

“ INNOCENT SUFFERING ”

The Book of Job

Who wrote The Book of Job?

There is evidence to suggest that more than one person wrote the Book of Job. However, no author is ever identified in the story.

How did The Book of Job get its name and/or what does that name mean?

This book is named for its central character, Job who was a servant of God.

When did these events take place?

The lessons found in the book of Job are more important than any times or dates. It is believed that this book was written sometime between the 7th and 5th century B.C.

For more about The Book of Job:

See page 519 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

Sometimes, it seems like life can be so unfair. Have you ever known of a friend, a relative or someone in your community that has had everything go wrong all at the same time? Perhaps they experienced a death in the family right when they were recovering from an accident themselves. Or Maybe someone lost a job and eventually their home and many of their possessions because they couldn't make the payments with no income. Then, when it looked like they might be recovering, they got robbed or victimized in some way. It's easy to understand why anyone who experiences such a fate might ask themselves, "What did I do to deserve this?" It's not uncommon for some people to suggest that these things only happen because God must be punishing them for some sin in their lives.

Both this question and judgment are central themes to the Book of Job. This dramatic book, which was written over 2,500 years ago is the story about Job, a once powerful and successful servant of God who, one day, loses it all to every conceivable misfortune. As a result of a dare from the devil, God allows Job to be tested by suffering the loss of his family, his fortune and his health. The devil is sure that without all the trappings of human success, Job will turn his back on God in despair. God allows Job to suffer in order to test the level of his faith and trust in Him.

The lesson Job ultimately learns is a very important one even for us today. Suffering is sometimes just a part of life. Understanding why it happens is a mystery that helps us to better understand God. The Hebrew people are taught something new in the Book of Job as well. Suffering is not a punishment for past sins. God allows us to suffer for a much higher purpose - to bring us closer to Him. In the end, however, Job is rewarded for his faith and trust in God in the face of adversity with renewed health, double the wealth and a long life.

Interesting Fact: After the Lord restored Job's prosperity he allowed him to live another one hundred and forty years enabling him to see his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Bonus Point: Where in Job is the "law of gravity" first recognized?