The Book of Job is one of the oldest books of the Bible. It is a dramatic poem, one of the great masterpieces in literature. In both form and content, Job is unique. Job lifts the curtain for us and grants us a glimpse of some of the spiritual warfare dynamics that are so often behind our trials here on earth. This ancient Book presents a unique insight as to the spiritual warfare which surrounds human experience. The central character is Job, who is described as the greatest and richest man in the East, a man who was blameless in the sight of God, one who feared God and shunned evil. Yet he experienced great material loss, family tragedy, physical affliction, mental turmoil, marital dissention and the worst grief imaginable. Job presents the drama on earth in the light of a dialogue in Heaven. The angels come before the Lord, and it includes the fallen angel, satan. He prowls around seeking whom he can devour. God challenged satan to consider His servant Job, an outstanding man, blameless and upright, one who fears God and shuns evil.

Devastating loss
In a single day, all of Job's earthly possessions were destroyed, or stolen, his beloved children, his seven sons and three daughters were all dead. In great grief Job rose up and tore his robe, shaving his head in mourning. He fell to the ground and worshipped God declaring: "Naked I came from my mother's womb and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord." Job 1:21. In all this, Job did not sin, nor charge God with doing wrong (Job 1:22).

Reversal of fortunes
In a few brief hours Job had passed from being one of the richest and most fortunate of men to being one of the most tragic. He had passed from prosperity to poverty. The blessings of God had been removed from him. The protections that he had enjoyed had been withdrawn. Yet Job could declare that he had come into the world with nothing and that he would leave the world with nothing. The Lord has given and the Lord has taken away. May the Name of the Lord be praised. Job 2:10.

Loss of health
Job was smitten with a loathsome disease, boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. He sat amongst the ashes. Yet after enduring the heaviest blows imaginable, the loss of property, family and health, Job responded: "Shall we receive good at the hand of God and not accept adversity?" Job 2:10.

Loss of reputation
Then came the fourth trial, the loss of his good reputation. His friends tried to console him and expressed the traditional views about suffering: God does not punish good men, only bad ones. If evildoers seem to prosper for a while, their sins will catch up with them. At first Job's comforters were courteous, exhorting him to be strong and to trust in God. They maintained that God does not permit the innocent to perish. They warned Job not to claim righteousness in the sight of God. If Job would humble himself and admit...
his sins, then it would go well with him. Job's comforters Yet as Job continued to maintain his innocence, his three friends, became heated in their arguments accusing Job of unworthiness. Where there is great suffering, there must be great inquiry. Job must be a hypocrite, in his former pretensions of piety and justice. He must have stripped his present assertions of innocence. Justification by faith Bildad asks the great question, "How then can a man be righteousness before God?" Job 25:4. Job stands as an ancient example of one who lived by faith. In the face of unrelenting disaster, and surrounded by what he called, "miseries of the world, physicians of no value", Job declared, "For I know that my Redeemer lives and that He shall stand at the latter-day upon the earth; yet in my flesh shall I see God." Job longed for justice. He despaired of the presumption of guilt from his friends. At one point Job called on God to reply to him. Job answers God "Then Job answered the Lord, and said, 'I know that You can do everything. And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me which I did not know. I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eyes see You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:1-6. God rebukes Job's friends The Lord rebuked the counsellors of Job: "My zeal is aroused against you...for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as my servant Job has." Job 42:7. If we know so little of the ways of God in nature, and of His ways in creation are often beyond our understanding, we should not be surprised that there are mysteries of providence that we cannot understand. Job's friends are rebuked for having assumed that his sufferings were the result of his own personal sin. Job's faith and trust is vindicated. As Job had said: "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." Job had in faith declared. "When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold." He did, "All things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose." Rom 8:28. God knows our sufferings. God limits our trials. We may not always understand God's Will, but we can trust Him. God will ultimately reward faithfulness and punish wickedness. The Book of Job is a tremendous comfort to those who suffer. God described Job as blameless, a God-fearing man who shunned evil. The fear of the Lord - that is wisdom and to shun evil is understanding" Job 28:28. The Book of Job concludes with the vindication of Job: "Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning." Job 42:12-16 Interesting scientific insights in the book of Job 1. Earth floats free in space. "He hangs the earth on nothing. " Job 38:10. 42:12. 7. Air has weight (Job 28:25). 8. Light can be divided (Job 38:24). Only four centuries ago, Sir Isaac Newton discovered that white light can be parted into seven colours. - "What the Bible revealed almost 4 000 years ago!" 9. The Hydrological cycle (Job 36:27-28). God "draws up drops of water which distil as rain from the mist, which the clouds drop down" and pour abundantly on man. (Evaporation, atmospheric transportation, distillation and precipitation). 7. The universe is expanding (Job 9:8). 5. The earth is flat. 6. Light travels in a path (Job 38:19). 8. Life travels in a path (Job 38:19). 8. Air has weight (Job 28:25). 8. Light can be sent and manifest in speech (Job 38:35). 9. Life is more than matter and energy (Job 12:7-10). 10. Dinosaurs are described in Job 40:15-24. 

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