

## BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF JOB

### I. The OLDEST Book in the Bible

#### A. Predates the LAW of MOSES

1. Demonstrates AWARENESS of God's LAW (22:22; 23:12)
2. Makes no mention of the TEN COMMANDMENTS or the Law revealed to MOSES
3. Knows nothing of a Levitical PRIESTHOOD handling SACRIFICES (Job 1:5; 42:7-9) their families. Job and his friends are living in such a system.

#### B. Almost certainly predates ABRAHAM

1. Mentions SNOW, ICE and FROST more frequently than the rest of Scripture combined
2. No mention of POLYTHEISTIC IDOLATRY
3. Refers to EARLY events in GENESIS

### II. The IDENTITY of Job

#### A. Lived in the "land of UZ" (Job 1:1; cf. Gen. 10:23; 22:21)

1. A place later associated with EDOM, which extended SE and SW from the DEAD SEA
2. Known as a LEADING CITIZEN of the land (1:3; 29:7-10, 25)

#### B. A REAL, HISTORICAL person (Ezek. 14:14, 20; James 5:11)

1. Attested by EZEKIEL and JAMES
2. Worshiped the God of NOAH and SHEM (1:8)
3. Possibly knew ABRAHAM, but was not in the line of PROMISE

### III. The AUTHOR of Job

- A. Sometimes attributed to SOLOMON
- B. Historically attributed to MOSES
- C. Probably written by JOB

### IV. An OVERVIEW of Job

#### A. An OUTLINE

1. Prologue (Job 1 - 2)
2. Job's Cry of Miserly and Despair (Job 3)
3. First Round of Discourses (Job 4 - 14)
4. Second Round of Discourses (Job 15 - 21)
5. Third Round of Discourses (Job 22 - 31)
6. Elihu's Discourse (Job 32 - 37)
7. God's Challenge (Job 38 - 41)
8. Epilogue (Job 42)

#### B. The THEME

1. Usually stated as "the MYSTERY of SUFFERING"
2. Better stated as "God's SOVEREIGN POWER over ALL creation, including US"