

## The Book of Job

## 25

## Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

This morning we begin reading the book of **Job**. This book is the first of the poetic books (also called the wisdom books) of the Bible, of which there are five:

- **Job**
- **Psalms**
- **Proverbs**
- **Ecclesiastes**
- **Song of Solomon**

The book of **Job** is unique in the Bible in that it’s entire focus is the question of human suffering in the light of the sovereignty of God. The study of the relationship between suffering and divine justice is called “theodicy,” from the Greek words *theos* (God) and *dike* (justice).

The author of **Job** is unknown, but Job himself probably lived sometime between 2000 BC (the time of Abraham) and 1000 BC (the time of David). An earlier date is more likely, based on the cultural traditions found within **Job**. Job’s homeland (Uz, according to **1:1**) is also uncertain, but is likely to have been on the other side of the Jordan River, east of Canaan.

The poetic forms used in **Job** can be classed under different types: lament, wisdom, proverb, hymn, oracle and prose. It is divided into five main sections:

- Introduction (**chapters 1-2**)
- The life of Job scrutinized (**chapters 3-27**)
- Interlude on wisdom (**chapter 28**)
- Job’s call for vindication (**chapters 29-31**)
- Elihu’s speech (**chapters 32-37**)
- God’s response (**chapters 38-41**)
- Conclusion (**chapter 42**)

Let’s pull up a comfortable chair and read the first third of **Job** – **chapters 1-14**.

# Memory Verse

That if you confess with your mouth,  
 “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart  
 that God raised him from the dead, you will  
 be saved. For it is with your heart that you  
 believe and are justified, and it is with your  
 mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its “address” (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear “reference tag.”
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!