

## The Scriptures Summarized / Book 18 — Job

Job is mentioned as an actual person in the OT book of Ezekiel (14:14 & 20) and the NT book of James (5:11). Thus, this book is not a parable but a real historical incident and individual. Job lived in the land, Uz. In ancient days, lands were often named after the initial settler or most influential person in the region's development. Noah had a great-grandson by that name.

Gen. 10:22 The sons of Shem: Elam, Ashur, Arphaxad, Lud and Aram.

23 The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether and Meshek.

24 Arphaxad was the father of Shelah, and Shelah the father of Eber.

Uz, we also learn, had a second cousin named Eber. This is the historical forefather of the Hebrew people, from which Abraham is the most notable. Thus, Job must have been a distant cousin, living around the same time as the Patriarchs.

We can determine this from multiple factors. Job acted as a priest for his own family, even offering burnt sacrifices (1:5). This would not have been allowed after Moses, for the Levites were assigned that exclusive responsibility and privilege. Additionally, Job lives for another 140 years AFTER the tragic loss of his first 10 adult children. This longer lifespan matches those recorded in Scripture from that era. Also, it is evident that there were no written Scriptures off of which Job and his friends could discuss the person or ways of God. Thus, it is likely written PRIOR to Moses, making it the oldest book of the Bible. However, it is a mystery when this was written or who exactly penned this lengthy book of poetry and prose.

Although it initially appears that friends Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar had noble intentions of consoling Job, they end up arguing with him about his personal guilt in suffering. God repudiates their views as lacking truth

(42:7). Elihu is a younger man who rebukes these men as shallow, suggesting we trust God who has divine reasons we cannot fathom.

- I. Prologue Chapters 1-2 — Job's Faith
  - A. Job's noble character is Discovered
  - B. Job's noble character is Discussed
  - C. Job's noble character is Dismissed
  - D. Job's noble character is Discomforted
  - E. Job's noble character is Displayed
- II. Dialogue Chapters 3-37 — Job's Friends
  - A. Assumptions are recorded about Job's Injuries
  - B. Accusations are recorded about Job's Iniquities
  - C. Assertions are recorded about Job's Innocence
  - D. Alarm is recorded about Job's Interpretation
- III. Monologue — Chapters 38-42:6 Job's Finiteness
  - A. God does not lack Power
  - B. God does not share our Perspective
  - C. God does not seek our Permission
  - D. God does not answer our Perplexities
- IV. Epilogue — Chapter 42:7-17 Job's Fate
  - A. What the Text records about Repentance
  - B. What the Text records about Rebuke
  - C. What the Text records about Restoration
  - D. What the Text records about Recovery

Job 42:10 ... the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before... 12 The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part... (Compare 1:2-3; with 42:12-13!)