

# Job

40 Days

---

Enhanced Bible Reading Guide



**DEEP ROOTED** *Daily*



**Kathy Howard**

---

## Get Ready to Grow

God has revealed Himself, His ways, and purposes to us in the Bible. If we want to know Him more fully and please Him with our lives, we must plant ourselves in His Word. Then, as our spiritual roots grow deep in Scripture, we will become healthy, vibrant, and fruitful disciples.

However, many Christians lack confidence when it comes to handling Scripture. We aren't sure where to read, how to understand what we read, or how to apply it. There are many devotionals and Bible studies available that will do much of the work for us. But there's no substitute for going to the Word for ourselves.

This resource is not a devotional or Bible study. It is an expanded Bible reading plan with questions and prompts designed to guide you to understand and apply what you read. Some readings have brief commentary that shares helpful information.

This *Deep Rooted Daily Enhanced Bible Reading Guide* provides a framework to help you read and study the Bible on your own. It is formatted around the 4 R Bible study method, which is an inductive study method simple enough to use every day. Each day you will **Read** the passage, **Record** your observations, **Reflect** on the meaning, and finally **Respond** to God's Word.

*Note: You will find more information about the 4 R Bible study method at the end of this guide that can help you take your daily reading to the next level.*

May God produce fruit in your life from your time in His Word!

Kathy





## How to Use This Guide

- **Gather your tools** – The only thing you must have is a Bible. (If you only use one translation, a word-for-word translation like the ESV, RSV, or NASB is best for study.) You may also want highlighters to observe the text, a pen to write with, and a journal or notebook to write in if you're using a digital version of this guide.
- **Read the introduction to the book** – Knowing the background of a Bible book greatly aids correct understanding of the book itself. The introduction – included in this guide – shares pertinent information like author, audience, setting, and purpose of the Bible book.
- **Read the daily Bible passage** – Before you read any of the commentary or questions, read the Bible text. If you have time, read it in more than one translation to enhance your understanding.
- **Read any commentary and answer the questions** – If you want to deepen your study beyond what's provided in the guide, see the “4 R Bible Study Method” appendix in the back for suggestions.



# Introduction to Job



The book of Job is unique in many ways and stands out as one-of-a-kind in the biblical canon. Job tells the story of a righteous man who experienced massive loss and endured tremendous suffering.

Job's story is both ancient and timeless. Job's lifestyle and specific circumstances are rooted in a very different time and culture. But Job's struggles are timeless and universal. The book grapples with the question of human suffering and why God allows it.

## **Literary Genre:**

Job is classified as Wisdom literature along with Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. Job also combines different literary genres. The introduction and conclusion are historical narrative. But the bulk of the book is Hebrew poetry which uses parallelism.

## **Historical Setting:**

The setting of Job and his story are distinguished from the date of writing. If scholarly guesses are correct, Job lived centuries before his story was finally written down in the form we have today.

Many scholars think the historical Job may have lived during the Patriarchal period (as early as 2,000 BC). Clues in the text about his way of life, religious practices, and length of life seem to identify Job as a wealthy nomad who lived before God established a formal priesthood.

The book locates Job in the land of Uz. Scholars aren't sure of the location. Some suggest southeast of Israel in Edom, others northeast in Syria. If Job lived during the time of the patriarchs, he may have known about God from Abraham's family which came from northeast of Palestine. Yet, some internal evidence suggests Job's three friends were Edomites.

## **Author and Date of Writing:**

The language of the text seems to indicate a composition date much later than the historical setting. Although Job likely lived during the time of the patriarchs, his story was passed down orally for generations before it was written. But since the book does not refer to any historical events or religious institutions, scholars don't agree on exactly when that was. I read suggestions from as early as the time of Moses (1,400-1,200 BC) to post-exilic (400 BC or even later).



---

## Structure:

The following is a very rough breakdown of the book:

- Introduction (chapters 1-2) – Job's original happy situation, Satan's request to test him, and Job's great losses (prose)
- Job's lament (chapter 3)
- Speeches (chapters 4-41) – God & Satan; Job and friends; God and Job (poetry)
  - 3 cycles of dialogue between Job and his three friends – Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar
  - 3 series of monologues – Job (29-31), the young man Elihu (32-37), and God (38-42:6)
- Conclusion/epilogue (chapter 42:&-17) – Job's restoration (prose)

## DAY 1

### READ: JOB 1:1-22

Welcome to Job! If you missed the introduction to the book, go back and look at that. It will give you a good foundation for studying the book. Although there is much we don't know about this book, its themes and the truths it teaches us are timeless.

First, Job deals with suffering. Job struggles with big questions like "Why do the righteous suffer?" and "Where is God in the midst of our suffering?" Job shows that no one is exempt from suffering. Even the most righteous experience grief and trouble.

Second, Job explores why people worship God. Do people worship Him simply for what God can do for them or because He deserves our worship no matter our circumstances? Answering these questions will help us face suffering when it comes to us.

The first two chapters of Job serve as a prologue. It introduces the characters and setting and sets the stage for the poetical heart of the book.

Here's a few notes about today's passage:

- Uz likely refers to Edom, southeast of Israel, near modern-day Jordan
- Job's livestock, particularly camels, reflect great wealth
- The feasting of Job's children may have been birthday celebrations
- Job's activities on behalf of his children show he performed the role of family priest
- The "sons of God" in verse 6 refer to angelic beings

### RECORD:

*Underline or highlight the key word/phrase "curse God" and its variations.*

*List all the facts you see about Job.*

*Restate Satan's argument to God in your own words.*

*Briefly list the series of news Job received.*

*How did Job respond to all the loss?*

**REFLECT:**

*What truths about God did Job recognize?*

*What other eternal truths about God and suffering does this passage teach?*

*What supposed premise about people's worship is behind Satan's argument to God?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 2

**READ: JOB 2:1-13**

We don't know how much time has passed since chapter 1, but chapter 2 opens with a scene very similar to the heaven scene of chapter 1. Here, God directs Satan's attention to Job to show him that his test failed. Job did not turn away from and curse God when tragedy hit.

There is not enough information in the text to identify the exact nature of Job's physical affliction. We can know it was extremely painful and debilitating. Symptoms cited from the rest of the book include sleeplessness (7:4), worm-infected sores (7:5), sores that scab, crack, and ooze (7:5), putrid breath (19:17), emaciation (19:20), loss of teeth (19:20), pain (30:17), and fever and chills (30:30). Scrapping the sores with pieces of pottery may have simply temporarily relieved the symptoms.

Most people in Job's day would have considered his suffering to be punishment for some wickedness. However, the text repeatedly contradicts that belief.

Although the home countries of Job's three friends cannot be identified with certainty, it seems they all came from different countries. This fact may suggest that Job was well-known outside his own country.

**RECORD:**

*Compare God's description of Job in verse 3 to His description of Job in 1:8. What if any differences do you see?*

*What fact about Job's suffering do you see in verse 3?*

*According to verses 4-5, what was Satan's theory about Job?*

*How did God respond to Satan's theory?*

*What advice did Job's wife give him? (Keep in mind that we do not know her motivation or tone of voice. She may have been grieving over Job's suffering or she may have been hardened against God because of all she lost.)*

*Restate in your own words how Job responded to his wife's suggestion.*

*List all the actions of Job's friends when they arrived.*

**REFLECT:**

*What do you learn about Job and his faith from the comparison of God's description of him?*

*What does the phrase "without reason" in verse 3 teach us about suffering?*

*What does God's response to Satan in verse 6 reveal about Satan's power? God's power?*

*What do we learn from Job's statement in verse 10 about God? About how we should understand and respond to suffering?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 3

**READ: JOB 3:1-26**

The poetical section begins in chapter 3. We will see repeated cycles of speeches between Job and his friends. Chapter three contains all of Job's first speech. This speech contains three primary sections. In verses 1-10, Job cursed the day of his birth. In verses 11-19, Job expressed his longing for stillbirth. Then in verses 20-26, Job asked why God gives life to those who will know only suffering.

Keep in mind the poetical nature of this section of Job. It is filled with parallelism, metaphors, and imagery. We should not try to interpret every line separately or take the imagery literally. Also keep in mind that everything Job and his friends express is not necessarily theologically accurate. Job voices strong feelings from a place of darkness, pain, and depression. His friends also grope for answers and share their opinions.

Notes:

- The "Leviathan" mentioned in verse 8 is an ancient mythical creature that represents a sea monster or dragon.
- "Hedged in" in verse 23 is the same as "hedged in" in verse 1:10.

**RECORD:**

*List everything Job wished concerning the day of his birth.*

*Note the connecting word "because" in verse 10. Why did Job curse the day of his birth?*

*List all the reasons you find in verses 11-19 for why Job longed to have been stillborn.*

*What do you learn about Job's physical condition in verses 20-26?*

**REFLECT:**

*According to verses 17-19 in what way is death a great equalizer?*

*Summarize in one brief question what Job is asking in verses 20-25.*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 4

**READ: JOB 4:1-21**

Yesterday, we read Job's lament in Job chapter three. Now, here in chapter four, the first cycle of speeches begins between Job and his three friends. Eliphaz's first speech is recorded in chapters 4-5.

The three friends and Job all have their own understanding of how God works in the world and relates to mankind. Their speeches are filled with "theology." However, not all of it is sound and biblical.

It's our job as students of God's Word to discern between what is their flawed opinion/understanding and what is accurate according to the whole counsel of Scripture. For instance, the ancient near east held to the "retribution principle." They believed that God always acts toward people in direct correlation to their innocence or wickedness. They believed the innocent always thrive and the wicked always suffer. While Scripture does teach that sin brings consequences and God will judge the wicked in His time, God's Word also teaches that difficulty comes to all. In fact, sometimes God's people suffer because we are God's people.

Let's keep this in mind as we dive into these speeches. Watch for the speaker's "theology" and use the rest of Scripture to determine what is sound and what is faulty.

One last thing. As you read the speeches, it will be helpful to read them in more than one translation. First use a word-for-word like the ESV, then use a more thought-for-thought like the NLT.

**RECORD:**

*Who is speaking in this passage? Who is he speaking to?*

*Restate verse 2 in your own words.*

*According to verses 3-4 what had Job done many times in the past?*

*Summarize verses 5-6 in one brief sentence.*

*According to verses 7-11, what did Eliphaz believe about the suffering of the innocent and the wicked?*

*Describe the dream/vision Eliphaz had (verses 12-16).*

*What did his visitor say about the nature of mankind?*

**REFLECT:**

*Based on his words, what motivated Eliphaz to speak to Job?*

*Although in the past Job had encouraged others in his position, why did he struggle with discouragement now?*

*Based on the rest of Scripture what was Eliphaz right about? What was he wrong about?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 5

**READ: JOB 5:1-27**

Keep what we talked about yesterday in sight today and through the rest of Job. First, we are reading poetry. Consider the parallelism and don't view each line as separate and distinct. Second, the speeches of Job's friends will reflect some truth, but much of what they say will be skewed and warped because their counsel is often built on faulty premises.

For instance, here Eliphaz hold to a common, but unbiblical belief that righteous people won't experience trouble and that evil people will always bring destruction in this life (vs 7). While it is biblical that we reap what we sow, it is also biblical that judgment on evil is often delayed and that trouble falls on the righteous.

Another faulty premise by Eliphaz is that Job had sinned and brought this trouble on himself. While Job was not perfect, the opening prologue clearly showed the reader that Job had done nothing to bring his trouble. In fact, it was precisely because of his righteous walk with God that trouble came.

Yet, Eliphaz tells Job that it is futile for him to seek God's help until he repents of his sin (vs 1-2). He also counsels Job to welcome God's discipline for his sin (vs 17). So, as you observe the text, simply record what Eliphaz says. Then in the reflect step, we will sort out what is faulty and what is biblical.

**RECORD:**

*List all the observations Eliphaz made about "fools" (vs 3-7).*

*Summarize Eliphaz's primary advice to Job.*

*What observations did Eliphaz make about God, His character, and His work?*

*What observations did Eliphaz make about the results for those who submit to God's discipline?*

**REFLECT:**

*Using what you know from the rest of Scripture, which of Eliphaz's observations about fools is true?*

*Using what you know from the rest of Scripture, which of Eliphaz's observations about God is true?*

*Using what you know from the rest of Scripture, which of Eliphaz's observations the results of submitting to God's discipline are true?*

*Based on what you know to be true about God and about Job's situation, what one piece of advice would you give him?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 6

**READ: JOB 6:1-30**

Chapters 6-7 record Job's response to Eliphaz. Watch for the imagery and parallelism of the poetry. Keep in mind that Job expresses his feelings which may not always be a completely accurate understanding of the situation on his part. His pain and suffering have clouded his judgment and understanding. For instance, in verse 14-15 Job accuses his friends of being unkind and unreliable. Yes, it's true that they have misunderstood Job's situation thus giving wrong counsel. But they are there with him trying to help.

The heavy imagery and style of writing is often hard for us to understand. Rather than trying to decipher every detail, simply look for the main points of what Job is saying. Reading the passage from the New Living Translation will be a big help. If you don't have a physical copy, you can read it on [BibleGateway.com](https://www.biblegateway.com).

**RECORD:**

*What word picture did Job use to describe the depth of his suffering in verses 2-3?*

*Based on verse 4, how does Job understand his situation overall?*

In verse 5, Job essentially says he has the right to complain! In verses 6-7, Job used word pictures to describe the unhelpful nature of Eliphaz's words so far.

*What does Job long for in verses 8-10?*

*How does Job describe his strength in verses 11-13?*

*Use verses 14-21 to list all the accusations Job makes against his friends.*

*What word picture did Job use to emphasize the nature of their "help?"*

*In verses 24-27, what one overall thing did Job ask his friends to do?*

*Job feels his friends have disregarded his claims of innocence. What did he ask them to do in verses 28-30?*

**REFLECT:**

*Summarize Job's words from chapter 6 in just three short sentences.*

*Is Job's understanding of God's position correct (vs 4)? If not, in what way is it incorrect? Use other Scripture to back this up.*

*What principles for dealing with suffering friends do you see in this chapter?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 7

**READ: JOB 7:1-21**

Chapter 7 finishes Job's response to Eliphaz. Yet, beginning at verse 11, Job more directly addresses God Himself. Job brutally and honestly expressed his feelings.

Verses 20-21 reveals that Job does not consider himself to be sinless. He knows he is a sinner, but has always humbly tried to stay repentant before God. So now Job wonders WHY. Perhaps there is some reason God had not accepted his past repentance? Why has God targeted him? Job seeks answers, but none come.

**RECORD:**

*List everything you learn about Job's condition in this passage. Look particularly in verses 3-7.*

*What observations does Job make about life in general?*

*What feelings did Job express to God?*

*What questions did Job ask of God?*

**REFLECT:**

*Summarize in one sentence the state of human life as observed by Job.*

*Although Job is completely honest with God, what line does he NOT cross? Remember his wife's urging in 2:9.*

*What is the difference between brutal honesty with God and sinning in the way we relate to Him?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 8

**READ: JOB 8:1-22**

This chapter records the first speech from Job's friend Bildad. He begins very directly, bluntly calling Job a "windbag." Bildad essentially said that Job was full of forceful, but empty words. Bildad is very confident in what he believes to be true. He has a simple, hard-lined theology that he decisively applies to Job's situation.

Remember the context. What Bildad declares is what *he* believes. Some of it lines up with the whole counsel of Scripture and some does not. It's our job to consider which of his words line up and which do not.

This is one example of why context is so vital. If we simply opened the Bible and started reading in the middle of Job, we could easily miss the fact that the speeches of Job's friends are their opinions about Job's situation.

**RECORD:**

*Based on verse 3, what did Bildad accuse Job of doing?*

*Use the whole passage to make a list of what Bildad believes about God's character and the way He works.*

*Use the whole passage to make a list of Bildad's suppositions about God based on the beliefs you listed above.*

*What word pictures do you see in this passage and what do they represent?*

*Use the whole passage to make a list of Bildad's advice to Job.*

**REFLECT:**

*Based on the whole counsel of Scripture, in what ways did Bildad believe rightly?*

*Based on the whole counsel of Scripture, in what ways did Bildad believe wrongly?*

*What, if any, of Bildad's advice to Job was sound?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 9

**READ: JOB 9:1-35**

Job's response to Bildad is recorded in chapters 9-10. Job begins by agreeing with Bildad that those who reject God will be judged and that God would not reject the blameless. Yet, Job then argued that it is impossible to prove oneself blameless before God.

Although Job technically responds to Bildad, much of what he says is directed to God. There is somewhat of a courtroom scene running through this chapter. Job longs for an advocate to plead his case before God, but none can be found.

Keep in mind that a lot of what Job says about God is clouded by pain and emotion and limited understanding. Our job is to discern what is accurate based on the rest of Scripture.  
Note: “Rahab” mentioned in verse 13 refers to a mythical sea monster.

**RECORD:**

*List all the characteristics and actions Job declared about God.*

*List all the things Job feels about God and God’s dealings with him.*

*List Job’s feelings in general about himself and life.*

**REFLECT:**

*What wrong assumptions did Job make about God?*

*What truths about God did Job rightly discern?*

*What has warped Job’s understanding of God?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 10

### **READ: JOB 10:1-22**

Chapter 10 records the rest of Job's response to Bildad's first speech. However, here Job really speaks more to God than to his friend. Job expresses brutal honesty before his Creator. We also get a greater sense of Job's deep despair and depression.

As we've seen throughout Job, like his friends Job makes faulty assumptions about God. He struggles to separate feelings from facts. And as we often experience, Job's strong emotions cloud his conclusions about God's character and actions.

### **RECORD:**

*Summarize and list the questions Job asked God.*

*Summarize and list the accusations Job made against God.*

*What word picture did Job use in verses 8-9?*

*What emotions/feelings is Job experiencing?*

*What one primary request did Job make of God? (See verses 20-21.)*

### **REFLECTION:**

*Write a summary statement about Job's state of mind based on his emotions.*

*Based on the whole counsel of Scripture in what ways was Job correct in his assumptions about God? In what way was he wrong?*

### **RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 11

### READ: JOB 11:1-20

This chapter records the first speech of Zophar. Of Job's three friends, Zophar is the most self-righteous and least sympathetic with Job's plight. Zophar even called Job "stupid" (vs 12). Although Zophar says nothing blatantly wrong about God's character, he began from faulty assumptions which led to terrible and hurtful conclusions.

Like the other two friends, Zophar believes that all trouble comes to a person because of their own sin and that those who confess all their sin before God will be materially and physically blessed. These wrong beliefs lead to a tragically wrong conclusion: Job must be hiding a secret sin that he refuses to confess.

The three friends all hold to what today is called a "prosperity gospel." They believe that God will bless those who obey Him with health and wealth and that one who doesn't have health and wealth are disobedient. But Scripture does not teach or support these beliefs. This wrong system of belief is just as hurtful and misguided today as it was in Job's day.

### RECORD:

*List all the accusations Zophar made against Job.*

*List Zophar's advice to Job.*

*What did Zophar wish God would do?*

*What did Zophar believe would be the result if Job took his advice?*

*What did Zophar believe about God, His character, and His ways?*

**REFLECT:**

*What was right about Zophar's assessment of Job and his situation? What was wrong?*

*What was right about Zophar's understanding of God and what was wrong?*

*What do you learn from Zophar about how to respond to a friend in pain?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 12

**READ: JOB 12:1-25**

This speech by Job runs through chapters 12-14 and concludes the first cycle of speeches. Much of what Job says in this speech addresses all three friends, not just Zophar.

Job's tone sounds a bit more sarcastic than previously. He says, "You think you're so smart! You are not better than me. I also have understanding!" (See verses 2-3.)

He firmly rejects his friends' arguments that his sin is the cause/source of his suffering. His friends' interpretation of the situation disregards the facts that many evil doers thrive (vs 6) and that although Job has sincerely searched his heart for any unconfessed sin he still suffers (vs 4).

**RECORD:**

*According to verse 4, why did Job's friends laugh at him?*

*What principle do you see in verse 5?*

*What simile do you see in verse 11?*

*What principle do you see in verse 12?*

*List all the characteristics and ways of God declared by Job in this passage.*

**REFLECT:**

*What conclusions about God can be made based on the list you made above? Do they line up with the rest of Scripture?*

*What do you learn from this passage the way God works in the world?*

*What do you learn from this passage about suffering in the world and how people respond to it?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 13

**READ: JOB 13:1-28**

Chapter 13 continues Job's speech that ends the first cycle of speeches. Job is obviously frustrated by his friends' "helpful" counsel. He uses several word pictures to describe just how unhelpful their advice has been. He feels they have spoken down to him in ways to make him feel inferior and stupid (vs 2). Yet they have not said anything about Job or God that Job did not already know. In fact, Job believes they have misrepresented God and the situation in much of what they've said (vs 7-12). Job longs for his friends to simply be quiet (vs 5).

Job uses courtroom imagery to present his cases against his friends (vs 6-12) and God (vs 20-28). Job accused his friends of many things, warning them that they should fear God's rebuke (vs 10-11). In verses 13-19, Job asked his friends for silence so he could now plead his case before God. Job knew he risked his life to come before God like this. If he was guilty, he would die. But, if he was innocent, he would be saved.

**RECORD:**

*Underline or highlight all the legal/courtroom language you see in this chapter.*

*List all the similes and metaphor Job used to describe his friends' counsel/advice.*

*List all the accusations Job made against his friends (vs 6-12).*

*What expression of faith in God did Job make in verse 15?*

*List everything Job asked God to do (vs 20-28).*

*List all Job's accusations against God (vs 20-28).*

*What word pictures did Job use to describe his condition?*

**REFLECT:**

*Based on the word pictures Job used, write a one-sentence description of the nature of his friends' counsel so far.*

*Summarize in one-sentence how Job felt his friends had represented God.*

*After all Job had been through, summarize how was feeling about God and his circumstances.*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 14

### READ: JOB 14:1-22

This chapter ends Job's response to Zophar. It also ends the first cycle of speeches. Job's hopelessness overwhelms this passage. Keep in mind that Job's despair colors everything he says here. He focuses on the brevity and pain of human existence. Job has called out to God again and again but gotten only silence in return. So, although he wonders about a resurrection and an afterlife (vs 14-17), Job seems to reject the idea in light of God's seeming rejection of him. Job longs for God to simply speak to him, to tell him something. Job thinks if he could just hear from God, he could keep going.

### RECORD:

*List all the word pictures Job used to describe the brevity of life.*

*What word picture did Job use to describe hope?*

*List all the accusations Job made against God.*

*What did Job surmise the afterlife with God might be like?*

*What facts/characteristics of God do you see in this passage?*

*What requests did Job make of God?*

*What general observations about life did Job make in this passage?*

**REFLECT:**

*Summarize in one sentence Job's outlook on the length and condition of life for mankind.*

*What did Job believe overall about this life and the afterlife? Where was he right? Where was he wrong?*

*Why did Job struggle to believe rightly about God and His actions toward mankind?*

*Use what you know from the rest of Scripture to write just a 3-4 sentence rebuttal to Job's understanding.*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 15

**READ: JOB 15:1-35**

This chapter begins the second cycle of speeches. Eliphaz's first speech is recorded in chapters 4-5. In comparing Eliphaz's first speech to this one, we see that his tone is more harsh and condemning. In verses 1-5, Eliphaz calls Job a blowhard, claiming Job's talk is full of nothing but deceit and in fact reveals that he is a sinner. Eliphaz also calls Job out for claiming to be wise when he is in fact a sinner (vs 6-16). Eliphaz also details the attitudes, actions, and ultimate end for the wicked (vs 17-35). In fact, he presents this lengthy discourse on the wicked in an attempt to show that Job is himself wicked. Therefore, based on Eliphaz's belief that the wicked suffer and the righteous thrive, he once again warns Job to repent or face God's judgement.

**RECORD:**

*Underline or highlight the 4 words in verses 5-6 that Eliphaz uses to highlight Job's speech.*

*Underline or highlight the key words wisdom and wicked, and all their variations including synonyms.*

*List all the accusations Eliphaz made against Job.*

*List the descriptions Eliphaz gave of the way of life for the wicked.*

*According to Eliphaz, what will be the ultimate end for the wicked?*

*List all the reasons Eliphaz gave for why the wicked will face trouble in this life and God's ultimate judgment.*

*What advice did Eliphaz give to the wicked in verse 31?*

*What 3 consecutive word pictures did Eliphaz give in verses 32-33?*

**REFLECT:**

*Compare Eliphaz's accusation against Job in verse 4 to Job 1:1, 1:8, and 2:3. What do you learn?*

*Considering the parallelism of verses 5-6, summarize Eliphaz's point in one brief sentence.*

*What principle did Eliphaz teach with the word pictures of verses 32-33?*

*Summarize what Eliphaz got right according to the rest of Scripture.*

*Summarize what Eliphaz got wrong. Why did he get this wrong?*

**RESPOND:**

*Reflect on the principle of verse 31. How should you apply this today?*

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 16

**READ: JOB 16:1-22 & 17:1-16**

Today's passage is lengthier than usual. It's not always easy to organize a plan that fits into the 5 times a week mold! Plus, these two chapters contains all of Job's response to Eliphaz's second speech and there is not real break in the flow from one chapter to the next.

According to one scholar I read, this speech is one of the rare instances in Job where Job's response closely matches the previous speech. In other words, we can track some of Job's responses in chapters 16-17 back to things Eliphaz said in chapter 15.

Here, Job's protests of innocence not only continue, but intensify. He continues to reject his friends' premise that he is suffering because he has sinned and failed to repent. The friends refuse to consider any other possibility and Job continues to defend himself.

Job's friends have hurt, not helped (16:1). Whether he remains silent or speaks they attack. Job declares he would act differently if their positions were reversed (16:4-5).

This passage clearly shows that Job feels as though God is treating him like an enemy. Job uses some gruesome word pictures and similes to describe what he believes to be God's attacks against him. Job longs for someone to intercede with God on his behalf (16:19). Scholars debate whether Job is appealing directly to God or looking for someone else to be his advocate to God.

**RECORD:**

*How did Job describe his "pre-trouble" self and his situation?*

*List all the accusations Job made against God. Use both chapters to do this.*

*List all the word pictures Job used to describe God's actions toward him.*

*How did Job feel about his friends and their counsel? Look for actions and adjectives that describe them and their counsel.*

*How does Job feel now? Look for attitudes, emotions, and descriptions of his situation.*

**REFLECT:**

*Summarize what you've learned about the impact and value of the counsel of Job's friends. In what way should they have acted differently?*

*Based on Scripture, how should we reconcile Job's feelings about God with God's character and nature?*

*Even though his deep suffering has greatly shaped his feelings and understanding of God, what is Job still clinging to? What truth is here that should shape our own response to suffering?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## **DAY 17**

### **READ: JOB 18:1-21**

This chapter records Bildad's second speech. It is basically two parts. First, Bildad confronts Job (vs 2-4). He claims that Job has been arrogant (vs 2), treating his friends as stupid (vs 3), and insisting that God's holy ways should adjust to him (v 4). In the second section (vs 5-21), Bildad describes the consequences of wickedness and their sure demise. His list is very similar to the very things Job experienced in chapters 1 and 2. Essentially, Bildad says "See Job, your own wickedness is the cause of your suffering."

**RECORD:**

*Underline or highlight the key words “light,” “darkness,” and their variations/synonyms.*

*Underline or highlight the six appearances of “trap” or its synonyms found in verses 8-10.*

*List any words/phrases Bildad used to describe the wicked.*

*List all the consequences Bildad cited that the wicked will face because of their actions.*

*What word picture did Bildad use in verse 16 to describe the fate of the wicked?*

**REFLECT:**

*Summarize the ultimate fate for the wicked.*

*According to Bildad, why will the wicked experience these consequences and this fate?*

*What do we learn about the difference between righteousness and wickedness from the theme of light and darkness?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His word today?*

## DAY 18

**READ: JOB 19:1-29**

Chapter 19 records Job’s response to Bildad’s second speech. In verses 1-5, Job addresses the nature of his friends’ “help.” In verses 6- 12 Job focuses his attention on what he believes to be God’s actions against him. In verses 13-22 Job describes how his suffering has impacted his relationships, ending with a plea to his friends to stop their attack on him.

Verses 23-27 is likely the most well-known section of Job. It begins with Job's expressed desire to permanently record his declaration of innocence. Then Job proclaims his continued faith in God despite his suffering and current circumstances.

The word "Redeemer" in verse 25 is translated from a Hebrew word that means "to lay claim to a person; to free or deliver." Job's understanding of his current circumstances may not be entirely correct, but he has not abandoned his faith in God. He looks forward to the day that God will come in judgment and redeem his situation. He looks ahead to an eternity with God. Finally, this chapter ends with a warning to his friends. Job declares they should fear punishment for the way they have treated him.

Note: As you answer the questions – particularly make lists – keep in mind the poetical nature of the writing. The couplets in the poetry do not point to two separate things, but rather one expressed in different ways. When you make your list, do your best to pull out and summarize the ONE thing Job means.

**RECORD:**

*List all the accusations Job made against his friends.*

*List all the accusations Job made against God.*

*What metaphors/similes did Job use to describe God's actions "against" him?*

*What did you learn about Job's physical condition?*

*What did you learn about the condition of Job's relationships?*

*Summarize Job's plea in verses 21-22 in one brief sentence.*

*What did Job believe about God and his eternal future?*

**REFLECT:**

*Based on the word pictures, how did Job feel about his circumstances?*

*Summarize in 1-2 sentences how Job thought God was treating him.*

*Summarize in 1-2 sentences the nature of Job's human relationships.*

*What is biblically correct about Job's understanding of God's judgment and eternity? What is biblically incorrect?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 19

**READ: JOB 20:1-29**

This chapter records Zophar's second speech. He begins by answering Job's warning of judgment for their wrong assumptions and ill-treatment of him (19:28-29). Zophar responds that Job has instead insulted *them* and he must answer for that!

The bulk of Zophar's speech focuses on what he believes to be the sure consequences for the wicked in this life. He essentially says "Everyone knows this. It is historical fact!" (See verse 4-5.)

The poem found in verses 23-28 uses a verb form that reflects a wish or hope. Zophar seems to be asking God to drop His wrath on the wicked. Interestingly, unlike Eliphaz, Zophar includes no call for the wicked to repent or any hint that they could repent and be restored to God. Zophar does not call the wicked to "turn or burn." He simply declares that they will face the fire of God's judgment.

**RECORD:**

*What word pictures did Zophar use to describe how ill-gotten gain will affect the wicked?*

*What will happen to this ill-gotten gain?*

*What word pictures did Zophar use to describe God's judgment?*

*List all the actions and attitudes of the wicked you see in this passage that will result in God's judgment.*

*What will ultimately happen to the wicked?*

**REFLECT:**

*Summarize Zophar's overall argument about the wicked in this passage in 1-2 sentences.*

*Is there anything in Zophar's argument that conflicts with Scripture? Anything important he left out?*

*Summarize in one sentence, in your own words, Zophar's overall message to Job.*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 20

### READ: JOB 21:1-34

Job's speech here in chapter 21 ends the second cycle of speeches. He begins by asking his friends to hear him out. Up until now they have failed to comfort him, but their quiet attention now would bring him some comfort. They could continue mocking him afterwards (vs 1-2)!

Job declares that he has every right to complain against God. His physical state is his proof (vs 4-6). Job's BIG question (vs 7) is "Why do the wicked often prosper in this life?"

The theology of Job's friends is over-simplistic. They believe the righteous always prosper and the wicked always suffer the consequences of their wickedness and the wrath of God's judgment in this life. To them that makes sense, it seems right and just. But the big problem with that set of beliefs is that neither life example nor Scripture support it.

This speech of Job's is the only one that consistently addresses his friends and doesn't include a prayer or other elements. Job's speech also seems to include multiple references to things his friends have said in past speeches. He is intentionally working to refute their arguments.

### RECORD:

*List all the ways you see in the passage that Job says the wicked prosper. Try to condense, summarize, and restate. For instance, Job's point in verse 10 is that their flocks and herd thrive.*

*Describe the wicked's attitude towards God.*

*What is Job's stated desire for the wicked?*

*What truth about God does Job state in verse 22?*

*Summarize Job's overall point from verses 23-26.*

*What overall contrast does Job make in verses 27-33 between what his friends say and what Job and many others observe in life?*

*Restate Job's accusation to his friends found in verse 34.*

**REFLECT:**

*Summarize Job's understanding/theology of the state of the wicked in this life and the next.*

*Compare his theology to Psalm 1:1-6. Where does Job's understanding need to be adjusted?*

*How should the truth found in verse 22 shape our own understanding of the wicked and righteous?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 21

**READ: JOB 22:1-30**

This chapter begins the third and final cycle of speeches. Once again, Eliphaz is the first friend to speak in the cycle. One difference between this cycle and the other two is that Zophar does not speak.

In verses 2-4 Eliphaz addresses Job's declaration that God does not punish the wicked. He counters with his understanding that instead Job's so-called "virtue" will not woo God to his side. Eliphaz is emphasizing his belief that the wicked and the righteous get what they deserve in this life.

Eliphaz has not changed his belief that Job's suffering is a result of sin. In fact, in this his final speech, Eliphaz boldly declares Job to be a sinner (vs 5) and even lists a host of sins that Job *must* have committed (vs 5-9). Eliphaz insists Job's troubles are caused by his sin (vs 10-11).

**RECORD:**

*List all the sins of which Eliphaz accuses Job.*

*What characteristics of God does Eliphaz identify in this passage?*

*According to verses 12-14, what did Eliphaz claim that Job believed about God?*

*What points did Eliphaz make to Job with his example about past wicked people (vs 15-20)?*

*List all the things Eliphaz pled with Job to do in verses 21-24?*

*According to Eliphaz, what would the results be? (See verses 21-30.)*

**REFLECT:**

*Summarize Eliphaz's speech in just 2-3 short sentences.*

*In what ways is Eliphaz correct about God's character? In what ways is he wrong?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 22

### READ: JOB 23:1-17

This passage records Job's response to Eliphaz, which is his first in this third cycle of speeches. I love this passage because Job expresses both his anguish and questions about what God is doing, but also his continued commitment to cling to God no matter what comes.

Job looks for God and cannot find Him (vs 3, 8-9), but Job trusts that God sees him (vs 10). Consider that! There are so many times that we cannot see or hear God. Yet we can know He hears us and is with us. We can trust Him, when we don't understand our circumstances.

### RECORD:

*What metaphor did Job use in verses 3-7?*

*Compare verses 7-10. Summarize in one brief sentence the claim Job makes.*

*List all the characteristics of God Job cite in this passage.*

*How has Job responded to God's Word? (See verses 11-12.)*

*What emotions does Job express in this passage?*

*How does Job specifically feel about God?*

### REFLECT:

*Based on the metaphor Job used in verses 3-7, summarize in 2 sentences what Job longs to do and the outcome he expects.*

*Why does Job expect this outcome?*

*What does Job believe rightly about God? What does he have wrong based on the whole counsel of Scripture?*

*With all of Scripture as your foundation, what spiritual truths about God in the midst of our circumstances do you learn from this passage?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 23

**READ: JOB 24:1-25**

This chapter finishes Job's response to Eliphaz's third speech. There are textual difficulties in this chapter. Lack of clarity in verses 18-24 has caused scholars to differ on exactly how to interpret them. Some think Job quoted his friends position in these verses. Some think these verses are out-of-place comments from one of the friends. Still others attribute the words to Job. If you read these verses from multiple translations, you will likely notice small differences in the way these verses are presented.

One commentator I read presented another possibility we should consider. If these words are Job's and express his own thoughts, it further emphasizes the incomprehensible nature of God and His ways. Job had seen wickedness and injustice go unchecked by God. But Job had also seen wickedness judged in this life. It's not that the wicked always prevail and the righteous always suffer. Rather the world is far more confusing. Sometimes the wicked prevail but not always. Sometimes the righteous suffer, but not always. God's dealings with the world is beyond our comprehension. Try as he might, Job cannot understand how God's justice works. But he trusts that God *will* indeed bring justice.

Yet Job's friends claim that God *always* judges the wicked in this life and that the righteous never suffer. So once again, here in this passage Job presents evidence from this life to the contrary.

**RECORD:**

*Restate in your own words the question Job asked in verse 1.*

*List all the actions of the wicked you see in this passage.*

*List all the things the poor must do to survive.*

*What kinds of suffering does the poor experience?*

*Underline or highlight the key words "light," "darkness," and all their synonyms and variations.*

*Describe the attitude of the wicked as portrayed in this passage.*

*What has Job observed about God and the way that He works in the world?*

**REFLECT:**

*Write a one-sentence summary statement about the nature and character of the wicked.*

*What does the repetition of the key words light and darkness teach us about the nature of the wicked and his relationship to God?*

*Summarize Job's understanding of the way God works in the world in one sentence. Where is he right? Where is he wrong?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 24

**READ: JOB 25:1-6 & 26:1-14.**

Today's passage records Bildad's final speech and the beginning of Job's response. Since Bildad's third speech is short and Zophar does not speak for a third time, it seems the friends have run out of things to say to Job. But Job still has plenty to say. In fact, his response to Bildad is the longest discourse by one person in the book. It runs from 26:1 through to 31:40.

Chapter 26 has two primary parts. In verses 2-4 Job uses heavy sarcasm to emphasize Bildad's complete lack of helpfulness. The pronouns used here are singular so Job is likely speaking strictly to Bildad.

Verses 5-14 is an eloquent description of God as Creator and Sustainer of the universe and all that is in it. Bildad is not the only one who knows God is holy and all-powerful!

### **RECORD:**

*List all the characteristics of God cited by Bildad.*

*What principle about the nature of man does Bildad highlight?*

*List all the characteristics/actions of God cited by Job.*

*What principle about mankind's understanding of God do you see in verse 14?*

### **REFLECT:**

*Based on Bildad's primary points in his short message, summarize in one sentence his overall message to Job.*

*Knowing what you know from the rest of Scripture regarding God's nature and purposes and mankind's nature, how would you counter Bildad's message or edit it? Keep it to 2 sentences max.*

*Summarize Job's sarcastic response to Bildad (vs 2-4) in one brief sentence.*

*Summarize in one sentence Job's theology about God's power and mankind's ability to understand.*

*Knowing what you know from the rest of Scripture, counter with any needed adjustments to Job's theology.*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 25

**READ: JOB 27:1-23**

This chapter contains three sections, verses 1-6, 7-12, and 13-23. In verses 1-6 Job once again affirms his righteousness before God – not *sinlessness*, but no unrepentant or persistent sin. Job invokes God's name in a powerful oath. He declares and swears to his innocence before God to his friends and to God. In this solemn oath, Job appeals to God to ask for His justice.

In verses 7-12, Job essentially prays against his enemies and their wickedness against him. Job uses plural pronouns in this section to indicate multiple enemies. Some scholars think Job is referring to these three "friends" who insist on his guilt. The structure of verses 7-12 present this poem as one long curse.

In verses 13-23 Job describes God's ultimate judgment on the wicked. Even if they seem to prosper for a time, those who reject God will ultimately receive God's justice and judgment.

Interestingly, Job and his friends agree on many points. They all believe that God is just and the wicked will be judged. However, they disagree over the timing of God's justice and how it works itself out in the world.

**RECORD:**

*List all the descriptions Job used of his innocence in verses 2-6.*

*How did Job describe the wicked's lack of eternal hope in verses 7-12?*

*In what ways will God ultimately deal with the wicked?*

**REFLECT:**

*What overall principles regarding the wicked's life and eternity do you see in this passage?*

*Summarize Job's overall understanding of the ultimate fate of the wicked.*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 26

**READ: JOB 28:1-28**

This chapter is unique. It is a self-contained poem about wisdom. No speaker is identified but most conservative scholars attribute it to Job. This poem serves as an interlude of sorts, a natural break between the three rounds between Job and his friends and the monologues in three rounds of Job, Elihu, and God.

There are three distinct sections in this chapter separated by a repeated refrain, found in verses 12-20. The first section (vs 1-11) show that human ingenuity cannot find wisdom. The second (vs 13-19) emphasizes that humans cannot buy wisdom for any price. The last section (vs 21-27) reveals that true wisdom can only be found in and given by God.

I really enjoyed this chapter. The teaching of this poem is comforting in light of all of Job. We cannot understand our circumstances or the ways of God. But He knows. And He can give wisdom as He determines.

**RECORD:**

*Underline or highlight the repeated refrain found in verses 12 and 20.*

*List all the things mankind can do based on verses 1-11.*

*What contrast is made in verses 7-8?*

*List all the descriptions given for man's inability to purchase wisdom found in verses 12-19.*

*What characteristics/ways of God do you find in this chapter, specifically verses 23-28?*

*Compare verse 28 to Job 1:1. What similarities do you see?*

**REFLECT:**

*Summarize, restate in your own words the big question posed in this poem.*

*In one brief sentence, what point did Job make with the contrast he used in verses 7-8?*

*Write a definition for wisdom based on this poem.*

*Write a one-sentence summary statement for this entire poem.*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 27

### READ: JOB 29:1-25

Chapters 29-31 contain one long single speech by Job to all those listening. The chapter divisions accurately mark three distinct sections of this speech. Chapter 29 records Job's reflections on and longing for his life before trouble came. In chapter 30, Job laments his present condition. And in chapter 31, Job once again defends his innocence.

In his pre-trouble reflection in this chapter Job touches on several specific areas including his relationship with God, his prosperity, his work as benefactor to the needy, and the respect and position he had in the community.

This chapter gives us some insight into this ancient culture. First it was very communal. Second, righteousness was clearly at least partly measured by one's service to the community, especially its most vulnerable individuals like the exploited and the poor.

### RECORD:

*List everything you see that describes Job's understanding of his relationship to God before trouble came.*

*What do you see that describes Job's pre-trouble prosperity?*

*In what ways did he receive respect from the community?*

*Underline or highlight the transition word in verse 12. In the ESV it is "because" and in the NLT it's "for."*

*List everything Job cited about the help he gave to others.*

*What did Job expect the rest of his life to be like?*

*List all the word pictures did Job used to describe his pre-trouble circumstances?*

**REFLECT:**

*Look back at the transition word you noted in verse 12. What relationship does that indicate? What connection is it making?*

*What do you learn from the word pictures about Job's prosperity and position in the community?*

*Summarize in 1-2 brief sentences the position Job had in the community pre-trouble.*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 28

**READ: JOB 30:1-31**

Chapter 30 presents a major contrast to chapter 29. Notice the "but" that begins verse 1. Yesterday, in chapter 29, Job detailed his state "before" trouble arrived. Today we read the "after." Trouble has come and now this is Job's situation. The differences are extreme, revealing physical, social, and spiritual dimensions of his suffering.

Job was once the respected one, but now even the outcasts mock him. Job once felt close to and blessed by God. Now God feels far away and like an enemy.

**RECORD:**

*How did Job describe the outcasts that now mock him? List everything you see about them and their circumstances.*

*List all the ways these outcasts treat Job.*

*Use the whole chapter to list how Job feels physically, relationally, and spiritually.*

*List all the ways Job feels God has acted towards him.*

*Restate verses 24-25 in one brief sentence.*

*After reading through and observing the passage, use bullet points to create a very basic outline.*

**REFLECT:**

*Summarize the content of this chapter in just 2-3 sentences.*

*Considering Job's feelings and experience and what you know about God and His character from Scripture, summarize God's role in Job's suffering. What do we learn about God's hand in our own suffering?*

*What do you learn from this passage about how to treat others that are suffering?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 29

### READ: JOB 31:1-40

This chapter completes the formal “words of Job.” Throughout the book he has held to his innocence/righteousness before God. Here, Job presents a formal defense and declaration of innocence. Notice the “if/then” format. This “negative confession” was an ancient legal format. The defendant denied a crime and called down a curse on himself if he had in fact committed it.

Again and again Job’s friends have charged him with crimes, but none have presented any witnesses or evidence of his guilt. Yet, interspersed between his denials, Job presents evidence of his innocence. Job hands his case over to God the Judge and asks Him to hear and deliver justice.

### RECORD:

*Underline or highlight all the “if” and “then” you see that mark the format explained in the opening above.*

*Create a two-column chart. Head one “If” and the other “Then.” List all the sins on the left and curses/consequence Job calls down on the right. Note that not all individual “ifs” will have “thens.” Remember the poetic format. Summarize sins that are described multiple ways into just one listing.*

*List all the evidence of righteousness Job presents as his defense.*

*What characteristics or actions of God do you see in this passage? Some may be specifically stated and others implied.*

*What details and specific actions for a desired hearing does Job cite?*

**REFLECT:**

*Summarize Job's overall defense in 2-3 sentences.*

*In what way does this sum up Job's overall response to his friends?*

*In what way does this sum up Job's overall appeal to God?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 30

**READ: JOB 32:1-22**

We meet a new character here in chapter 32. Elihu declares he must share his wisdom on this matter. However, this chapter is just the warmup. Elihu doesn't really begin his speech until 33:1. Here he merely introduces himself and shares his reasons for speaking up.

**RECORD:**

*According to verse 1, why did Job's three friends refuse to say any more?*

*What do you learn about Elihu. List all the facts.*

*Underline or highlight every reference to Elihu's anger.*

*At whom was Elihu angry and why?*

*Why had Elihu waited to speak until now?*

*What word picture did Elihu use in verse 19?*

**REFLECT:**

*What was Elihu's understanding of who possessed wisdom and why?*

*What did Elihu use the word picture to describe and what does it show?*

*Summarize in 1-2 brief sentences, why Elihu felt compelled to speak.*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 31

**READ: JOB 33:1-33**

Elihu's official first speech begins here in verse 1. This chapter is bookended with his appeals to Job to "listen" (vs 1 and 33). In chapter 32 we learned that Elihu is younger than Job and his friends. Yet here he declares himself to be wise, to have the answers Job needs to hear. His words sound patronizing.

In verses 8-13, Elihu summarizes what he's heard from Job and in verse 12 Elihu tells Job "you're wrong." Then beginning in verse 14, Elihu lists ways that, counter to Job's declaration, God does indeed speak to people.

Difficulty and obscurity of the original language in verses 14-28 cause disagreement among commentators over the exact nature of the mediator. It's not clear whether this intercessor is sought by man or sent by God. Either way, it's easy to see reflections of Christ in this section.

**RECORD:**

*List everything you see about Elihu's stated attitude and approach to Job.*

*Briefly list the main things Elihu had heard from Job.*

*List all the ways Elihu believes God speaks to mankind. Beside each note any details about that particular way of speaking.*

*List everything you see about the angelic intercessor. Include his actions and goals.*

*According to verses 29-30, why does God discipline?*

**REFLECT:**

*Summarize Elihu's speech to Job in this chapter in 3-4 brief sentences.*

*Based on the content of Elihu's speech, what does he assume about Job and his situation?*

*Where do you see reflections of Christ in this chapter?*

*What about Elihu's understanding of God aligns with the rest of Scripture? Where is he off?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 32

### **READ: JOB 34:1-37**

Elihu has quickly moved from a calming voice of reason and encouragement to accusation. He seems to like his place in the spotlight and now appeals to all the “wise men” to hear and agree with him. In verse 4, Elihu uses first person, including himself among the wise.

Like the three friends, Elihu has heard Job’s questions and jumped to some serious and wrong conclusions about his attitude toward God. Elihu has no more understanding about God and His ways than does Job’s three friends. Therefore, they all wrongly assume that Job himself must be the cause of suffering.

### **RECORD:**

*Underline or highlight every instance of Elihu’s repeated refrain to hear, listen, understand.*

*List all Elihu’s accusations against Job found in this passage.*

*List all Elihu’s beliefs about God’s character, actions, and ways found in this passage.*

*How does Elihu describe the wicked? Particularly see verses 27-28.*

*What elements did Elihu include in his call for Job to repent? See verses 31-32.*

### **REFLECT:**

*Briefly summarize Elihu’s theology about how God deals with the wicked and righteous.*

*Summarize in 1-2 sentences Elihu’s understanding of Job’s situation and assumptions of Job’s character and actions.*

### **RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## Day 33

### **READ: JOB 35:1-16**

In this third section of Elihu's speech he brings up and responds to a lot of what has been said in earlier speeches. He comments on things Job as said and, in some cases, twists his words. He presents many attributes of God that have already been mentioned by Job and his three friends. Elihu makes unjust assumptions about Job and his underlying motives and attitudes. In the end, Elihu's theology concerning God and the way He works is too neat and tidy. Elihu thinks he understands God and His ways and analyzes Job in light of that.

### **RECORD:**

*List every statement Elihu presents as a rebuke against Job.*

*What attributes of God does Elihu share?*

*What character traits and motives does Elihu cite for Job?*

### **REFLECT:**

*Based on your study of the previous chapters in Job, where is Elihu wrong about Job?*

*Summarize Elihu's theology about God in 2-3 brief statements.*

*Based on what you know from the whole of Scripture, where is Elihu right? Where is he wrong?*

### **RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## Day 34

### READ: JOB 36:1-33

Elihu's speech continues. In this passage Elihu's tone is less harsh than we heard in chapter 35. We really see Elihu's overall theology take shape. While there is much to agree with in his doctrine, Elihu's understanding of God and His ways is too simplistic. He stuffs a whole range of human experience into one neat little box.

But Elihu is also very prideful. In verses 3-4 he declares that he speaks only truth, that he has great knowledge that comes from God. The Hebrew word translated as "perfect" (vs 4) in the ESV implies that his knowledge is accurate, not that he is all-knowing like God.

### RECORD:

*List everything Elihu says in this passage about how God deals with those who sin (particularly verses 6-15).*

*How does Elihu describe the godless?*

*Compare verse 15 to verse 21. What connection do you see?*

*What analysis of Job's situation did Elihu give? What specific advice did Elihu give Job?*

*List all the characteristics and ways of God Elihu cited in verses 22-33.*

### REFLECT:

*In 1-2 sentences, summarize Elihu's overall theology about how God deals with the sinner.*

*Summarize in one sentence Elihu's understanding of why God sends trouble to sinners.*

*According to verse 24, how should we respond to God's power and greatness?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## Day 35

**READ: JOB 37:1-24**

This chapter ends Elihu's speech. Tomorrow we hear from God!

Grammatically, there is no break between 36:33 and 37:1. Elihu's call to listen (vs 2) is plural. It may refer to Job and his three friends or also to any others standing around.

The Hebrew of verse 7 is obscure, but given the context of what follows, it likely refers to the fact that bad weather can keep people indoors, emphasizing that mankind has no control over the weather.

In verses 14-20 Elihu specifically addresses Job and questions his wisdom. Sarcasm fills verse 19.

**RECORD:**

*List all the ways that God reveals Himself through creation.*

*What specific attributes of God does Elihu name in this passage?*

*What three reasons for why God sends storms did Elihu give in verse 13?*

*Restate the conclusion Elihu made in verse 24. How should we respond to our mighty God of creation?*

**REFLECT:**

*Summarize God's power over creation in just 1-2 brief sentences.*

*Summarize Elihu's basic question to Job, which is spread out over verses 14-20, in just one brief sentence.*

*What can mankind know/learn about God by observing creation?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## Day 36

**READ: JOB 38:1-41**

Beginning in chapter 38, God speaks for the first time with Job. God's response to Job continues through chapter 41 with a short break for a reply from Job in 40:3-5. God did not answer Job's questions directly, but instead responded with questions of His own. God's questions are not a pop-quiz Job has no chance of passing, but rather an invitation to deeply consider God in light of His creation.

Although God did not tell Job what he wanted to know, He did tell Job what he needed to know. What God does not say is also significant. Unlike Job's friends, God does not list Job's sins and call him to repent. Because sin was not Job's problem.

God does not have to answer man's questions. He is not accountable to us. And yet God speaks to us in so many ways!

**RECORD:**

*Underline or highlight every instance in the passage where God asks Job "where were you" or "do you know" and all their variations.*

*List all the main acts of creation and categories of creation God mentions.*

*How did the angels respond to God's creative acts? (See verse 7.)*

*According to verse 15, how does daylight impact the wicked?*

*Restate verse 21 in the negative.*

*List all instances of how God intentionally uses creation to carry out His purposes.*

*What is the answer to God's question in verse 36?*

**REFLECT:**

*Summarize all God's questions to Job in just 1-2 brief sentences.*

*Write a one-sentence summary statement about God's relationship to and use of His creation.*

*Consider God's statement in verse 21 along with all God's questions of Job you underlined or highlighted. How does the overall point God is making apply to Job's specific situation? What is God trying to say to him?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## Day 37

### READ: JOB 39:1-30 & 40:1-2

Today's passage continues God's first speech and His description of creation. All the animals but one mentioned in this passage are wild, untamed, and uncontrolled by man. Yet even the battle horse is powerful and could easily reject the control of man.

I read an interesting fact about the animal described in verses 9-12. The Hebrew word translated "ox" is found in the Old Testament nine times. It specifically refers to an animal called the "aurochs" which has been extinct since 1627. The aurochs was huge, more powerful than any other hoofed beasts. Only the hippo and the elephant were larger.

**A note about translations:** *The poem about the ostrich in 13-18 includes a lot of textual difficulties. When scholars tackle a biblical text to translate, they are working with ancient Hebrew, some words and phrases that dropped out of use over the centuries. To properly translate they must search other ancient Hebrew writings to learn how the word was used. Sometimes the evidence is scant at best. So occasionally they must make educated guesses. That's why translations may differ a bit in difficult texts like these. The problem is not with God's Word. It is flawless and faultless. But sometimes we humans fall short of understanding it. So, if you read verses 13-18 in a few translations you may see some differences in the details, but the overall message is the same.*

### RECORD:

*Underline or highlight all the general questions God asks Job. For instance, "do you know?" and "Can you bind?"*

*Now make a list of these leaving out any duplicates.*

*Draw a two-column table. Head one "animal" and the other "skill/characteristic." Use the passage to fill out the columns. For instance, mountain goat on one side and give birth on the other. Keep the notes short by summarizing the characteristics in just 1-2 words.*

*How does God describe Job in 40:2?*

**REFLECT:**

*What are the expected answers to God's questions of Job?*

*If Job cannot, then who can?*

*What overall point was God making to Job with this run down of some of the wilder animals in His creation?*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## Day 38

**READ: JOB 40:1-24**

I overlapped today's reading with yesterday's to help us keep it all in context. God paused in His speech (40:1-2) to see if Job wanted to challenge God further. Job's response is brief and humble. Perhaps Job even hoped that God was finished speaking.

But God speaks again out of the whirlwind (vs 6) which suggests force and power. Job had brought a legal suit against God but God's response shows Job he had no right to accuse God. He is not God's equal. He cannot even understand the way God judges and dispenses justice. Yet Job had thought he knew how God should act in his circumstances.

We often do that too. Rather than simply asking God to work out His perfect will in our circumstances we ask Him to act in a specific way. And if He does not answer in the way we have determined is best we doubt Him.

In verses 10-14, God challenges Job to carry out his own wishes. Of course, Job could only do that if he was as powerful and glorious as God (vs 10).

This passage includes another nature-themed poem. Scholars are unsure about the identity of the Behemoth. The word translated Behemoth is the plural form of the Hebrew word for “beast.” It is used here as a proper name. Some scholars think the Behemoth and Leviathan of chapter 41 refer to mythical creatures, but many others think they refer to real, created animals that are either extinct or simply known to us by other names. One scholar I read thinks that excluding the tail description, the hippo best fits the Behemoth.

**RECORD:**

*According to Job’s answer to God in 3-5, what are some things he has realized?*

*According to God’s words in verses 7-9, what has Job done with his previous words?*

*Based on verses 10-14, make a list of all the ways Job had wanted God to act.*

*List everything you learn about the Behemoth.*

**REFLECT:**

*In 1-2 sentences, summarize what was wrong about the way Job appealed to God for help.*

*What was God’s point in describing the power of the Behemoth? See verse 19 for help.*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## Day 39

### **READ: JOB 41:1-31**

This chapter continues and also concludes God's speech to Job. This chapter is comprised of one long poem about the Leviathan. Like the Behemoth, scholars aren't sure about the identity of the Leviathan. Some propose it is a mythical creature, but there is no reason to fall back on that. Yes, some of the description, like breathing fire, cannot point to any of God's creatures. However, the literature is poetic and some descriptions are not meant to be taken literally. Some scholars suggest the Leviathan is a crocodile. It would fit much of the description in the poem. Look for the overall point God makes by describing such an incredible beast. Verses 10-11 hold clear clues.

### **RECORD:**

*Make a list of all the characteristics of the Leviathan you spot in the poem. Keep in mind many characteristics are described in multiple ways, so summarize them. Record them in "non-poetical" terms as much as possible.*

*Make a list of all the things man/Job cannot or would not do with the Leviathan.*

*What truth about God do you see in verse 11.*

### **REFLECT:**

*Summarize God's overall point of this poem in 2-3 brief sentences.*

### **RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

## DAY 40

### **READ: JOB 42:1-17**

Today is our last day in Job! Good job getting all the way through this Bible book. Job can be a bit tedious and even depressing, but it teaches valuable lessons and powerful truths.

The chapter opens with Job's response to God's speech. In his response, Job quotes God. Verse 3a is a quote of God's words from 38:2. Verse 4 is a quote from 38:3 and 40:7. God's eloquent journey through His creation elicits praise from Job. Also, God's words have opened Job's eyes to better understanding. Job acknowledges where he went wrong in accusing God.

In considering Job's repentant attitude here, it's important for us to distinguish between what he repents from and what he does not. He does not acknowledge any deliberate wickedness like his friends accused him of. In fact, Job's sin came only after the terrible trouble hit his life. Instead, Job repents of hasty words spoken in ignorance. God calls him to repent of that but does not deliver punishment for wickedness.

### **RECORD:**

*For what specific attributes did Job praise God?*

*In what specific ways did Job sin with his words?*

*Why did God say He was angry with the three friends?*

*What was God's command to the three friends?*

*Compare verses 12-13 with Job 1:2-3. What do you see?*

### **REFLECT:**

*In what ways did God vindicate Job?*

*In what areas did God restore Job?*

*Based on the whole of Job, summarize in 2-3 sentences what it teaches us about suffering and God's purposes and ways.*

**RESPOND:**

*How does God want you to respond to His Word today?*

*What are your big takeaways from Job?*

***Want to do more Bible reading/study like this? Check out the [DEEP ROOTED ENHANCED READING GUIDES](#) or join the Facebook group "[Reading the Bible Together.](#)"***

---

## 4 R Bible Study Method



The 4 R Bible study method is a basic way to dig a little deeper into any biblical passage. This “inductive” method uses careful observation (record) to discover what the passage says. We start with observation, so we can more accurately interpret (reflect) God’s meaning. Personal application (respond) is our last step and end goal. You don’t need extra tools or resources. All you need is your Bible, a pen, a notebook or journal, and a humble, teachable attitude. The “R” repetition makes it memorable! You can take it anywhere!

**1. Read** - A reading plan will help with consistency and context. Choose one that is manageable with the time you have.

- Read prayerfully – Ask God to give you understanding and to help you be willing to apply His truth.
- Read multiple times – It’s easy to miss details and even deep truth with just one reading.
- Read in different translations - Reading in different translations will increase understanding.

**2. Record** (observation) - Before we can understand what a passage means we must know what it says. Our goal in this step is to carefully observe the passage and record what we find. See the next resource in this booklet: “10 Things to Observe in a Bible Passage” for specific help.

**3. Reflect** (Interpretation) – Look back over your recorded observations to help you understand God’s original meaning of the passage. Now identify the spiritual truths and principles. These will be eternal and timeless, relevant for all God’s people at any place in history and in every culture. Here are a few things to consider in this process:



## 4 R Bible Study Method

- Literary Genre – The specific literary style of a Bible book impacts how we should understand it.
- Literary Context - Keep each verse and passage within the context of the surrounding text and even the whole book.
- Historical/Cultural Context – Things like historical events, world powers, dominant religions, and cultural mores and practices all shaped the way the original audience understood.
- Meta–Narrative – All the individual books and stories of the Bible join together to tell us one big story: The rule, reign, and redemptive purposes of God. Ask, where does this passage fit in the Big Story?

**4. Respond** (application) - Knowledge of God's Word is never the end game. Application that leads to spiritual transformation is always our goal. So, once we've read and understood, let's ask God to show us how to apply these truths to our lives. God tells us some of the ways He wants to use His Word in our lives. In the following passage we see four broad categories for life application:

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV*

- Teaching (doctrine) – Correct our thinking. God wants us to hold correct beliefs about Him, salvation, His church, and His kingdom. Correct thinking leads to correct behavior.
- Reproof (rebuke) – Repent of any sin in our lives. God's Word reveals what's wrong and call us to stop wrong behavior.
- Correction (obedience) – God's Word also instills right behavior by giving us commands and principles to follow.
- Training (spiritual growth) – God uses Scripture to shape our character and underlying attitudes.

*For more on solid Bible study methods, visit [www.KathyHoward.org](http://www.KathyHoward.org)*

## Observation Tips



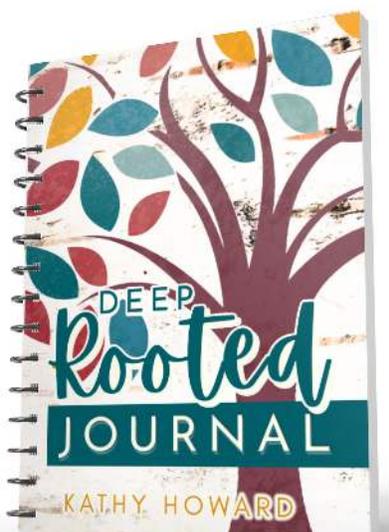
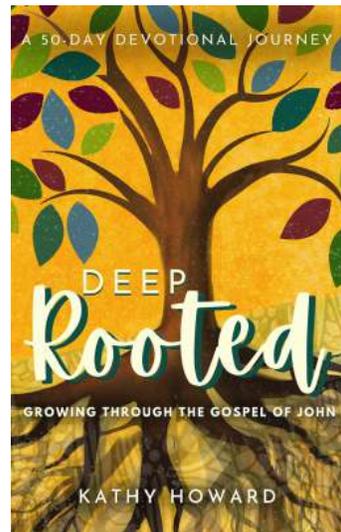
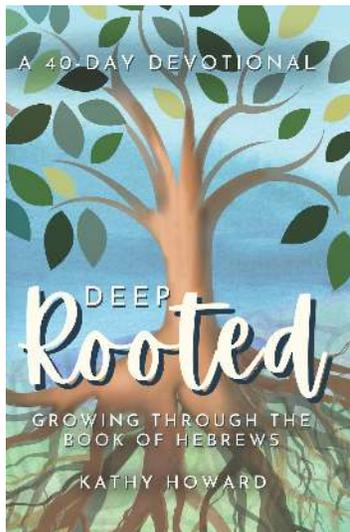
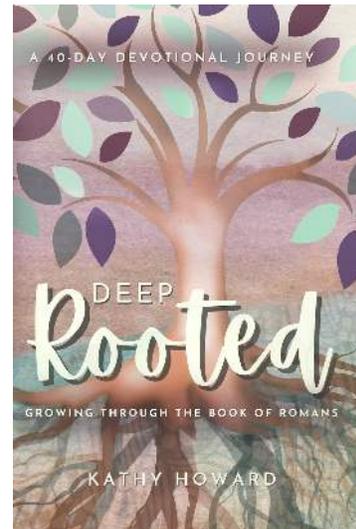
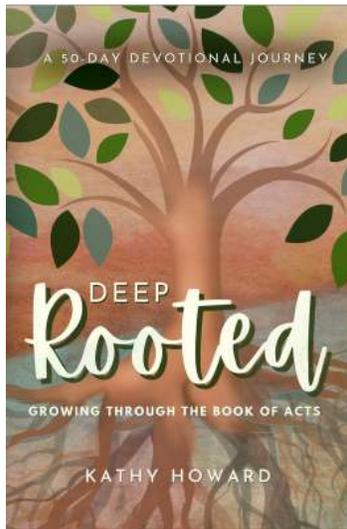
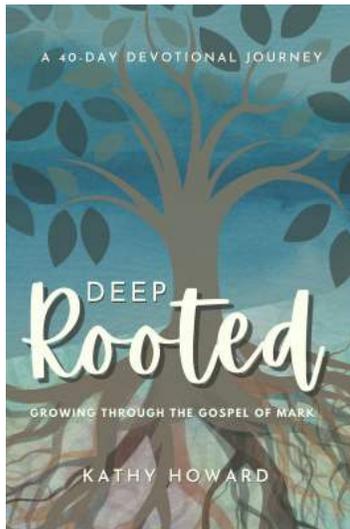
The goal of the RECORD (observation) step of Bible study is to discover what the passage says. As you read any Bible passage act like an investigative journalist. The list of observation tips below is not exhaustive, but it is a solid place to start. Record what you see in this Bible study resource, a notebook, or margin of your Bible. You won't spot everything in every passage. But in every passage your observation will help you do better Bible study.

1. Truths about God– The Bible is first and foremost a book about God. He is in every passage, on every page. It may be blatant or subtle, but He will be there. Look for truths about His nature, His character, His ways, and His purposes.
2. Key Words & Phrases– Repetition in God's Word is not accidental. If you see words and phrases repeated, take note. God is trying to point to something important.
3. Important facts – Mark any facts you see in the passage that will help you understand what's happening. Things like people, places, numbers can be key to comprehension.
4. Connecting or Transition Words – Words like “now, because, therefore, so, since, but” show a relationship, an explanation, or a cause and effect. When you see a connecting word, determine its purpose for being there.
5. Questions and answers – We find this powerful teaching tool throughout the Bible. Jesus often asked questions and then fleshed out His answer (see Matthew 6:25-34). The apostle Paul also used questions and answers in his letters (see Romans 6:1-14). When you see a question in Scripture, be sure to look for the answer.
6. Commands – The Bible is full of commands. Some are one-time commands for specific individuals at a specific time. Others are for all God's people for all time. For instance, “love one another” is applicable to us today!
7. Lists – Watch for lists and groups that will help you understand a spiritual truth or topic. Mark things like characteristics, qualities, and reasons.
8. Spiritual principles– Eternal principles impact our daily lives. These may be explicit or implicit in the text.
9. Contrasts and comparisons – The Bible often compares and contrasts to show how people or things are alike or different. These literary tools can more clearly show the reader the way that pleases God.
10. Word pictures – Similes and metaphors paints pictures that help us better understand spiritual truths. For instance, Jesus' description of Himself as “the true vine” in John 15 helps us understand what it means to constantly abide in Him.

*For more on solid Bible study methods, visit [www.KathyHoward.org](http://www.KathyHoward.org)*

# DEEP ROOTED *Devotionals*

By Kathy Howard



*Available now on Amazon*