

## **An Analytical and Expository Outline of Job**

Introduction: The analysis of Job is set forth in outline format. A general summary of the speeches is summarized in italics to help with the understanding of the flow of the thought between the various speakers.

### **Job's character described—Job. 1:1-12**

*Job's righteousness demonstrated in life—1:1-5*

*God's first acknowledgement of Job's righteousness—1:6-8*

*Satan's first accusations—1:9-12*

### **Job's righteousness tested—Job 1:13-2:13**

*Satan is allowed to touch Job's family and belongings—1:13-2:6*

Job's afflictions—1:13-19

Job's response—1:20-22

God's second acknowledgement of Job's righteousness—2:1-3

Satan's second accusation—2:4-6

*Satan is allowed to touch Job's person—2:7-13*

Job's afflictions—2:7-8

Job's response—2:9-10

Job's friends come to comfort him—2:11-13

### **The discussion between Job and his friends**

*Job breaks the silence among his friends—Job. 3:1-4*

*"I curse the day I was born. Why could I not have died so that I could now be at rest like the rest of the dead? Why is life and light given to me who can find no relief from my sufferings?"*

*Eliphaz' first speech—Job. 4:1-5:27*

*"Job, you've used your knowledge to help others in suffering; but now you are impatient with your own condition. God does not destroy the righteous; but he does destroy the wicked. Man is a sinful creature and there are many such men who have foolishly sought to resist God's correction. If I were you, I'd call upon God, because He can do great things for you. He can deliver the most helpless. So accept the Lord's reproof and you will enjoy the many blessings of the righteous. We can all attest that this is the truth"*

*Job's first response to Eliphaz—Job. 6:1-21*

*My pain far exceeds my sin. If only that God would take my life now so that, at least, I could have the consolation of dying without having denied Him. Impatient, you say? What strength do I have to hold up to this and what hope to hold out? At least, I should be able to count on your support and kindness toward me? What have I done to you to cause you to speak about me as you have? Please tell me what is wrong about my life?*

*God has given me months of vanity—pain in my body and sleepless nights. If I die, I will speak no more; so I shall speak out while I can.*

*Please, Lord, just leave me alone. What is man that you are concerned about him? What have I done? And why have you not forgiven me of it? I will die and then you will see me no more.*

***Bildad's first speech—Job. 8:1-22***

*How long will you resort to such bluster? Surely you are not saying that God perverts justice?! Whatever calamities your children experienced undoubtedly came from their transgressions; but if you will seek God's face, your future will be far better than your past. Learn the lessons passed down to us from ancient times: The wicked man will perish; but God will not reject a man of integrity. There is still hope for you Job, if you will only turn to God.*

***Job's first response to Bildad—Job. 9:1-10:22***

*I know God can destroy the wicked; but how can any man be right before Him? And who can stand against His power? Even if I'm right, how could I make my case to God? Who would be an umpire between us?*

*Lord, I know I'm not guilty; but, why have you allowed me to be born and come to this? If only you would now withdraw from me that I might have a little happiness before I die.*

***Zophar's first speech—Job 11:1-20***

*Job, we cannot remain silent when you affirm your innocence. God not only knows your sin; he has forgotten half of them! How can you propose to argue with Him? If only you would turn your heart to Him and put away your sin, everything would be different. You would experience the trust, the hope, and the rest that you seek.*

***Job's first response to Zophar—Job. 12:1-14:22***

*Do you think I don't know all of what you all are saying? I can tell you about God's power and justice; but I am not guilty of anything that would justly involve this great punishment. So what you tell me is of no real use to me; and you will have to answer to God for speaking what is not true.*

*Lord, please take away my pain and fear, and answer me. Tell me what I have done that is wrong. I know death is coming for me and I could wish that I could rest in Sheol and hope that someday you would summon me from the grave and let me live as I once did.*

***Eliphaz' second speech—Job 15:1-35***

*Job, your own words reveal your guilt. Do you have more wisdom than the aged? And how can you show anger against God and maintain righteousness before Him? Let me describe to you the outcome for the wicked man, even those who have prospered. It is futile for him to oppose God and his recompense will be terrible.*

***Job's second response to Eliphaz—Job. 16:1-17:16***

*I could speak like you do, you sorry comforters! If you were in my shoes and I were in yours, I would try to strengthen and comfort you rather than make long condemning speeches that mean nothing. God's anger is against me, and those who surround me have become*

*my adversaries; yet I am innocent of wrong. I see no reason for His hostility toward me.*

*Lord, I am waiting on you; please testify in my behalf! Please give a pledge of the truthfulness of my claims! Where is that hope with which I can hope to avoid death?*

***Bildad's second speech—Job. 18:1-21***

*Why do you treat us as if we are stupid? If you will show understanding, then we can talk and help you. Consider that much of what you experience are the afflictions that God places upon the wicked man. These terrors are the inevitable result of wickedness.*

***Job's second response to Bildad—Job. 19:1-29***

*If what you men say is right, then you are charging God with bringing terror on an innocent man. Indeed, God treats me as an enemy; I am alienated from my loved ones, my friends, and my servants. My body is skin and bones. Yet you do not pity me as a friend, but rather persecute me. But, I know that God will at last stand up for me, even if He has to raise me from the dead to do so. And you should be afraid of what He will do on that day to you for your mistreatment of me.*

***Zophar's second speech—Job. 20:1-29***

*Your words agitate me, Job, and I have to answer. Let me tell you the way it has always been from ancient times: The triumph of the wicked is short. God's anger will be against them and they will not be able to enjoy the things they have wickedly attained. Instead destruction from God will prove their wickedness.*

***Job's second response to Zophar—Job 21:1-34***

*Listen to me carefully. You speak of the destiny of the wicked; but how do you explain the fact that many wicked people prosper in their wickedness? And though they don't want God in their lives, they have joy and prosperity. And consider this, that often at the same time there dies the man who has lived in prosperity and the man who lives with bitterness in his soul. Have you not had the honesty to consider all the facts, the whole picture? So, how can your answers help me when I see that they are false?*

***Eliphaz' third speech—Job 22:1-30***

*What possible benefit is our righteousness to God? And, is it this that caused God to treat you as He has? No! But you have failed to use your wealth to help those whom you could have helped. Would you charge God with being unable to execute justice on earth? The righteous would not speak of the prosperity of the wicked as if God were unjust; but rather they would rejoice that the wicked are punished. So I urge you now to yield to God. Repent of your sins and serve Him that He may bless you and that you in turn can help save others.*

***Job's third response to Eliphaz—Job 23:1-24:25***

*If only I had a chance to come into God's presence and plead my cause. I am sure that I would be vindicated. He knows my life; and I*

*am sure that I will come forth from this test as gold. I have not disobeyed him; but how can I possibly change His purpose? The whole prospect of coming before Him terrifies me; yet I cannot keep silence.*

*Why is it that the righteous do not see Him? The world is filled with people who disobey God, who mistreat the poor and the oppressed. There are murders, thieves, adulterers—these too avoid the light. Though God may at time bring judgment upon the evil doer, it often appears that He does not pay attention to the folly of men.*

***Bildad's third speech—Job 25:1-6***

*But Job, how can any man claim that he is righteous before God. If the light of the moon and stars is not pure, how much more is man not pure in the sight of God.*

***Job's third response to Bildad—Job 26:1-14***

Tell me, Bildad, who is the source of this “helpful” advice you have offered? Consider God’s greatness as displayed in his knowledge of everything and his power over the whole creation!

***Job's final response to his friends—Job 27:1-28:28***

I am innocent of wrong doing and my conscience will never allow me to say otherwise. But, may those who oppose me experience the punishment of God. I know that the destruction of the wicked is sure and complete. And though man may probe the depths of the earth for precious minerals and gems, he cannot find wisdom except through the fear of God.

***Job's monologue—Job 29:1-31:40***

*Oh, if only it could be as before, when God was with me and I lived in prosperity. Everyone loved me because I helped the needy and took up the cause of the mistreated. Everyone respected me and welcomed any advice I gave. But now, those who were outcasts and poor because of their foolishness now mock, ridicule, and attack me. Now, Lord, you do not hear my prayers, but persecute me instead? And, I have no one to comfort me! If I have lived in lust or dishonesty, if I have mistreated my workers or neglected the needs of the poor and mistreated, if I have trusted in gold or worshipped the sun or moon, if I have rejoice over the misfortune of my enemy or neglected to show hospitality to strangers, then let me bear my punishment. If God will only tell me my sin, I will admit my guilt to all.*

***Elihu speaks—Job 32-37***

***An introduction to Elihu's speeches—Job. 32:1-5***

***Elihu speaks—Job 32:6-37:24***

*I did not think it was appropriate for me to speak until the older men had spoken, since I am young. But now I want to express my opinion about all this. You have not been able to answer Job's arguments (32:6-22).*

*Now Job, listen as I speak; you have no reason to be afraid of me. Job, I object to your statement that you are without sin and that God has invented reasons to hurt you. Why do you complain that God does not give account of His actions? God speaks in various ways—in a dream in the night, through experiences that chasten—and we should simply acknowledge our wrong so that we may escape death and enjoy His favor again (33:1-32)*

*Job has said, “I am righteous” and “It is of no profit to please the Lord”. No, he not spoken right concerning God when he speaks like this. God never does wrong; he is never unjust. He judges them according to their deeds. Can one hope to receive God’s reward without repenting of his evil deeds? If anything, Job, may need more trials since he demonstrates a rebellious spirit against God (34:1-37). Do you all not see that God is far above us and that what we do cannot help or hurt him? God is not answering you, Job, because of your proud attitude (35:1-16)*

*Let me tell you the truth about God. He places men where He wants them. When they suffer He tells them their wrong and if they repent they will be restored to His blessings. Do not be evil and do not question God’s actions. He controls the various parts of the creation and blesses or judges by them (36:1-33)*

*Consider the storm as an example of God’s power and working in creation. He uses it to correct or show His love to man. So consider this, Job, and recognize your human limitations. He is exalted in power and never does anything wrong (37:1-24)*

### **God intervenes—Job 38:1-42:6**

#### ***God’s first speech—Job 38:1-40:2***

*Job, where were you when I created the world? Do you know what I know about the sea and the features of the earth? What do you know about the realm of death? Can you control the light, the weather, and the stars? Do you know how it is that I have created and provide for the lion and the raven? Do you know how I enable the mountain goats and the deer to give birth? Can you tame the wild donkey and ox? Do you understand the ways of the ostrich or the stork? Can you give strength to the horse or make the hawk fly? Let the man who wants to contend with the Almighty and who reproves God answer these questions.*

#### ***Job’s first response—Job 40:3-5***

*I am unworthy, Lord. How can I answer? I have already said too much that shouldn’t have said. I will say no more.*

#### ***God’s second speech—Job 40:6-41:34***

*I have more questions. Get ready and answer me. Will you condemn me that you may be justified? Show me how you exercise your justice against the wicked and I will admit that you have the power to save yourself. Also, consider the great creatures I have made that no man can tame or conquer—huge and fierce creatures on the land and in the*

*rivers. Who then has a claim against me that I must repay?  
Everything belongs to me.*

***Job's second response—Job 42:1-6***

*I know, Lord, you can do anything. I did not understand when I spoke  
about you. I had only heard of you; but now know I have seen you.  
Therefore, I repent in dust and ashes.*

***Job's righteousness is vindicated—Job 42:7-17***

***God rebukes Job's friends for their errors—42:7-9***

***God restores to Job a family and great wealth and Job prospers to the end of  
his life—42:10-17***