



## **The book of Job**

### ***DESCRIPTION SHEET***

#### **Author**

Job is a special book in the biblical canon because of the theme it covers. This text offers a unique view of the cause of suffering of a man declared righteous by God. If it is true that the book bears the name of its central character, it should be also noted that several candidates are proposed as authors, namely Job himself, Lihue, Moses, or Solomon.

#### **Date of writing**

Depending on the name chosen as author of the book, several writing dates could be proposed. For example, with Moses as author, it would be considered a fictional account written around 1440 BC. With Solomon as the author, we would date its writing to around 950 BC.

#### **Central theme and target audience**

It is obvious that this text is written to indicate that suffering is not always the consequence of sin. Moreover, it is worth noting that the introduction to the book presents Job as a man of integrity, loving God and hating evil. He is also a very careful man in the sense that he purified and offered sacrifices for his children in case they disobeyed God in their moment of celebration. The suffering of the believer can come from the divine will. The text of Job teaches us that Satan cannot inflict pain on us without God's permission because He is the one who controls events. The text also teaches us that God blesses those who are faithful to him, despite their difficult situation.

Because this story is relevant to Jewish tradition, one might say that Jews are the target audience. However, the text itself is universal in scope and concerns all believers of all times.

#### **Outline of the book**

1. The situation described: God, Satan and Job's suffering. (Job 1:1 – 2:13)
2. First speech: Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar and Job. (Job 3:1 – 14:22)
3. Second speech: Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Job. (Job 15:1 – 21:34)
4. Third speech: Eliphaz, Bildad and Job. (Job 22:1 – 26:14)
5. Fourth speech: Elihu and Job. (Job 27:1 – 37:24)
6. God and Job's deliverance. (Job 38:1 – 42:25)