

Job

Purpose of Wisdom Literature

Tell us more about King Jesus

Helps us examine the Wisdom and Praise of God's King

Helps us know how to rightly understand God and His purposes in the world

Background

Historical Setting: Likely sometime during the time of Abraham in the Patriarchal (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc.) period, during the timespan of the book Genesis

Geographical Location: The land of Uz, known in the Bible as the land of Edom, modern day Southwest Jordan and Southern Israel

Author and Date of Writing: Unknown, evidence suggests this author wrote the book sometime after the Exodus due to the use of the covenant name ("LORD," meaning "YHWH") used by the narrator to describe God (Job uses "el-o-ah" which is a general name for God)

Biblical Genre: Wisdom literature along with Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, & Song of Solomon

Key Characters: God, Satan ("Sah-tan" = accuser, prosecutor, adversary), Job, Job's three friends: Eliphaz, Bildad, & Zophar, & Elihu

Introduction

1. God is sovereign
2. God is good



Summary

God is totally sovereign over every action in the entire universe to display His glory so that it can be known and enjoyed by His creation. As his creation, we often do not know his reasons or goals in what he does. Despite our lack of understanding, God offers, in His character, enough for us to trust in His care.

Key Themes

- God's sovereignty over Creation
- Unseen spiritual forces interacting with human history
- Failed friendship during suffering
- The problem of "unearned" suffering
- Justice and injustice
- Righteous suffering accomplished through faith in God

What can Job's experience of suffering and his story teach us about true wisdom?

1. We often suffer
2. We only sometimes understand
3. We can always trust

Literary Structure

- 1. Prologue: Introduction to Job and the cosmic struggle between God and Satan (1-2)**
 - Key Verses: Job 1:9-12
- 2. Job's Lament (3:1-26)**
 - Key Verses: Job 3:3-5, 11, 16, 23-25
- 3. The Cycle of Speeches (4:1-27:23)**
 - Cycle 1: Job 4-14 - Eliphaz, Bildad, & Zophar speak – Job responds
 - Cycle 2: Job 15-21 - Eliphaz, Bildad & Zophar speak – Job responds
 - Cycle 3: Job 22-31 - Eliphaz & Bildad speak – Job responds
- 4. The Wisdom Poem (28:1-28)**
 - Key verses: Job 28:23-28
- 5. Job's last speech (29:1-31:40)**
 - Key Verses: Job 31:3
- 6. Elihu's speeches (32:1-37:24)**
 - Key Verses: 32:6-22; 33:19-20; 36:15, 32
- 7. God's Speech and Job's Response (38:1-42:6)**
 - Key Verses: 38:1-3; 40:1-2, 8; 42:1-6
- 8. Epilogue: God restores Job & his friends (42:7-17)**

Major Takeaway

Job paints a picture for us in which evil and sin in the world caused by Satan and humans is overcome not through warfare, but through righteous suffering that wholly trusts in God.

How to read Job the right and the wrong way...

- Right: Understanding God's providence and sovereignty over his creation to produce humility. His nearness to those suffering by revealing Himself to us. How much more we can know God's goodness in suffering and triumph over evil than even Job did because of Jesus.
- Wrong: I'm Job, I've suffered, so God MUST intend to restore everything to me tenfold