away from evil**, what happens? (Psalm 97:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:22-23)

10. What happens to people when these qualities seem to be missing or willingly ignored?

11. What does Psalm 32:6-11; Psalm 34:7 tell us about those who submit to God?

12. How is your hedge?

Seek God for a "hedge of protection" to be built around our families, churches and nation!