

## Guide to the Enjoyment of Job

Read the book, using these questions to guide your thoughts:

1. What do you learn from the opening frame that the characters in the book do not know?
  - a. What does God think of Job? (1:1, 1:8)
  - b. What is the cause of Job's blessing? (1:10)
  - c. What is the reason for Job's suffering?
  - d. What does God value in Job's behavior? (2:3)
2. What is the hedge that Job complains about in 3:23? Hint: compare v. 1:10. Is Job wrong in making this complaint? How?
3. What do Job's friends think is the cause of Job's suffering? (4:8, 5:17, 8:20, 11:11, 15:20, 18:21, 20:29, 22:5)
4. Why do Job's friends condemn him? (Hint: think about 8:3, what they think Job is doing.)
5. What does Job think is the cause of his suffering? (9:17) Is he right? Explain your answer.
6. What does Job value even more than his life? (27:2-6) How does this explain the rejection of his wife's advice? (2:9)
7. Why does Elihu burn with anger against Job? (32:2) Why is he angry with Job's friends? (32:3) What does that tell you about the status of the argument so far?
8. The summary of Elihu's argument is 37:23-24. Is this true? (cp. Gal. 6:7)

9. God argues with Job that on the observable basis of the nature he created, he is wiser than man. (38-39) What is Job's response to this? (40:3-5)
10. God's second argument with Job continues the lessons from creation to confront Job's contention that God is unjust. (40-41) What is Job's response to this? (42:1-6)
11. What does the final narrative frame (42:7-17) teach us about the nature of God and justice?
12. List and explain three lessons that you take away from this reading of the Book of Job?