Job XVI. 22. According to the Chronology of the Bible, 

The ancient Servant of God lived and suffered, and was 

humbled again, about 1520 years before the Christian era, 

and about 30 years anterior to the Exodus of the Is 

raelites from the land of Egypt. 

This mysterious book of Job, it is thought, was written 

by himself in the Arabic language, and translated by Moses into Hebrew, for the comfort and support 

of his suffering and downtrodden brethren, under the 

Galling yoke of Egyptian bondage. 

Some have supposed, that the book of Job was 

only intended as an allegory to illustrate the trou- 

bles and afflictions incident to the people of 

God in the present life, but there can be no rea- 

sonable doubt, that Job was a real and not a 

fictitious character, because the whole nar- 

rative is based upon historical facts, and Job 

is mentioned by name in the prophecy of Ezekiel 

in connection with Noah and Daniel, as three dis- 

tinct persons of eminent piety, and Saint James 

illustrates the value of patience, by the example 

of the distinguished Servant of God. 

The book itself, unconnected with any other, has 

been this ancient book, evidently dates back 

to the patriarchal age, and gives us a most 

interesting account of the most Supreme Being, 

the character of Job, three old men, and then a 

lovely young man by the name of Eliphaz, who 

seems to have acted as Moderator, between 

Job and his three old friends.
When Job utters the language of the text, he has just reviewed the dark and
dreadful road which he had traveled, and
given to his friend Eliphaz a rehearsal of
his sufferings, under the afflictive dispensa-
tions of divine Providence —
"God, says he, hath delivered me to the ungodly
and turned me over to the hands of the wicked until my face is foul with weeping, and on my
eyes is the Shadow of Death.
But in reviewing the past, and contemplating
the future, he exclaims in the language of
the text, "When a few years are come, the
language of Job, will be the topic of my
discourse on the present occasion.

Having reached the Autumn of Life, and the fiftieth
year of my connection with the Old Virginia Con-
ference, I can say with sincerity, When a few years
are come, then I shall go the way, whence I
shall not return.

In the month of February, 1883, I was reelected
on trial into the Conference, and sent to assist
John H. Watson on Prince Edward Circuit.
The business of Conference was managed very dif-
frently at that day from what it is at present.
The Conference room was kept almost herm-
tically sealed, and a door keeper was appointed to
challenge the entrance of any person that did
not belong to the body. No Money Changers,
Conference Stewards, Book Agents, or Newsboys
men were allowed to have tables or-trunks.
Inventors inside of the Conference room, Old Brother George Lane of New York, used to get permission to give notice that the preachers, having business with the Book Room, could see him in some outside building.

The Session of Conference were held in some school-room, Masonic Hall, or Court house, while the Church was reserved for preaching every day of the week, morning 3 o'clock, and at night, and some of the best preachers were sent out to preach to the people on those occasions. The Church was crowded at every house, and the people desired to hear the word of life, instead of being entertained and amused at the Conference room.

The Session of this year, 35, was held in Petersburg in the Masonic Hall, or Joff Street, and I was permitted to go in at the closing Session to hear the appointments read out.

I went forward with a cheerful heart to my appointed work, and came very near being drowned on my first round, in attempting to cross Little Roanoke in Charlotte County. A heavy rain had fallen the night before, and in attempting to cross, my horse rolled over in swelling water, and it was a marvel that I escaped from being drowned.

I rode up to John Randolph, Bushy Forest Plantation, where I found no one but the Overseer, he accommodates me with...
a suit of clothes and Confederate quarters, and the next day morning, when I rode to Charlotte Court House, and washed out and fixed up for a new departure.

In 1834, I was sent in charge of Mr. Peeling's account, when with the aid of James Edmonson, a part of the proceeds from sugar, coffee, and other goods, were used to assist the poor, and for the erection of the Church.

In 1835, my third year, I was appointed to Shop Hill in Richmond, to superintend the work of the Methodist Church in Richmond at that time.