

Theme: Those who fear God and follow His ways can still face great suffering in this life.

## I. Intro – The Limits of Wisdom

- A. Proverbs tells us how to manage our lives
- B. Proverbs speaks of blessings of wisdom
- C. Does life always work out that way?
- D. Are there limits to wisdom?
- E. Can we always understand this life?
- F. The brevity of our look at Job & Ecclesiastes

## II. The Structure of the Book of Job

- A. Prose prologue – Job 1-2
- B. Poetic dialogue – Job 3 – 42:6
  - 1. Job and three friends – 3 cycles (3-27)
  - 2. Hymn to wisdom – 28
  - 3. Job’s final speech – 29-31
  - 4. Elihu’s interruption – 32-37
  - 5. God’s speech and Job’s response – 38-42:6
- C. Prose epilogue – Job 42:7-17

## III. The Story of Job

- A. Job the upright blessed man (Proverbs wise man)
  - 1. “blameless and upright” (1:1; Pro 2:7)
  - 2. Feared God and shunned evil (1:1; Pro 14:16)
  - 3. Blessed (1:2-3; expectation of Proverbs)
  - 4. God’s verdict – 1:8 (2:3); 1:22; 2:10
  - 5. Rest of Scripture - Ezek 14:13-14; James 5:11
- B. Job’s first test
  - 1. A heavenly council (1:6-7)
  - 2. Satan – the accuser – Zech 3:1-2; Rev 12:11
  - 3. God challenges Satan (1:8)
  - 4. Satan questions Job’s sincerity (1:9-11)
  - 5. God’s surprising answer (1:12)
  - 6. The test: Job loses everything (1:13-19)
  - 7. Job’s response (1:20-21)
  - 8. The verdict – Job passes the test (1:22)
- C. Job’s second test
  - 1. Same literary structure as 1<sup>st</sup> test
  - 2. Satan’s desire – afflict Job himself (2:4-5)

3. God's surprising answer (2:6)
4. The test: Job afflicted with sores (2:7-8)
5. Job's wife taunts him (2:9)
6. Job's response (2:10)
7. The verdict: Job passes the test (2:10)

#### **IV. Applying the Word**

- A. Do you see that Job was upright?
  1. The text is unmistakable on this point
  2. Job is the wise man of Proverbs
  3. Job's afflictions are not God's punishment of sin
  4. Do we respond like Job when tested?
- B. Do you see Satan's malevolence?
  1. Satan hates Job and mocks his faith
  2. Satan desires to crush us – without pity (Jn 10:10)
  3. Do you see Satan is the accuser?
  4. Do you listen to Satan's lies?
- C. Do you see God's sovereignty?
  1. God is in control – defines Satan's limits

2. Nothing happens to us without passing through God first
3. However, God does allow testing to fall
4. Do we trust God – even when being tested?

#### **D. The Lord's Supper – renewing our trust**

### The Limits of Wisdom Job - Part 1 - His Story

Job 1-2; James 5:11

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Communion

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

- Prose prologue (Job 1-2)
- Poetic dialogue (Job 3 - 42:6)
- Prose epilogue (Job 42:7-17)

He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless  
 Proverbs 2:7

A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.  
 Proverbs 14:16

“Son of man, if a country sins against me by being unfaithful and I stretch out my hand against it to cut off its food supply and send famine upon it and kill its men and their animals, 14 even if these three men-- Noah, Daniel and Job-- were in it, they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign LORD.”  
 Ezekiel 14:13-14

As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.  
 James 5:11

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. 2 The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"  
 Zechariah 3:1-2

The great dragon was hurled down-- that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.  
 Revelation 12:9-10