

good NEWS BIBLE

The book of

JOB



Bible Society
Trinity Business Centre
Stonehill Green, Westlea
Swindon SN5 7DG
biblesociety.org.uk

First published 2023 by The British and Foreign Bible Society
Copyright © 2023 The British and Foreign Bible Society (BFBS)
Additional materials © 2017 BFBS

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)
© 1992 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.
Anglicisation © The British and Foreign Bible Society 1976, 1994, 2004

The copyright for the derivative work of Anglicisation pertains only to the text within the Good News Translation (GNT) that British and Foreign Bible Society adapted for British literary usage, consistent with Section 103(b) of the United States Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 103(b).

Bible text from the Good News Translation (GNT) is not to be reproduced in copies or otherwise by any means except as permitted in writing by American Bible Society, 101 North Independence Mall East, Floor 8, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2155 (www.americanbible.org).

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

The book of Job
ISBN: 978-0-56-403493-2

Typesetting and production management by Bible Society Resources Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The British and Foreign Bible Society

Cover design by Colin Hall

BSRL/2023/1M
Printed in Great Britain

Around the world, millions of people are not able to engage with the Bible. This may be because the Scriptures aren't available to them, perhaps because they haven't been translated yet into their heart language, or because they don't yet recognise their value and significance for them. Bible Society works in around 240 countries and territories to translate, produce, distribute and connect with the Bible. We invite people to discover its life-changing message for themselves.

Contents

Welcome to the Good News Bible	4	Job Chapter 21	50
Introduction to Job	9	Job Chapter 22	52
Job Chapter 1	10	Job Chapter 23	55
Job Chapter 2	13	Job Chapter 24	56
Job Chapter 3	14	Job Chapter 25	58
Job Chapter 4	16	Job Chapter 26	59
Job Chapter 5	18	Job Chapter 27	60
Job Chapter 6	20	Job Chapter 28	62
Job Chapter 7	22	Job Chapter 29	65
Job Chapter 8	25	Job Chapter 30	66
Job Chapter 9	26	Job Chapter 31	69
Job Chapter 10	29	Job Chapter 32	72
Job Chapter 11	30	Job Chapter 33	74
Job Chapter 12	32	Job Chapter 34	76
Job Chapter 13	34	Job Chapter 35	79
Job Chapter 14	36	Job Chapter 36	80
Job Chapter 15	38	Job Chapter 37	83
Job Chapter 16	40	Job Chapter 38	85
Job Chapter 17	42	Job Chapter 39	88
Job Chapter 18	44	Job Chapter 40	91
Job Chapter 19	45	Job Chapter 41	93
Job Chapter 20	48	Job Chapter 42	96
		Where to find ...	98

Welcome to the Good News Bible

Welcome to this dyslexia-friendly edition of the book of Job, using text from the Good News Bible.

If you are dyslexic, you may find most Bibles very difficult to read, because of their small type, long paragraphs and thin paper. This book has been specially designed with the British Dyslexia Association's style guide in mind, so it has the following features:

- Thicker paper, so that type does not show through
- Cream-coloured paper
- Matt paper
- Plain font
- Larger type
- Wider line spacing
- Short paragraphs
- Bold headings

The Good News Bible is a clear, easy-to read translation of the Bible. It uses ordinary, everyday language so that as many people as possible can read and understand it. This has made it a very popular translation, selling over 150 million copies in the UK alone.

The book of JOB

The story of suffering

What's it about? Job was a good man whose life was turned upside down. He lost his livelihood and his family after God allowed Satan to attack his life; Satan claimed that Job was only faithful to God because of all the things God had given him. The book focuses on a conversation between Job and his friends about suffering and why it happens. Finally, God answered Job's cry and gave him a new level of understanding.

Who wrote it? The writer of the book of Job is anonymous and it is difficult to put a date on the book. The story is not set in Israel and doesn't take place in any recognisable period of time.

Why read it? The book of Job asks why bad things happen to good people. Job's three friends insist that Job must have done something very wrong to deserve everything that has happened, but he maintains his innocence and refuses to blame God.

What's it to me? Job is more about questions than answers. Why do we suffer? Why does God allow it? Does Satan cause it? Reading Job helps us to wrestle with those questions. Job's life shows that faith is no insurance against things going wrong. However, the conversation with his friends and God's final reply have much to teach us about who God is.

Chapter 1

Satan Tests Job

¹There was a man named Job, living in the land of Uz,^a who worshipped God and was faithful to him. He was a good man, careful not to do anything evil.

²He had seven sons and three daughters,³ and owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 1,000 head of cattle, and 500 donkeys. He also had a large number of servants and was the richest man in the East.

⁴Job's sons used to take it in turns to give a feast, to which all the others would come, and they always invited their three sisters to join them.

⁵The morning after each feast, Job would get up early and offer sacrifices for each of his children in order to purify them. He always did this because he thought that one of them might have sinned by insulting God unintentionally.

⁶When the day came for the heavenly beings^b to appear before the LORD, Satan^c was there among them.

⁷The LORD asked him, "What have you been doing?"

Satan answered, "I have been walking here and there, roaming round the earth."

^a *Uz*: An area whose exact location is unknown.

^b *heavenly beings*: Supernatural beings who serve God in heaven.

^c *Satan*: A supernatural being whose name indicates he was regarded as the opponent of humanity.

⁸“Did you notice my servant Job?” the LORD asked. “There is no one on earth as faithful and good as he is. He worships me and is careful not to do anything evil.”

⁹Satan replied, “Would Job worship you if he got nothing out of it?”

¹⁰You have always protected him and his family and everything he owns. You bless everything he does, and you have given him enough cattle to fill the whole country.

¹¹But now suppose you take away everything he has — he will curse you to your face!”

¹²“All right,” the LORD said to Satan, “everything he has is in your power, but you must not hurt Job himself.” So Satan left.

Job's Children and Wealth are Destroyed

¹³One day when Job's children were having a feast at the home of their eldest brother, ¹⁴a messenger came running to Job. “We were ploughing the fields with the oxen,” he said, “and the donkeys were in a nearby pasture.

¹⁵Suddenly the Sabeans^d attacked and stole them all. They killed every one of your servants except me. I am the only one who escaped to tell you.”

¹⁶Before he had finished speaking, another servant came and said, “Lightning struck the sheep and the shepherds and killed them all. I am the only one who escaped to tell you.”

^d *Sabeans*: A tribe of wandering raiders from the south.



**“The LORD gave, and now
he has taken away” (1.21)**

¹⁷Before he had finished speaking, another servant came and said, “Three bands of Chaldean^e raiders attacked us, took away the camels, and killed all your servants except me. I am the only one who escaped to tell you.”

¹⁸Before he had finished speaking, another servant came and said, “Your children

were having a feast at the home of your eldest son, ¹⁹when a storm swept in from the desert. It blew the house down and killed them all. I am the only one who escaped to tell you.”

²⁰Then Job stood up and tore his clothes in grief. He shaved his head and threw himself face downwards on the ground.

²¹He said, “I was born with nothing, and I will die with nothing. The LORD gave, and now he has taken away. May his name be praised!”

²²In spite of everything that had happened, Job did not sin by blaming God.

^e *Chaldean(s)*: A tribe of wandering raiders from the north.

Chapter 2

Satan Tests Job Again

¹ When the day came for the heavenly beings to appear before the LORD again, Satan was there among them.

² The LORD asked him, "Where have you been?"

Satan answered, "I have been walking here and there, roaming round the earth."

³ "Did you notice my servant Job?" the LORD asked. "There is no one on earth as faithful and good as he is. He worships me and is careful not to do anything evil. You persuaded me to let you attack him for no reason at all, but Job is still as faithful as ever."

⁴ Satan replied, "A person will give up everything in order to stay alive.

⁵ But now suppose you hurt his body — he will curse you to your face!"

⁶ So the LORD said to Satan, "All right, he is in your power, but you are not to kill him."

⁷ Then Satan left the LORD's presence and made sores break out all over Job's body.



"Why don't you curse God and die?" (2.9)

⁸ Job went and sat by the rubbish heap and took a piece of broken pottery to scrape his sores.

⁹ His wife said to him, “You are still as faithful as ever, aren't you? Why don't you curse God and die?”

¹⁰ Job answered, “You are talking nonsense! When God sends us something good, we welcome it. How can we complain when he sends us trouble?” In spite of everything he suffered, Job said nothing against God.

Job's Friends Come

¹¹ Three of Job's friends were Eliphaz, from the city of Teman, Bildad, from the land of Shuah, and Zophar, from the land of Naamah. When they heard how much Job had been suffering, they decided to go and comfort him.

¹² While they were still a long way off they saw Job, but did not recognize him. When they did, they began to weep and wail, tearing their clothes in grief and throwing dust into the air and on their heads.

¹³ Then they sat there on the ground with him for seven days and nights without saying a word, because they saw how much he was suffering.

Chapter 3

Job's Complaint to God

¹ Finally Job broke the silence and cursed the day on which he had been born.

Job

- 2-3 O God, put a curse on the day I was born;
put a curse on the night when I was conceived!
- 4 Turn that day into darkness, God.
Never again remember that day;
never again let light shine on it.
- 5 Make it a day of gloom and thick darkness;
cover it with clouds, and blot out the sun.
- 6 Blot that night out of the year,
and never let it be counted again;
- 7 make it a barren, joyless night.
- 8 Tell the sorcerers to curse that day,
those who know how to control Leviathan.^f
- 9 Keep the morning star from shining;
give that night no hope of dawn.
- 10 Curse that night for letting me be born,
for exposing me to trouble and grief.
- 11 I wish I had died in my mother's womb
or died the moment I was born.
- 12 Why did my mother hold me on her knees?
Why did she feed me at her breast?
- 13 If I had died then, I would be at rest now,
14 sleeping like the kings and rulers
who rebuilt ancient palaces.
- 15 Then I would be sleeping like princes
who filled their houses with gold and silver,
16 or sleeping like a stillborn child.

^f *Leviathan*: Some take this to be the crocodile, others a legendary monster. Magicians were thought to be able to make him cause eclipses of the sun.

- 17 In the grave wicked people stop their evil,
and tired workers find rest at last.
- 18 Even prisoners enjoy peace,
free from shouts and harsh commands.
- 19 Everyone is there, the famous and the unknown,
and slaves at last are free.
- 20 Why let people go on living in misery?
Why give light to those in grief?
- 21 They wait for death, but it never comes;
they prefer a grave to any treasure.
- 22 They are not happy till they are dead and buried;
- 23 God keeps their future hidden
and hems them in on every side.
- 24 Instead of eating, I mourn,
and I can never stop groaning.
- 25 Everything I fear and dread comes true.
- 26 I have no peace, no rest,
and my troubles never end.

Chapter 4

The First Dialogue

Eliphaz

- 1-2 Job, will you be annoyed if I speak?
I can't keep quiet any longer.
- 3 You have taught many people
and given strength to feeble hands.

- 4 When someone stumbled, weak and tired,
your words encouraged him to stand.
- 5 Now it's your turn to be in trouble,
and you are too stunned to face it.
- 6 You worshipped God, and your life was blameless;
and so you should have confidence and hope.
- 7 Think back now. Name a single case
where a righteous person met with disaster.
- 8 I have seen people plough fields of evil
and sow wickedness like seed;
now they harvest wickedness and evil.
- 9 Like a storm, God destroys them in his anger.
- 10 The wicked roar and growl like lions,
but God silences them and breaks their teeth.
- 11 Like lions with nothing to kill and eat,
they die, and all their children are scattered.
- 12 Once a message came quietly,
so quietly I could hardly hear it.
- 13 Like a nightmare it disturbed my sleep.
- 14 I trembled and shuddered;
my whole body shook with fear.
- 15 A light breeze touched my face,
and my hair bristled with fright.
- 16 I could see something standing there;
I stared, but couldn't tell what it was.
Then I heard a voice out of the silence:
- 17 "Can anyone be righteous in the sight of **g** God
or be pure before **h** his Creator?"

g *righteous in the sight of; or more righteous than.*

h *be pure before; or be more pure than.*

- 18 God does not trust his heavenly servants;
he finds fault even with his angels.
- 19 Do you think he will trust a creature of clay,
a thing of dust that can be crushed like a moth?
- 20 Someone may be alive in the morning,
but die unnoticed before evening comes.
- 21 All that he has is taken away;
he dies, still lacking wisdom."

Chapter 5

- 1 Call out, Job. See if anyone answers.
Is there any angel to whom you can turn?
- 2 To worry yourself to death with resentment
would be a foolish, senseless thing to do.
- 3 I have seen fools who looked secure,
but I called down a sudden curse on their homes.
- 4 Their children can never find safety;
no one stands up to defend them in court.
- 5 Hungry people will eat the fool's crops —
even the grain growing among thorns^{*i*} —
and thirsty people will envy his wealth.
- 6 Evil does not grow in the soil,
nor does trouble grow out of the ground.
- 7 No indeed! People bring trouble on themselves,
as surely as sparks fly up from a fire.^{*j*}

^{*i*} Probable text even... *thorns*; Hebrew unclear.

^{*j*} *sparks fly up from a fire*; or *birds fly up to the sky*.