

# 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**

**1-2**

**JOB**

- BLAMELESS
- RIGHTEOUS
- HONORS GOD

DOES GOD RUN THE UNIVERSE ON THE STRICT PRINCIPLE OF JUSTICE?

DOES HE RUN THE WORLD ACCORDING TO JUSTICE?

THE SATAN

1ST THING 77 (PROBABLY) ACCUSED, PROSECUTOR

**WHY? BUT:**

WE ASSUME THE GOOD WILL ANSWER HAPPY GOD ALWAYS 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!

**ELIFAZ**

ELIFAZ THE KENITE

**BALDAD**

BALDAD THE SHARER

**ZIPHUR**

ZIPHUR THE GESHURITE

**JOB**

FIRST OF ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN THOUGHT

**ASHES**

## PROLOGUE

**3-28**

**JOB**

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, NUDE!

## JOB & THE FRIENDS

# JOB

AN INVITATION TO TRUST GOD'S WISDOM

## 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 MIRTH OF THE INNOCENT." 9:22-23

"WHAT HOPE DO THE GODDESS 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)

# 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

2 A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE UNIVERSE → **38-41**

**38-39**

**GOD**

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I Laid THE EARTH'S FOUNDATIONS? (30:1)

**JOB'S ASSUMPTION**

GOD'S JUSTICE = **WISDOM**

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

**70A**

**JOB**

EVIL MURDER LIES

IT'S COMPLEX, AIN'T IT?

**GOD**

**BEHEMOTH**

10B-11

SEE ISHAAR 27-1 & PSALMS 79-13-14

**LEVIATHAN**

SYMBOLS OF DISORDER & DANGER

GOD ORDERED BEAUTIFUL

GOD'S WORLD

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!

THEY'RE NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE THAT CLAIM

I WANT YOU TO PROVE MY WRONG!

**GOD**

## GOD'S RESPONSE

**42**

**12A**

I RETRACT & I REPENT!

JOB HAS SPOKEN RIGHTLY ABOUT ME

YOU THREE SPoke CARINGLY ABOUT ME

**JOB**

GOD HONORS

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

**12B**

JOB'S FAMILY & FORTUNES RESTORED

**JOB**

14K

6K

1K

1K

## EPILOGUE