

# Job: A man, A man tested, A man blessed?

## Cast:

Narrator:  
THE LORD:  
satan:  
Job:  
Job's wife:  
Eliphaz:  
Bildad:  
Zophar:  
Elihu:  
Extras:

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## Scene 1: One day in the Spiritual Realm

Narrator:

In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. He had seven sons and three daughters, and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East. (Job 1:1-3)

(short pause)

One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, (Job 1:6-7a)

THE LORD:

"Where have you come from?" (Job 1:7b)

Narrator:

Satan answered the LORD, (Job 1:7c)

satan:

"From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." (Job 1:7d)

THE LORD:

"Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." (Job 1:8b)

satan:

"Does Job fear God for nothing?"

(sarcastically)

"Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." (Job 1:9-11)

THE LORD:

"Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. (Job 1:12)

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Narrator:

One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" (Job 1:13-15)

**Extras:** (wild, raiding sounds!)

Narrator:

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" (Job 1:16)

**Extras:** (screams of agony, as fire falls from sky!)

Narrator:

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" (Job 1:17)

**Extras:** (wild, raiding sounds!)

Narrator:

While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" (Job 1:18-19)

**Extras:** (sounds of screams and buildings collapsing)

Narrator:

At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: (Job 1:20)

Job:

(in mourning)

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." (Job 1:21a)

Narrator:

In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. (Job 1:21b)

(pause)

On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. And the LORD said to Satan, (Job 2:1)

THE LORD:

"Where have you come from?"

satan:

"From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." (Job 2:2)

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THE LORD:

"Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason." (Job 2:3)

satan:

(sarcastically)

"Skin for skin! A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." (Job 2:4-5)

THE LORD:

"Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life." (Job 2:6)

Narrator:

So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. His wife said to him, (Job 2:7-8)

Job's Wife:

(Pleading out of her own agony)

"Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" (Job 2:9)

Job:

"You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" (Job 2:10a)

Narrator:

In all this, Job did not sin in what he said. (Job 2:10b)

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**Scene 2: A week in the Ashes**

**Narrator: THE FIRST ROUND OF DIALOGS**

Job:

What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me. (Job 3:25)

Eliphaz:

(smugly)

As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it. (Job 4:8)

Job:

"If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be placed on the scales! It would surely outweigh the sand of the seas— no wonder my words have been impetuous. (Job 6:2-3)

(pleading)

"A despairing man should have the devotion of his friends, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty. (Job 6:14)

Bildad:

(self-righteously)

Does God pervert justice? Does the Almighty pervert what is right? When your children sinned against him, he gave them over to the penalty of their sin. (Job 8:3-4)

Job:

"Indeed, I know that this is true. But how can a mortal be righteous before God? (Job 9:2)

Zophar:

(vindictively)

Oh, how I wish that God would speak, that he would open his lips against you and disclose to you the secrets of wisdom, for true wisdom has two sides. Know this: God has even forgotten some of your sin. (Job 11:5-6)

Job:

"Doubtless you are the people, and wisdom will die with you! But I have a mind as well as you; I am not inferior to you. Who does not know all these things? "I have become a laughingstock to my friends, though I called upon God and he answered— a mere laughingstock, though righteous and blameless! (Job 12:2-4)

Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face. (Job 13:15)

**Narrator: THE SECOND ROUND OF DIALOGS**

Eliphaz:

Why has your heart carried you away, and why do your eyes flash, so that you vent your rage against God and pour out such words from your mouth? (Job 15:12-13)

Job:

"I have heard many things like these; miserable comforters are you all! (Job 16:2)

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Bildad:

Why are we regarded as cattle and considered stupid in your sight? You who tear yourself to pieces in your anger, is the earth to be abandoned for your sake? Or must the rocks be moved from their place? (Job 18:3-4)

Job:

"How long will you torment me and crush me with words? Ten times now you have reproached me; shamelessly you attack me. If it is true that I have gone astray, my error remains my concern alone. (Job 19:2-4)

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; (Job 19:25-26)

Zophar:

"Surely you know how it has been from of old, ever since man was placed on the earth, that the mirth of the wicked is brief, the joy of the godless lasts but a moment. Though his pride reaches to the heavens and his head touches the clouds, he will perish forever, like his own dung; (Job 20:4-7a)

Job:

"Listen carefully to my words; let this be the consolation you give me. Bear with me while I speak, and after I have spoken, mock on. (Job 21:2-3)

**Narrator: THE THIRD ROUND OF DIALOGS**

Eliphaz:

Is not your wickedness great? Are not your sins endless? (Job 22:5)

Job:

"Why does the Almighty not set times for judgment? Why must those who know him look in vain for such days? (Job 24:1)

Bildad:

How then can a man be righteous before God? How can one born of woman be pure? (Job 25:4)

Job:

(sarcastically)

What advice you have offered to one without wisdom! And what great insight you have displayed! (Job 26:3)

"As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice, the Almighty, who has made me taste bitterness of soul, as long as I have life within me, the breath of God in my nostrils, my lips will not speak wickedness, and my tongue will utter no deceit. (Job 27:2-4)

For I dreaded destruction from God, and for fear of his splendor I could not do such things. "If I have put my trust in gold or said to pure gold, 'You are my security,' if I have rejoiced over my great wealth, the fortune my hands had gained, if I have regarded the sun in its radiance or the moon moving in splendor, so that my heart was secretly enticed and my hand offered them a kiss of homage, then these also would be sins to be judged, for I would have been unfaithful to God on high. "If I have rejoiced at my enemy's misfortune or gloated over the trouble that came to him—I have not allowed my mouth to sin by invoking a curse against his life—if the men of

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my household have never said, "Who has not had his fill of Job's meat?"—but no stranger had to spend the night in the street, for my door was always open to the traveler—if I have concealed my sin as men do, by hiding my guilt in my heart because I so feared the crowd and so dreaded the contempt of the clans that I kept silent and would not go outside—"Oh, that I had someone to hear me! I sign now my defense—let the Almighty answer me; let my accuser put his indictment in writing. (Job 31:23-35)

Narrator:

So these three men stopped answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. But Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, became very angry with Job for justifying himself rather than God. He was also angry with the three friends, because they had found no way to refute Job, and yet had condemned him. (Job 32:1-3)

Elihu:

Why do you complain to him that he answers none of man's words? For God does speak—now one way, now another— though man may not perceive it. (Job 33:13-14)

"So listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do evil, from the Almighty to do wrong. He repays a man for what he has done; he brings upon him what his conduct deserves. (Job 34:10-11)

"Do you think this is just? You say, 'I will be cleared by God.' Yet you ask him, 'What profit is it to me, and what do I gain by not sinning?' "I would like to reply to you and to your friends with you. Look up at the heavens and see; gaze at the clouds so high above you. (Job 35:2-5)

"Bear with me a little longer and I will show you that there is more to be said in God's behalf. I get my knowledge from afar; I will ascribe justice to my Maker. Be assured that my words are not false; one perfect in knowledge is with you. "God is mighty, but does not despise men; he is mighty, and firm in his purpose. (Job 36:2-5)

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### **Scene 3: God speaks**

Narrator:

Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: (Job 38:1)

THE LORD:

"Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.

"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? (Job 38:2-7)

"Do you hunt the prey for the lioness and satisfy the hunger of the lions when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in a thicket? Who provides food for the raven when its young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food? (Job 38:39-41)

Narrator:

Then Job answered the LORD: (Job 40:3)

Job:

"I am unworthy—how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. I spoke once, but I have no answer— twice, but I will say no more." (Job 40:4-5)

Narrator:

Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm: (Job 40:6)

THE LORD:

"Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. "Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself? (Job 40:7-8)

"Look at the behemoth, which I made along with you and which feeds on grass like an ox. (Job 40:15)

"Can you pull in the leviathan with a fishhook or tie down his tongue with a rope? Can you put a cord through his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? (Job 41:1-2)

His snorting throws out flashes of light; his eyes are like the rays of dawn. Firebrands stream from his mouth; sparks of fire shoot out. Smoke pours from his nostrils as from a boiling pot over a fire of reeds. His breath sets coals ablaze, and flames dart from his mouth. Nothing on earth is his equal— a creature without fear. (Job 41:18-21, 33)

Narrator:

Then Job replied to the LORD: (Job 42:1)

Job:

"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:2, 5-6)

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**Scene 4: Job is restored**

Narrator:

After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite,

THE LORD:

"I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has." (Job 42:7-8)

Narrator:

After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before. All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the LORD had brought upon him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring. (Job 42:10-11)

**Extras:** (sounds of comforting Job)

Narrator:

The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. And he also had seven sons and three daughters. (Job 42:12-13)

After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. And so he died, old and full of years. (Job 42:16-17)