

The Book of Job

Where It Belongs

The Wisdom Literature	
Job	Ecclesiastes
Psalms	Song of Solomon
Proverbs	
(1) One of the earliest Books of the Bible (Patriarchal Period) (2) The first book in Wisdom Literature (3) The first book in Wisdom Literature for a reason: It's about	

What It's About

Theodicy	
A Real Definition	A Practical Definition
Divine goodness and providence in view of the reality and existence of evil.	If God is good, why do bad things happen?
A Real Test Case:	A Practical Test Case:
Job	You and me
Why Theodicy Is Important	
In the Ancient World of the Bible, people assumed that suffering happens only to the wicked. In other words, the reason people suffer is because of bad actions and/or sin. While this may account for <u>some</u> of the suffering we see in the world, it doesn't account of all of it. So enter Job. He's a righteous man who suffers worse than the wicked.	

Outline

1-2	The Prologue
3-31	Job and 3 Friends
32-37	Elihu Speaks
38-42	God and Job Speak
42:7-17	The Epilogue

The Prologue:

Ch 1	(1) Job's Prosperity Acknowledged as God's Blessing (1:1-12)	Blessing is Provident
	(2) God Allows Satan to Destroy Job's Prosperity (1:13-22)	Suffering is Provident
Ch 2	(1) God Allows Satan to Destroy Job's Health (2:1-11)	Suffering is Provident
	(2) Job's Friends Arrive to Comfort Him (2:11-13)	Comfort that's not Provident adds to it.

Job and 3 Friends

Eliphaz the Temanite	Confess concealed iniquities to alleviate suffering	“Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed? (Job 4:7)
Bildad the Shuhite	It’s not too late to repent and return to God’s favor	“if you are pure and upright, even now he will rouse himself on your behalf and restore you to your prosperous state.” (Job 8:6)
Zophar the Naamathite	He who commits wickedness will suffer for it	“When he has filled his belly, God will vent his burning anger against him and rain down his blows on him.” (Job 20:23)
Job	But I haven’t sinned	

Elihu’s Speech

About Bildad, Eliphaz, and Zophar	You found no way to refute Job. But you condemned him.	“I gave you my full attention. / But not one of you has proved Job wrong; / none of you has answered his arguments.” (Job 32:12)
About Job	You are arrogant to say you haven’t sinned	“Do you think this is just? You say, ‘I am in the right, not God.’ (Job 35:2)
Job	But I haven’t sinned	

God and Job Speak

God	Where were you when I created the world?	God has a higher purpose, unknown to us for suffering.
Job	I don’t charge you, Lord, with injustice. But I do repent for lack of knowledge.	My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.” (Job 42:5-6)

Epilogue

God is Just	Three Friends Judged	God accepts Job’s sacrifice
God and Job are Good	Job prays for friends	God gives Job a double portion
After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. And so Job died, an old man and full of years. (Job 42:6-7)		

Lessons from the Book as a Whole

1	Suffering isn’t always a punishment for sin
2	Accept suffering when it comes unsolicited
3	The best counsel without knowledge adds to grief
4	Family and friends may fail in a time of need. But God will not.
5	God is good and just. He makes all things new in his time and in his way.