

JOB

A MAN OF HEROIC ENDURANCE

STUDY TWENTY-TWO

What Job Teaches Us About Our God

Selections from Job

The book of Job teaches about grace. When He blesses Job, He doesn't bless a perfect man; He blesses an imperfect man.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

MISCOMMUNICATION can easily lead to *misunderstanding*. Many have played the “Telephone Game” at a party. One person starts by whispering a message to the next person, who then whispers what he or she heard to the next person, and so on around the circle. The final person to hear the secret message tells it to the entire group. Everyone laughs at how hilariously distorted it is from the original!

In the game of life, however, miscommunication isn't as fun. It can lead to profound misunderstanding, and that is no laughing matter.

Communication breakdowns can also happen regarding the truths of Scripture. The Bible tells us that God is *good*, *loving*, and *holy*. But then we read about Him allowing His chosen people, the Jews, to live over 400 years in Egyptian bondage. Or about Him encouraging the destruction of all the Canaanites when Joshua invaded the land. Or about Him calling David, “a man after my own heart”—the same David who committed adultery and murder. It can be confusing and can lead to misunderstanding about the character of God.

In the book of Job, we've witnessed God allowing Satan to afflict a righteous man with terrible pain. How do we reconcile God's compassionate and faithful nature with Job's suffering? Why would a good, loving, and holy God permit bad things to happen to Job or to us?

In this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study, we'll let Job himself help us answer these questions. Who better than Job to lead us into a deeper understanding of God? At first, all Job could see was his own pain. *Why me?* he cried out. But then God revealed Himself to Job, and all Job could see was God's majesty and power. In that life-changing encounter with God, Job's questions, fears, and doubts faded from view. Job no longer needed to know *why*. He only needed to know *who*—who cared for him, who was in control, and who would reward him in the end.



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SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES
BIBLE STUDIES

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In the previous study, Job helped us see seven truths about ourselves. Now we'll look again through the lens of Job's experience and see seven truths about our unchanging God. These are the truths that transformed Job's life, and they can transform your life as well.



PREPARE YOUR HEART

God's ways soar higher than our ways, but they are always grounded in grace, mercy, and love. Paul echoed this truth about Christ:

Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

As you discover timeless principles about God, ask the Lord to deeply impress His truth into your life through Job's experience.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Remember, Job had lost everything—ten adult children, servants, flocks, home, business, and health. Then, he endured the “friendly fire,” the pompous sermons, the judgment, and the condemnation from his four friends. In it all, God remained silent and never answered Job's desperate questions. Despite his turmoil and confusion, Job “did not sin by blaming God” (Job 1:22).

When God finally spoke, He toured Job through the universe, demonstrating His awesome power, creativity, and sovereign control. “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?” He asked Job, and His questions kept coming (38:4). Finally, Job understood the true nature of God, and he relented, retracted, and repented. Job had prayed for physical relief, but seeing God as He truly is and humbling himself in worshipful submission healed his soul.

If Job were alive today, he would teach us seven truths about God that changed his life. Let's look at each one and then find in them seven *principles* we can apply. Speak to us, Lord, through Your servant Job.

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Observation: Lasting Truths about Our God

Use your skills of observation to explore the truths that Job learned, even when his questions remain unanswered.¹ We'll use Pastor Chuck Swindoll's observations as a road map.

There Is Nothing God Cannot Do

Read [Job 42:1–2](#). Immediately following his grand tour of God's handiwork, Job uttered, "I know that you can do anything" (Job 42:2). Job experienced firsthand what theologians call God's *omnipotence*. While the word *awesome* is overused in our culture, why is this word an apt descriptor of God? How have you witnessed God's awesome power?

Let me warn you about the word awesome. Don't use that one much. Reserve it for God. Reserve it for one who knows no limitation, faces no impossibility, hurdles no obstacle, and can accomplish whatever He sets out to do 100 percent of the time. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

It Is Impossible to Restrain or Nullify God's Purposes

When Job exclaimed, "No one can stop you" (Job 42:2), he was expressing another attribute of God: *sovereignty*. How does Job's statement reveal God's absolute rule? What does it mean to you that nothing surprises God and nothing can defeat His purposes?

God's Plans Are Beyond Our Understanding and Too Deep to Explain

As you reflect on the book of Job as a whole, how does [Job 42:3](#) capture its core message? How does it reflect God's *omniscience*, that He is all-knowing?

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Maybe God doesn't explain Himself because knowing and understanding His way may not help us that much. I'll go a step further. Maybe because we're incapable of comprehending His answers. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Only Through God's Instruction Are We Able to Humble Ourselves and Rest

Read [Job 42:4–6](#). Intellectually, Job knew about God. What difference did it make for Job to experience Him personally, to see Him “with [his] own eyes”? Why was God's appearance necessary for Job to relent, retract, and repent?

When the Day of Reckoning Arrives, God Is Always Fair—Job 42:7–8

Read [Job 42:7–8](#). On what did God base His judgment against Job's three friends? No one else knew what these men were doing to Job, but God did. What does God's watchfulness imply about His justice?

No One Can Be Compared to God When It Comes to Blessings—Job 42:9–15

Read [Job 42:9–15](#). Before his trials, Job was a wealthy man with a loving family. How would you compare his abundance afterward?

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Only God Can Fill Our Final Years with Divine Music That Frees Us to Live Above Our Circumstances—Job 42:16–17

Read [Job 42:16–17](#). In keeping with God’s double blessing, what do you note about the length of Job’s life and the quality of his life?

Job is freed from the prison of fears. Freed from the tiny cell of limited thinking and negative attitudes. He’s freed from grudges. He’s freed from a works theology. He’s free! —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Interpretation: Timeless Principles About Our God

What biblical principles can you write based on these truths? Make them personal by using first-person pronouns. We’ve completed the first one below as an example.

There Is Nothing God Cannot Do

PRINCIPLE ONE: *No limitation, no condition, no reservation, no obstacle, no time constraint can hinder the activities, the actions, or the works of God in the world and in MY life.*

It Is Impossible to Restrain or Nullify God’s Purposes

PRINCIPLE TWO: _____

God’s Plans Are Beyond Our Understanding and Too Deep to Explain

PRINCIPLE THREE: _____

Only Through God’s Instruction Are We Able to Humble Ourselves and Rest

PRINCIPLE FOUR: _____

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When the Day of Reckoning Arrives, God Is Always Fair

PRINCIPLE FIVE: _____

No One Can Be Compared to God When It Comes to Blessings

PRINCIPLE SIX: _____

Only God Can Fill Our Final Years with Divine Music That Frees Us to Live Above Our Circumstances

PRINCIPLE SEVEN: _____



Correlation: God Is Faithful and Just in the Day of Reckoning

God settles accounts with the righteous and the unrighteous in His perfect timing. And make no mistake, He knows all, He sees all, and He hears all. He is ever faithful and just.

At the pinnacle of his Babylonian kingship, Nebuchadnezzar exuded godless pride. According to [Daniel 4:30–36](#), what was Nebuchadnezzar's perspective, how did God intervene, how did the king respond, and how were his fortunes restored? In his experience, what lesson do you find?

What assurance do you take from [Hebrews 6:10](#)? How does that promise impact your faithful labor on His behalf?

All God's accounts are not settled at the end of the month. He deals with wrongdoers at the time of His final accounting, and it's in His timetable. He blesses the one who has walked with Him in His timetable.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Application: Let God Be God

Our journey with Job has come to an end, but our admiration for this man will last a lifetime. As we've studied Job's blameless character and his fire-refined life, we've grown to appreciate him and his legacy of faith. Taking the seeds of Job's experience and planting them in our hearts equips us with biblical principles and vital faith lessons that will bear fruit when we endure similar trials.

Which of the seven principles is most meaningful to you in your current situation? How can it change your perspective? How does it affect how you relate to God?

What's the most important truth you've learned about suffering from the book of Job?

What new aspect of God have you discovered? In what ways can you say with Job, "I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes" (Job 42:5)?

What's the most important truth you've learned about yourself?

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How do you respond to the fact that God knows your every thought, hears your every word, sees your every action, and walks with you through every trial? How does this motivate you in your relationship with God?

What are the greatest blessings God has given you? Tell the Lord how grateful you are for these blessings. How do you feel knowing that God promises to reward you in the future?

Now press forward with renewed faith and confidence. Keep your eyes on the crown of life that God has promised you. Our God is ever faithful, just, and a rewarder of those who humbly seek Him. As you close your study, let Job's words fill your heart, whether the Lord gives or takes away, "Praise the name of the Lord!" (Job 1:21).



A FINAL PRAYER

Thank You, Father, for Your faithful care. I even thank You for Your mysterious ways. I entrust to You these lessons I've begun to learn. Thank You for my friend Job, whom I've met in this book. Thank You for the things he has taught me and, more importantly, what he has modeled. Thank You for Your grace, which lifts me above my prison walls and gives me a song to sing and hope to cling to. In the mighty name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

ENDNOTE

1. 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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