

JOB

A MAN OF HEROIC ENDURANCE

STUDY TWENTY

Job Lived Happily Ever After . . . Or Did He?

Job 42:10–17

Before we're tempted to lay someone like Job down on a satin pillow and surround him in an unrealistic setting of pristine peace and beauty, we need to remind ourselves, he doesn't have that until he goes to heaven. On this earth no one lives happily ever after. Fulfilled and satisfied? You bet.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

ONCE upon a time . . . and they lived happily ever after.” When we hear these words we know we’ve crossed the threshold into the wondrous land of fairy-tale enchantment—fanciful realms of kings and queens, ravishing romances, and gallant heroes victorious in battle. If only this world were real!

We know fairy tales aren’t true, but we still set our hopes on happy endings to our stories. “When I get that new job, it’ll fulfill every professional aspiration.” “When I get that new car . . . oh, that new car smell.” “Now *this* is our dream house.” “I’ve met my soulmate . . . life couldn’t get any sweeter.”

We might assume that Bible characters lived happily ever after, but we can’t find one. The life of courageous, remarkable, steadfast Noah ended in shame. King David, a man after God’s own heart, had a dark side—adultery, murder, and a cover-up stained his record. His son, Solomon, the wisest and richest king of Israel, died a polygamist. Even in the New Testament, happy endings didn’t happen. John the Baptizer was beheaded. Peter was crucified upside down. Paul was executed in Rome. And John was exiled to Patmos. It just doesn’t seem right.

But what about Job? He had a happily-ever-after ending to his life, right? Not so fast. Job’s day of restoration and blessing arrived, and he did find fulfillment and satisfaction. But we shouldn’t imagine his life was all satin and roses from then on. Certainly, he endured more rough times and thorny conflicts. He was human, and it’s not a perfect world.



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SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES
BIBLE STUDIES

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Job 42:10–17

In the passage for this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study, we'll marvel at Job's blessings from God, but we'll also learn some lessons for living in a less-than-ideal world, as we look forward to heaven—a place where all our dreams *do* come true.



PREPARE YOUR HEART

What Job experienced individually, the prophet Jeremiah prophesied for God's people:

*"I will give you back your health
and heal your wounds," says the LORD.* (Jeremiah 30:17)

Our God is a God of restoration. As you open your Bible, say a prayer of thanks for the hope you have in Him and His plan to restore His people one day.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

God restored to Job the blessings he previously enjoyed, but his life was never really the same. Suffering never leaves people where it finds them. As the saying goes, "Suffering passes, but to have suffered never passes."¹ Job was forever a changed man.

All along, Job believed that his suffering would change him. When he had lost his children, his servants, and his business, with sores ravaging his body, and with his friends railing against him, Job boldly affirmed,

*"But He knows the way I take;
When He has put me to the test, I will come out as gold."* (Job 23:10 NASB)

Job made *three* faith statements in the crucible of his misery. First, he believed that God knew his situation—"He knows the way I take." Second, he believed it was God who was testing him—"when He has put me to the test." Third, he believed that after his trials ended, he would emerge a better man—"I will come out as gold."

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That's quite a proclamation of faith. Job was a realist who didn't deny his trial. But he retained hope that God knew his plight, that God was refining his character and faith, and that God would one day restore him—and He did. By the end of his journey, Job was even wealthier than when he started. But the *spiritual* gold his trials deposited into the bank vault of his soul far outweighed any worldly riches he later accumulated. Let's keep both aspects in mind, Job's inner growth and outer blessings, as we examine God's restoration of Job in Job 42.



Observation: Gold-Like Blessings from the Hand of God

Job received four specific rewards from the Lord. Read [Job 42:10–17](#) and use your observation skills to answer the questions below.²

Job's Possessions—Job 42:10, 12

What do you observe about God's restoration of Job's possessions in Job 42:10, 12 compared to the possessions he originally owned in [1:3](#)?

What character quality did Job display when he “prayed for his friends” (42:10)? Why do you think it's significant that God restored him *after* he prayed for others?

Job's Relatives and Friends—Job 42:11

What happened when Job's friends and family members returned in Job 42:11? What did they do for him—perhaps prompted by God—that no one did for Job during his ordeal? What feelings do you think Job experienced?

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Job's Children—Job 42:13–15

What do you observe in Job 42:13–15 regarding God's restoration of Job's children? What makes this new beginning even more remarkable? What details are included about his daughters?

Job's Life—Job 42:16–17

God graced Job with both *quantity* of years and *quality* of life. Since Job lived 140 years “after this” (Job 42:16), and assuming Job also received double for lifespan, about how old was he at this age of his trial, restoration, and reward?

How many generations did Job live to see, according to Job 42:16? What else is noted about the quality of Job's life (42:17)?

Job received everything twice as much as he had before. Not instantaneously, but over the passing of some years, his possessions grew. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Interpretation: Job's Long, Full Life

How many parents have said, “I wish I knew then what I know now. I’d have been such a better parent”? God gave Job and his wife a second time around to parent ten children. They effectively enjoyed being parents with the *wisdom of grandparents*. In what ways do you think they might be better parents? How would this privilege have also served as a reward for Job?

Our text details three things about Job’s daughters: their names, their beauty, and their inheritance (Job 42:14–15). The inheritance promise was quite unusual. Read the article, “[When Did Job Live?](#)” at [gotquestions.org](#), focusing on the second paragraph. From your research, based on this period of history, why was Job’s action so unusual? What character qualities did his action convey?

Job’s final reward from the Lord was that, when he died, he was “an old man and *full of days*” (42:17 NASB, emphasis added). Find the meaning of this phrase by comparing it to its opposite in [Job 14:1](#) in the ESV. This statement reflects Job’s life when he was in the teeth of his trials. Read the article, “[What Does It Mean That Man Is Few of Days and Full of Trouble?](#)” at [gotquestions.org](#), zeroing in on paragraphs two and three.

How was Job’s complete life reversal evidence of reward only by the hand of God? How does it reflect both *quantitative* and *qualitative* blessing?

What a way to die! Not living happily ever after. That’s not possible. We’re on this earth. We still have a sin-cursed nature. We still must deal with a hostile world and nature in others that is less than desirable. But there can be satisfaction. There can be fulfillment. There can be a purpose.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Correlation: Old Testament Saints Full of Days

God graciously blessed many of His servants in Scripture with long and fulfilling lives. Let's review three. According to [Genesis 25:7–8](#), what was Abraham's lifespan, and what is said of his earthly years?

Much as Job and his wife parented children later in life, Abraham and Sarah were ages 100 and 90 when they miraculously conceived Isaac. Much like his father Abraham, what is said of Isaac in [Genesis 35:28–29](#)?

King David faced trials, temptations, and transgressions. However, the “man after [God's] own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14) bore a similar epitaph to the patriarchs. What is said of David's life, according to [1 Chronicles 29:26–28](#)? What additional details do you see?

There's a Jewish proverb that says, “For the ignorant, old age is as winter; for the learned, it is a harvest.” —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Application: Five Tips to Stay Young

We would all like to live life as Job did, “full of days” (Job 42:17 NASB), for as long as the Lord permits. Pastor Chuck offers us five practical tips to stay young and to maximize our time on earth.

1. *Your mind isn’t old, so keep developing it.* Spend time with people who talk about ideas. Read good books. Attend conferences. Keep your mind sharp.
2. *Your humor isn’t over, so keep enjoying it.* People who see the sunny side of life lift up everyone around them. “A cheerful heart is good medicine” (Proverbs 17:22).
3. *Your strength isn’t gone, so keep using it.* Stay active and fit.
4. *Your opportunities haven’t vanished, so keep pursuing them.* What doors might God be leading you through?
5. *Your God is ever alive, so keep seeking Him and serving Him.* The living God is ageless. “His mercies begin afresh each morning” (Lamentations 3:23), so keep discovering more wonders of who God is and His love for you.

Which of these tips inspires you the most? What can you do to stay young while growing older?

What principles from Job’s journey through suffering and blessing most encourage you? What promises can you cling to when trials come?

Why was Job able to end his life satisfied and fulfilled? Was it a result of his restored blessings? His suffering? His walk with God? Write down what you think and how you can relate to his experience.

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“Here lies Job, a man who saw God in his suffering and was never the same.” Reflect on Job’s life *before* his trial, *during* his trial, and *after* his trial. If you could write your own epitaph, what would you want it to say?

Job teetered perilously close to the edge of doubt and despair, but, through it all, he remained faithful to the Lord. That is why Satan couldn’t destroy Job completely, and that is what gives us hope when suffering pushes us to the edge. God might be silent, but He’s never absent. Real life is no fairy tale, but, with Christ close by, every day can be a blessing. Step into His arms and stay there until the end of your days.



A FINAL PRAYER

Thank You, Lord, for our friend, Job. Thank You for his model. Thank You for coming back to him with such words and deeds of assurance. Thank You for blessing him like no one else in his day. I find hope there, Lord, and reason to go on. I love You and I say again, “You are my all in all.” In Jesus’ dear name I pray. Amen.

ENDNOTES

1. Henry Garipey, *Portraits of Perseverance* (Wheaton, IL: Scripture Press Publications, Victor Books, 1989), 211.
2. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll’s *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, “*How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?*”

For the 2026 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Marshall F. Davis in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll’s messages. Copyright © 2002, 2026 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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