

OT Wisdom Literature (OT6)

The Book of Job

April 10, 2014

Ross Arnold, Spring 2014
Lakeside institute of Theology



OT Wisdom Literature (OT6)

Apr 3 – Introduction to Wisdom Literature

Apr 10 – The Book of Job

Apr 17 – **No Class** (Holy Week)

Apr 24 – The Book of Psalms, Part 1

May 1 – The Book of Psalms, Part 2

May 8 – **No Class**

May 15 – The Book of Proverbs

May 22 – The Book of Ecclesiastes

May 29 – The Song of Songs; Final Exam

THE STRUCTURE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



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GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY

JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
SONG OF SOLOMON

ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
LAMENTATIONS
EZEKIEL
DANIEL

JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH
1 SAMUEL
2 SAMUEL
1 KINGS
2 KINGS
1 CHRONICLES
2 CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER

Number of books
in the
Old Testament:

Number of books
in the
New Testament:

Number of books
in the Bible:

HOSEA
JOEL
AMOS
OBADIAH
JONAH
MICAH
NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI

The Book of Job

“The greatest poem of ancient and modern times.” Tennyson

Author: Unknown. The book does not name its author. Possible candidates are Job himself, Elihu, Moses or Solomon.

Date: *Of events* – most likely during time of the Patriarchs, c. 2000-1800 BC. *Of writing* – depending on the author it could be c. 1450-950 BC.

Recipients: Ancient Jews, and everyone since.

Themes: Why do the righteous suffer? Why is there suffering at all? God is in control, and we are not. It is not right for us to try to give God orders or call him to account. God is good and his motives are right and pure, even if we do not always understand them. We are to have faith in God, no matter our circumstances.

The Book of Job

➤ Prologue, in two scenes—earth & heaven (1-2)

In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

Job 1:1,3

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.” ²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Job 1:21-22

Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.”

Job 2:3

His wife said to him, “Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!” ¹⁰ He replied, “You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?”

Job 2:9-10

The Book of Job

➤ **Prologue, in two scenes—earth & heaven (chs.1-2)**

➤ **Job's opening monologue (ch.3)**

After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

Job 3:1-2

➤ **Three dialogue cycles between Job and friends (chs. 4-27)**

“Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed? ⁸ As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it. ⁹ At the breath of God they perish; at the blast of his anger they are no more. *Job 4:7-9*

For hardship does not spring from the soil, nor does trouble sprout from the ground. ⁷ Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward. *Job 5:6-7*

I say to God: Do not declare me guilty, but tell me what charges you have against me. ³ Does it please you to oppress me, to spurn the work of your hands, while you smile on the plans of the wicked?

Job 10:2-3

The Book of Job

- **Prologue, in two scenes—earth & heaven (chs.1-2)**
- **Job’s opening monologue (ch.3)**
- **Three dialogue cycles between Job and friends (chs. 4-27)**

What you know, I also know; I am not inferior to you. ³ But I desire to speak to the Almighty and to argue my case with God. ⁴ You, however, smear me with lies; you are worthless physicians, all of you!

Job 13:2-4

Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face.

Job 13:15

“As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice, the Almighty, who has made my life bitter, ³ as long as I have life within me, the breath of God in my nostrils, ⁴ my lips will not say anything wicked, and my tongue will not utter lies. ⁵ I will never admit you are in the right; till I die, I will not deny my integrity. ⁶ I will maintain my innocence and never let go of it; my conscience will not reproach me as long as I live.

Job 27:2-6

The Book of Job

- **Prologue, in two scenes—earth & heaven (chs.1-2)**
- **Job’s opening monologue (ch.3)**
- **Three dialogue cycles between Job and friends (chs. 4-27)**
- **Three monologues (chs.28-37)**
 - **Poem to Wisdom* (ch.28)**

But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell?

¹³ No mortal comprehends its worth; it cannot be found in the land of the living.
Job 28:12-13

Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell? ²¹ It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed even from the birds in the sky. ²² Destruction and Death say, “Only a rumor of it has reached our ears.” ²³ God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells, ²⁴ for he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens. ... ²⁸ And he said to the human race, “The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.”
Job 28:20-24, 28

The Book of Job

- **Prologue, in two scenes—earth & heaven (chs.1-2)**
- **Job’s opening monologue (ch.3)**
- **Three dialogue cycles between Job and friends (chs. 4-27)**
- **Three monologues (chs.28-37)**
 - * *Poem to Wisdom* (ch.28)
 - * **Job’s closing monologue (chs.29-31)**

“How I long for the months gone by, for the days when God watched over me, ³ when his lamp shone on my head and by his light I walked through darkness!
Job 29:2-3

“If I have walked with falsehood or my foot has hurried after deceit— ⁶ let God weigh me in honest scales and he will know that I am blameless— ⁷ if my steps have turned from the path, if my heart has been led by my eyes, or if my hands have been defiled, ⁸ then may others eat what I have sown, and may my crops be uprooted.
Job 31:5-8

The Book of Job

- **Prologue, in two scenes—earth & heaven (chs.1-2)**
- **Job’s opening monologue (ch.3)**
- **Three dialogue cycles between Job and friends (chs. 4-27)**
- **Three monologues (chs.28-37)**
 - **Poem to Wisdom* (ch.28)
 - ***Job’s closing monologue** (chs.29-31)
 - ***Elihu’s speeches** (chs.32-37)

So these three men stopped answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. ² But Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, became very angry with Job for justifying himself rather than God. ³ He was also angry with the three friends, because they had found no way to refute Job, and yet had condemned him. ⁴ Now Elihu had waited before speaking to Job because they were older than he.

Job 32:1-4

“Do you think this is just? You say, ‘I am in the right, not God.’

Job 35:2

“God is exalted in his power. Who is a teacher like him? ²³ Who has prescribed his ways for him, or said to him, ‘You have done wrong’?

Job 36:22-23

The Book of Job

➤ **God's two speeches & Job's responses (38-42:6)**

Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:

“Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? ³ Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. ⁴ “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. ⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? ⁶ On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone— ⁷ while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? *Job 38:1-7*”

“Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!”

³ Then Job answered the Lord: ⁴ “I am unworthy—how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. ⁵ I spoke once, but I have no answer— twice, but I will say no more.” *Job 40:2-5*”

The Book of Job

➤ **God's two speeches & Job's responses** (38-42:6)

Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm:

⁷ “Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. ⁸ “Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself? ⁹ Do you have an arm like God's, and can your voice thunder like his? *Job 40:6-9*

Then Job replied to the Lord:

² “I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³ You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’ Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.
⁴ “You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.’ ⁵ My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. ⁶ Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.” *Job 42:1-6*

The Book of Job

➤ Job's restoration (42:7-17)

After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.

- ¹² The Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. ¹³ And he also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴ The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. ¹⁵ Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.
- ¹⁶ After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. ¹⁷ And so Job died, an old man and full of years.

Job 42:10, 12-17



