

## A Very Brief Outline of the Book of Job A Mini-Drama

### Characters

God  
Satan  
Job  
Job's wife  
Job's three friends: Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar  
An additional friend: Elihu

### Act One (Chapters 1-2) — The Prologue

<i>Scene 1 — in the presence of God</i>	<i>Satan's first challenge to God</i>
<i>Scene 2 — Job's dwelling</i>	<i>Job loses all his possessions and children.</i>
<i>Scene 3 — in the presence of God</i>	<i>Satan's second challenge to God</i>
<i>Scene 4 — Job's dwelling</i>	<i>Job loses his health, and his wife turns against him.</i>
<i>Scene 5 — Job's dwelling</i>	<i>Friends come to comfort Job, who is sitting outside his home in pain and despair.</i>

**Narrator:** When the book of Job opens, Satan challenges God as being overly protective of Job. It is easy for Job to be good, Satan claims, because God doesn't ever let anything bad happen to him. God, however, knowing the kind of man Job really is, decides to let Satan have a chance to do his dirty work. Satan first attacks everything Job owns, even his children. When that doesn't work, Satan attacks him with a painful disease. Even his wife thinks Job should give up and turn against God.

When Act Two opens, Job is sitting in misery outside of his home. Friends from afar come to commiserate with him. For seven days they sit in silence, empathizing with their friend's wretchedness. And then, they start talking.

### Act Two (Chapters 3-37) — The Dialogue

Chap.	Speaker	Theme
3.	Job	I wish I had never been born!
4.	<i>Eliphaz</i>	<i>You have advised others, but now you complain when you are in trouble. Do you think your troubles have come without a cause? Take your own advice.</i>
5.		<i>God is disciplining you, so take it like a man!</i>
6.	Job	God has turned against me, and you're not much help either!
7.		I prefer death to this miserable existence. God, what did I ever do to you that you are treating me this way?
8.	<i>Bildad</i>	<i>Job, you're a big windbag. You and your children have gotten what they deserve. If you would repent, then God would bless you even more than before.</i>
9.	Job	I want to plead my case before God. I need a good attorney. God's not treating me fairly.

Chap.	Speaker	Theme
10.		God, you know I'm not guilty, so why are you torturing me? Just let me die.
11.	Zophar	<i>Job, how can you say such things? Just stop sinning and all this misery will leave you.</i>
12.	Job	What makes you think you know more than me? I already know God is in control.
13.		But I still want to argue my case with him. I want to have my day in court because I know I'm innocent and that in the end I'll be acquitted.
14.		I know that in spite of trouble in this life, there is hope for the future and I will be with God. When I do sin, he forgives. God, why are you so angry with me?
15.	Eliphaz	<i>Job, if you were so wise, you wouldn't challenge God this way. What do you know that we don't already know?</i>
16.	Job	You have sure turned out to be great comforters! Sure, you can make fancy speeches, but you're not the one suffering. God attacks me even though I haven't done anything wrong.
17.		I have nothing to look forward to except death.
18.	Bildad	<i>This is all a lot of nonsense. Are you going to treat us like a bunch of dumb animals? Don't you know what will happen if you continue living in evil?</i>
19.	Job	How long are you going to go on tormenting me? Are you going to abhor me like everyone else? God may not be answering me now, but I know he lives and that I will see him someday.
20.	Zophar	<i>Why don't you give up, Job? Admit that you are one of the wicked. What has happened to you is evidence that you have sinned.</i>
21.	Job	Listen a moment, and then you can mock me all you want. Death and calamity come to both the good and the wicked. You're only speaking lies.
22.	Eliphaz	<i>Job, God isn't punishing you because you've been righteous but because you, a rich man, showed no compassion to those in need. And you thought you could get away with it! Come back to God, and he'll listen to you again.</i>
23.	Job	If I could find God, I'd plead my case because I know that I've lived a blameless life. When he gets done with me, I know I'll shine as gold.
24.		The wicked are not going to get away with their sins forever, but why doesn't God bring their judgment sooner?
25.	Bildad	<i>Do you dare to claim that you are righteous in God's eyes?</i>
26.	Job	You think you're so wise! What do you really know about the things God does?
27.		Never will I concede that you are right as long as I live! How can you talk about God this way?
28.		True wisdom and understanding come through fearing God.
29.		I wish that life could be like it was before. Everyone respected me because I had compassion on them and gave them good advice.

<b>Chap.</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Theme</b>
30.		But now they just see my misery and mock me. Have I ever done evil to anyone? Why are they repaying my good with evil?
31.		If I really had done wickedly, then I would deserve all of this calamity. But I haven't! Isn't anyone going to listen to me?
32.	<i>Elihu</i>	<i>Hey guys, you've got it all wrong. I know I'm just a kid in your eyes, but I have something to say. None of you has really answered Job's arguments.</i>
33.		<i>But Job, you haven't got it right either. If you pray to God, you'll be restored. God sends trouble for a good purpose.</i>
34.		<i>Don't accuse God of doing wrong. It's unthinkable that God would be unjust. He doesn't need anyone to plead a case in court. He already knows the outcome. Job has spoken wickedly.</i>
35.		<i>Job, do you really think God is going to pay attention to your ramblings?</i>
36.		<i>Affliction comes so that men will repent of their sin. If they don't, they'll perish.</i>
37.		<i>Remember who God is. Remember his power and what he has created. He can show love, but he also can punish. He is beyond our reach.</i>

### **Act Three (Chapters 38-42:9) — God Answers**

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Theme</b>
38.	<i>God</i>	<i>Job, I've got a few questions for you. Who do you think you are? Have you taken a good look around you? Can you do what I have done?</i>
39.		<i>Do you know what I know? Have you considered who causes the animals to behave the way they do?</i>
40.		<i>Come on and answer me, Job!</i>
	<i>Job</i>	<i>I can't! I wouldn't dare say anything more!</i>
	<i>God</i>	<i>Oh yes, you will! Act like a man! Do you dare question me and my justice just to prove yourself righteous? Do you think you are God?</i>
41.		<i>Do you think <u>you</u> are powerful enough to subdue the giant creatures of my creation?</i>
42.	<i>Job</i>	<i>God, you can do everything. I see now that I really didn't know what I was talking about. I knew about you, but now I have seen you. I repent!</i>
	<i>God</i>	<i>And now, as for you, Eliphaz and your two friends, I'm not too happy with you either. At least Job spoke about me correctly, but you have been foolish. Job will pray for you so that I don't give you what you deserve.</i>

### **Epilogue — The End of the Story (42:10-17)**

Job was healed and his wealth restored. And since people lived longer in those days, he not only had ten more children but lived to see his grandchildren to the fourth generation.

*Prepared by Carmen J. Bryant, April 2005*