

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

Job

Job belongs to the writings called the Wisdom Literature along with Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. The events of Job take place around the time of the patriarchs. Job is a book of suffering; it tells the story of a righteous man who was brought to a crisis of faith by the prolonged and bitter suffering that he was subjected to. Job inexplicably lost everything in his life and was left with a sense of abandonment from God. The book reveals the fallout of his ordeal in his cries to God and his struggle to make sense of what happened to him in light of his understanding of God.

Outline of Job

I. Prologue (1:1-2:13)

- A. Job's Happiness (1:1-5)
- B. Job's Testing (1:6-2:13)
 - 1. Job's first test (1:6-12)
 - 2. Job's second test (2:1-13)

II. Dialogue-Dispute (3:1-27:23)

- A. Job's Opening Lament (3:1-26)
- B. First Cycle of Speeches (4:1-14:22)
 - 1. Eliphaz (4:1-5:27) Job's reply (6:1-7:21)
 - 2. Bildad (8:1-22) Job's reply (9:1-10:22)
 - 3. Zophar (11:1-20) Job's reply (12:1-14:22)
- C. Second Cycle of Speeches (15:1-21:34)
 - 1. Eliphaz (15:1-35) Job's reply (16:1-17:15)
 - 2. Bildad (18:1-21) Job's reply (19:1-29)
 - 3. Zophar (20:1-29) Job's reply (21:1-34)
- D. Third Cycle of Speeches (22:1-26:14)
 - 1. Eliphaz (22:1-30) Job's reply (23:1-24:25)
 - 2. Bildad (25:1-6) Job's reply (26:1-14)
- E. Job's Closing Disclosure (27:1-23)

III. Interlude on Wisdom (28:1-28)

IV. Monologues (29:1-42:6)

- A. Job's Call for Vindication (29:1-31:40)
- B. Elihu's Speeches (32:1-37:24)
- C. Divine Discourses (38:1-42:6)
 - 1. God's first discourse and Job's response (38:1-40:5)
 - 2. God's second discourse and Job's repentance (40:6-42:6)

V. Epilogue (42:7-17)

- A. God's Verdict (42:7-9)
- B. Job's Restoration (42:10-17)

Job's Testing

1. Satan took all of Job's property and children
 - a. Job's oxen and donkeys were taken by the Sabeans, the servants were killed.
 - b. Job's sheep and servants were burned up by the fire of God.
 - c. Job's camels were taken by the Chaldeans, the servants were killed.
 - d. Job's sons and daughters were killed when a desert wind collapsed their house.
2. Satan afflicted Job with a mysterious sickness that affected his whole body.

Satan the Accuser (Zechariah 3:1; Revelation 12:9-10)

- He accused Job of having a godliness that lacked integrity and was self-serving.
- Satan attacked the godly righteousness of Job and distorted what was good in order to condemn him.

Major Themes

Suffering

- Just as Job was satisfied when he was given a glimpse of God, our focus should be on looking to God and trusting in Him.
- Enduring suffering with perseverance can display the glory of God through our response to it.

God's Absolute Sovereignty

- "God is completely sovereign over all the affairs of his universe for his own glory."
- Satan needed permission from God to afflict Job (see also Luke 22:31). God set clear boundaries to the extent to which Satan could act in Job's life.

God's Justice

- God is able to see fully into the lives of men to make just judgments with all facts in full view (34:21-25).
- God's inescapable judgment on the wicked is repeatedly affirmed throughout Job.

Shadows of Christ

- Christ is the mediator between God and man that Job's search ultimately pointed towards (1 Timothy 2:5).
- Compared to Job, Jesus is the true innocent sufferer who was completely faultless and yet submitted Himself to agony and death for the sake of others.

"...true godly wisdom is to reverently love God more than all his gifts and to trust the wise goodness of God even though his ways are at times past the power of human wisdom to fathom."