

JOB'S DEBATE WITH THE FRIENDS

JOB

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

AN INVITATION TO TRUST GOD'S WISDOM

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

JOB

- BLAMELESS
- RIGHTEOUS
- HONORS GOD

HAVE YOU CHANGED THE BLAMELESS, RIGHTEOUS JOB?

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

THE SATAN

WHY? BUT: WE ASSUME THE BOOK WILL 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: CURSE GOD AND DIE!

ELIPHAZ THE THAMARITE: CALLED BY THE NAME ZOPHAR

JOB: CURSE THE DAY I WAS BORN

THE FRIENDS

THE REAL QUESTION: NEAR EASTERN THOUGHT

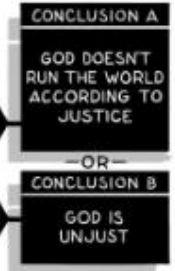
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PROLOGUE

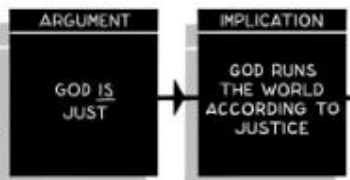
3-28

JOB

JOB IS RIGHT



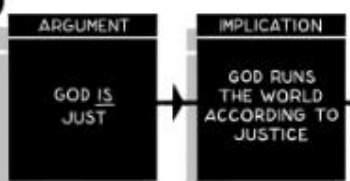
THE FRIENDS



SEE JOB 22

32-37

ELIHU



BTW: DON'T ACCUSE GOD, NUDE!

JOB & THE FRIENDS

JOB'S PROTEST

EMOTIONAL KOLLERCOASTER

"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 GODLESS HAVE WHEN GOD TAKES AWAY THEIR LIFE?" 27:8

JOB'S LAST STATEMENT

29-31

- ASSERTS INNOCENCE
- DEMANDS EXPLANATION FROM GOD

I SIGN MY DEFENSE, LET THE ALMIGHTY ANSWER ME! (31:35)

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 JUSTICE

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

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

CONCLUSION: JOB IS NOT IN A POSITION TO ACCUSE GOD

THE POINT: A VIRTUOUS CIRCLE

10A JOB: EVIL, INJUSTICE, MURDER, LIES

IT'S COMPLEX, AIN'T IT? GOD

10B-11: BEHEMOTH (SEE ISAIAH 27:1 & PSALMS 79:13-14) & LEVIATHAN

SYMBOLS OF DISORDER & DANGER

GOOD ORDERED BEAUTIFUL vs NOT PERFECT WILD 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 WORD!

GOD'S RESPONSE

42

12A: I RETRACT & I REPENT. JOB HAS SPOKEN RIGHTLY ABOUT ME. YOU THREE SPOKE GARIBLY ABOUT ME.

GOD HONORS: JOB'S STRUGGLE, JOB'S HONESTY, JOB'S PRAYER.

12B: JOB'S FAMILY & FORTUNES RESTORED

JOB: 14K, 6K, 1K, 1K

EPILOGUE