

BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2024 – WEEK 1

### Job 1:1-5: The Temporal Quest for an Eternal Perspective

*Now this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God,  
and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.*

– John 17:3 BSB

- **Searching for God**
  - The book of Job is not about...
    - ...Job
    - ...Satan
    - ...spiritual warfare
    - ...human suffering
    - ...the saintliness of Job
    - ...or his insufferable, self-righteous friends
  - It's about **the sovereignty of God**
    - Suffering is **the context**, but not **the point**
    - Job is a **vital character**, but not **the focus**
    - The book deals with Job's **temporary trials**
    - But it's all about eternal truths

"This book is written...to teach that humans are limited in their knowledge of what Yahweh is doing. Most of the book is acted out on the earthly stage, as Job and his friends discuss his adversity and its probable cause. The reader, however, learns from the prologue that there is much more going on than the humans realize." – Daniel J. Estes, *Job, Teach the Text Commentary Series*

- **Job and his friends are on a journey of discovery**
  - From **intuition** to **enlightenment**
  - From **head knowledge** to **heart change**

- From **conjecture** to **conviction**
- From **rumors** to the **real thing**
- **Tips for the road trip**
  - The timing
    - After the flood
    - Before the call of Abram
  - The characters
    - Yahweh worshipers
    - But all non-Jews
  - The context
    - Prior to the Exodus
      - No people of Israel
      - No Pentateuch, Law, or sacrificial system
      - No revelation or word from God
    - So how did they know about God?
      - They were descendants of the sons of Noah: Shem, Japheth, and Ham
      - They would have heard the stories of creation, the fall, and the flood
      - But only through word of mouth
    - Oral transmission is inherently flawed
      - Like the telephone game
      - Prone to enhancement or alteration
      - They could communicate **what God had done**
      - But were left to conjecture about **who He was**
        - Paul explains the danger:

*For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. – Romans 1:19-20 ESV*

- Opinions are like bellybuttons...everybody has one
  - This book is filled with opinions about God
    - ~ Based mostly on **reason**, not **revelation**
    - ~ Formed on **assumptions** and **theories**
    - ~ Relying upon **human intelligence**
  - The **creature** trying to explain the **Creator**

*Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For **since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know Him...** – 1 Corinthians 1:20-21 BSB*

*Let no one deceive himself. If any of you thinks he is wise in this age, he should become a fool, so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is*

*foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness." And again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." – 1 Corinthians 3:18-20 BSB*

*"...the book of Job touches upon many important subjects. One of its primary topics is **the infinite wisdom of Yahweh**, which transcends what humans are able to comprehend." – Daniel J. Estes, *Job, Teach the Text Commentary Series**

*"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. – Isaiah 55:8 NLT*

*Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! – Romans 11:33 NLT*

- **Right words – wrong conclusions**

- Jobs friends seem to say all the right things

*He [God] does great things too marvelous to understand. He performs countless miracles. – Job 5:9 NLT*

*"Can you solve the mysteries of God? Can you discover everything about the Almighty? Such knowledge is higher than the heavens — and who are you? It is deeper than the underworld — what do you know?" – Job 11:7-8 NLT*

*"Were you listening at God's secret council? Do you have a monopoly on wisdom?" – Job 15:8 NLT*

*"Look, God is greater than we can understand. His years cannot be counted." – Job 37:26 NLT*

*"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.*

*"...no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God. For this reason, the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself.*

*"...and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he is his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God." – A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy**

- **The age of the user-friendly God**

- Who makes us feel comfortable
- Who we can control and manage
- Who exists for our benefit

- Who is a slightly improved version of US
- Who elicits warm feelings but not fear

“The god of American popular culture is an indulgent heavenly spirit who is little threat to our lifestyles and luxuries – a god consistent with our consumer culture and rampant immorality. This god might wish that humans would behave, but he is powerless when they do not.” – Albert Mohler, Foreward to *Made In Our Image*

“The anemic view of God held by many church members is evident in doctrinal confusion, corrupted worship, compromised evangelism, and spiritual deadness...Human beings, created in the image of God, have now attempted to imagine God in our own image.” – Albert Mohler, Foreward to *Made In Our Image*

- The Book of Job is not about **suffering**, it’s about having an **insufficient** or **inaccurate** view of God

- **Getting to know God**

- So, what do you think about God?
  - Is He distant and disinterested?
  - Is He unjust and unfair?
  - Is He too demanding and judgmental?
  - Is He all-powerful or impotent?
  - Is He loving or short-tempered?
  - Is He approachable or inaccessible?
- God: our topic for the next 11 weeks

“The true knowledge of God is the only paradigm through which we can properly see the world around us. How you see Him dictates how you see everything else. A proper view of God brings everything else in to focus.” – Steven J. Lawson, *Made In Our Image*

- **There was a man**

*<sup>1</sup> There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. <sup>2</sup> There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. <sup>3</sup> He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. <sup>4</sup> His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. <sup>5</sup> And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed<sup>[a]</sup> God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually. – Job 1:1-5 ESV*

- A one-of-a-kind book

- 42 chapters long
  - Chapters 1-2: **The Prologue** } Prose
  - Chapters 3-41: **The Dialogues** } Poetry
  - Chapter 42: **The Epilogue** } Prose
- It defies classification in terms of genre
  - Includes in the Wisdom Literature with Proverbs and Ecclesiastes
- Key facts:
  - Author is unknown, but likely a Jew
  - The date of writing is also unknown
  - The evidence points to the Patriarchal Period
  - Timing is before Proverbs or Ecclesiastes
  - The Pentateuch and the Law don't exist
  - Written for a Jewish audience
  - But the characters are all Gentiles
  - No prophets have appeared
  - There has been little revelation from God
  - Contains a theology based on oral tradition
  - Their concept of God is incomplete
  - And has been influenced by false religions
  - But Job is a faithful, godly man

*Job...was **blameless** and **upright**, one who **feared God** and **turned away from evil**. – Job 1:1  
ESV*

**blameless** – *tām*

- complete, whole
- not sinless or perfect
- dealt with sin appropriately
- he was “confessed up”

**upright** – *yāšār*

- righteous, just
- “straight” and not “crooked”

**feared God** – *yārē*

- fear, reverence, awe
- respected God's authority
- devoted to God
- cared for what God cared for

**turned from evil** – *sār mērā*

- resisted temptation
- put aside wickedness
- avoided ungodliness

- This is God's assessment
- And the key to the whole book
  - God pronounced Job to be righteous
  - Not once, but twice

***“Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?” – Job 1:8 ESV***

***“Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason.” – Job 2:3 ESV***

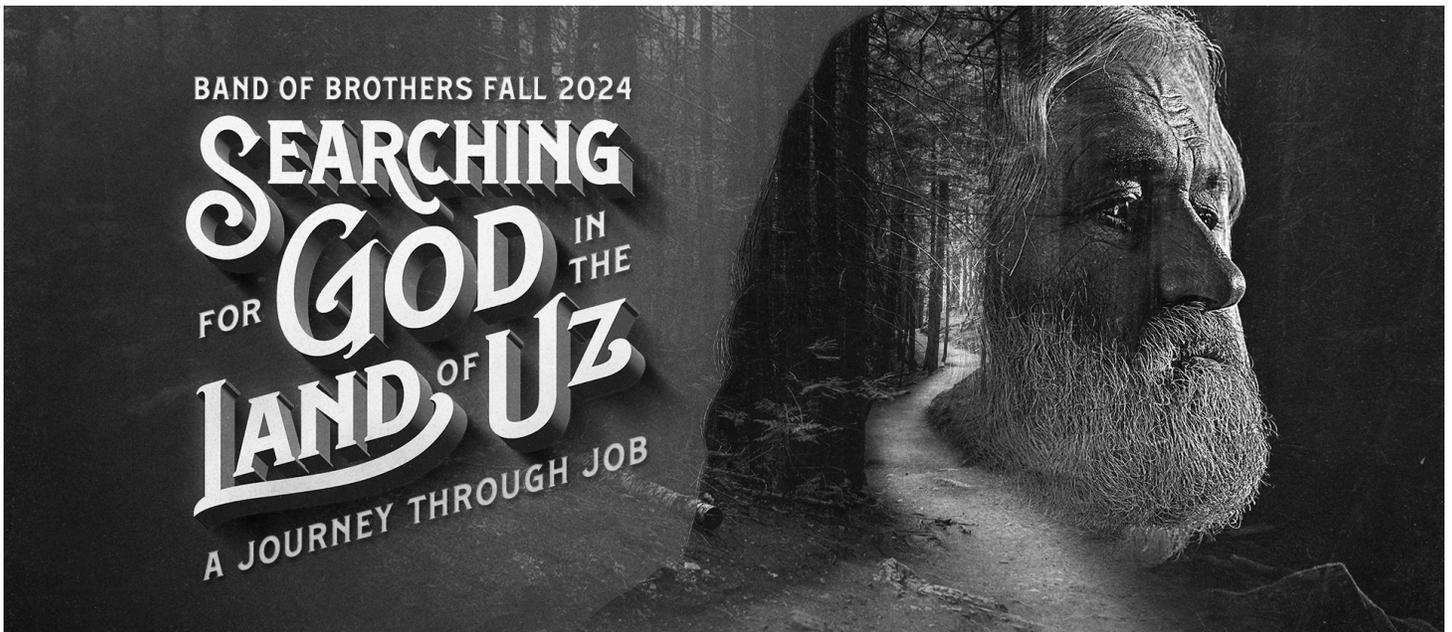
- Job had it all
  - The favor of God
  - A large family with believing children
  - Prosperity
  - A stellar reputation
  - A bright future
- But all that was about to change
  - His world would be turned upside down
  - His theology would be challenged
  - His faith would be tested
  - His insecurities would be exposed
  - His concept of God would be dismantled

- **Discussion questions**

What do you think comes into most believer's minds when they think about God, and why?  
What drives that view?

In what ways have Christians tried to make God more “user-friendly” and manageable?

How are we guilty of allowing circumstances (good or bad) determine our view of God?



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FALL SERIES 2024 – WEEK 2 HOMEWORK

### WEEK 2 – Job 1:6-2:10: The Fickleness of Life in a Fallen World

In this lesson we will examine the incredible story of Job’s suffering. This faithful God-follower will be put through a series of unparalleled trials, inflicted by the hand of Satan and with the full consent of God. The goal of this lesson is to establish the non-negotiable reality of Job’s innocence as testified by the Lord Himself. This point is critical to understanding everything else that happens in the book. Job’s friends will relentlessly debunk his claims of innocence and demand that there could be no other explanation for his suffering punishment for sin. This shared assumption on the part of Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and Elihu will drive their rhetoric and explain their flawed view of God.

- Read Job 1:6-2:10. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.
- Now read pages 9-22 of Ken’s Devotionalary™ on Job.
- Look closely at verses 6-12 of chapter 1. It’s important to take note that the Book of Job begins with a brief description of the main character, then switches scenes to God’s throne room in heaven. Describe what takes place in these verses. Who are the primary characters and what are they doing?

What does God have to say about Job?

How does Satan respond and what is the basis of his accusation? What is he inferring about Job's faithfulness?

How does this entire scenario make you feel about God? Be honest.

- Read verses 13-22. Write down all that happens to Job.

How would these tragic events impact your relationship with God?

What kinds of questions to these verses stir up?

How does Job's response in verse 21 strike you?

- Now, read Job 2:1-6. What does Satan still believe about Job and his integrity?

What does he ask for permission to do?

What is Satan's primary objective (see Job 1:11; 2:5)?

- Read Job 2:7-10. What does Satan do to Job this time?

What does Job's wife try to get him to do? What's her motivation?

Once again, what does Job's response in verse 10 say about his relationship with God?