

Job

Who wrote it and when?

No-one knows! Partly because it could have been written any time between before the period of Moses and after the age of Solomon – a period of 1,000 years!

We can be pretty confident, however, that the story happened at or before the time of the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) because:

- Job 1:5
- Job 42:16
- Gen 10:23, Lam 4:21



William Blake, Job's Complaint

Who was it for?

As a theodicy the book seems always to have had universal appeal.

Where did it happen?

Nobody knows where Uz is! But probably somewhere South and East of the borders of Israel.

The Structure of Job

1:1-5	Prologue
1:6-2:10	The double cycle (1:6-22, Cycle 1; 2:1-10, Cycle 2)
2:11-13	Job's friends introduced
3-27	Job's lament begins a series of three cycles: Job speaks, Friend replies, Job speaks, Friend replies, Job speaks, Friend replies (the exception of the third cycle...)
28	Hymn about wisdom
29	Job's last stand!
32-37	Elihu's four speeches
38:1-42:6	The double cycle (48:1-40:5, Cycle 1; 40:6-42:6, Cycle 2)
42:7-17	Epilogue mirroring introduction

Getting into the story

A poetic style

A real person? Ezekiel 14, James 5:11

A) Perfection, suffering and faithfulness, 1:1-2:10

the big issue

the dreadful suffering

the faithful response

B) The persistent question and the dangerous answers, 2:11-5:17

The contribution of chapter 28:

Job's conviction of blamelessness

Elihu the windbag

C) God in control, the humble response, the friends correction and restoration, and blessings restored, 38:1-42:17

D) Big themes of Job

The inadequacy of observation

The danger of false counselling

The information that you need

The possibility of faith

The sufficiency of the sovereign God

The information that you don't need

E) The pattern of the book follows the pattern of the Bible and the Lord Jesus

F) Summary