

JOB'S DEBATE WITH THE FRIENDS



CYCLE 1
CHAPTERS 13-14

CYCLE 2
CHAPTERS 15-21

CYCLE 3
CHAPTERS 22-28

FOCUS OF DEBATE

- 1 IS GOD JUST?
- 2 DOES GOD RUN THE UNIVERSE ON THE STRICT PRINCIPLE OF JUSTICE?
- 3 HOW IS JOB'S SUFFERING TO BE EXPLAINED?

BIG ASSUMPTION



3-37

JOB'S PROTEST

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

"WHY HAS GOD DENIED ME JUSTICE AND MADE MY LIFE BITTER?" 27:2

"GOD ATTACKS ME, TEARS ME UP IN ANGER, AND GNASHES HIS TEETH AT ME." 16:9

"HE DESTROYS THE BLAMELESS AND THE WICKED, HE MOCKS THE DESPAIR OF THE INNOCENT." 9:22-23

"WHAT HOPE DO THE GODDESS HAVE WHEN GOD TAKES AWAY THEIR LIFE?" 27:8

UNIQUE BOOK IN THE BIBLE



- SET IN "UZ," FAR AWAY FROM ISRAEL
- ALL CHARACTERS ARE NON-ISRAELITES
- THERE IS NO CLEAR HISTORICAL SETTING

INTENTIONAL!

The Point

THE AUTHOR WANTS US TO FOCUS ON THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY JOB'S SUFFERING

1-2

• BLAMELESS

• RIGHTEOUS

• HONORS GOD

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE BLAMELESS, RIGHTEOUS JOB?

JOB IS ONLY RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE YOU RECALLED HIM. LET HIM SUFFER, THEN SEE HOW RIGHTEOUS HE IS.

THE SATAN

YHWH-TANIN 77 (HEBREW) ACCUSER, PROSECUTOR

WHY? BUT:

WE ASSUME THE BOOK CALLS ANSWER WHY GOD ALLOWS SUFFERING. IT DOESN'T...

THE REAL QUESTIONS: IS GOD JUST? DOES HE RUN THE WORLD ACCORDING TO JUSTICE?

JOB'S WIFE: "COURSE GOD AND DIE!"

ELIHU: "BILLOD THE FAVORITE ZUPHAR THE MARRIAGE"

JOB: "BEST OF ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN THOUGHT"

ASHES

PROLOGUE

3-28

JOB IS RIGHT

ARGUMENT: I'M INNOCENT!

IMPLICATION: MY SUFFERING IS NOT DIVINE JUSTICE

CONCLUSION A: GOD DOESN'T RUN THE WORLD ACCORDING TO JUSTICE

OR

CONCLUSION B: GOD IS UNJUST

THE FRIENDS

ARGUMENT: GOD IS JUST

IMPLICATION: GOD RUNS THE WORLD ACCORDING TO JUSTICE

CONCLUSION: JOB "MUST HAVE" SINNED

SEE JOB 22

32-37

ELIHU

ARGUMENT: GOD IS JUST

IMPLICATION: GOD RUNS THE WORLD ACCORDING TO JUSTICE

CONCLUSION: SUFFERING MAY BE A WARNING TO AVOID FUTURE SIN BECAUSE IT BUILDS CHARACTER

BTW: DON'T ACCUSE GOD, DUDE!

JOB & THE FRIENDS

38-41

A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE UNIVERSE

GOD: "WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I LAID THE EARTH'S FOUNDATIONS?" (38:1)

JOB'S ASSUMPTION: GOD'S JUSTICE = HUMAN'S GOD

GOD'S RESPONSE: JOB DOESN'T HAVE A UNIVERSAL VANTAGE POINT

DEEPER ASSUMPTION: JOB HAS ENOUGH PERSPECTIVE TO MAKE SUCH A CLAIM

CONCLUSION: JOB IS NOT IN A POSITION TO ACCUSE GOD

REFLECT: "WHY HAS GOD DENIED ME JUSTICE AND MADE MY LIFE BITTER?"

THE POINT

EVIL SAYS: INJUSTICE, MURDER, LIES

IT'S COMPLEX, AIN'T IT?

GOD

BEHEMOTH (10b-1)

SEE ISAIAH 27:1 & PSALMS 79:13-14

LEVIATHAN

SYMBOLS OF DISORDER & DANGER

GOD'S WORLD

GOD ORDERED BEAUTIFUL

NOT PERFECT CHILD DANGEROUS

QUESTION: WHY IS THERE SUFFERING IN THE WORLD?

RESPONSE: WE LIVE IN AN AMAZING WORLD THAT IS NOT DESIGNED TO PREVENT SUFFERING

JOB: "YOU ARE UNJUST! I DEMAND AN EXPLANATION!"

GOD: "YOU'RE NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE THAT CLAIM. I INVITE YOU TO TRUST MY WISDOM."

GOD'S RESPONSE

42

12a

I RETRACT & I REPEAT!

JOB HAS SPOKE RIGHTLY ABOUT ME

YOU THREE SPOKE WIKINGLY ABOUT ME

GOD HONORS

- JOB'S STRUGGLE
- JOB'S HONESTY
- JOB'S PRAYER

12b

JOB'S FAMILY & FORTUNES RESTORED

JOB: 14K

JOB: 6K

JOB: 1K

JOB: 1K

EPILOGUE