

Outline of
Job



Introduction

Writer

Unknown. The following have been suggested: Moses, Ezra, Solomon, Job and Elihu.

Date

Unknown. Evidently it was written during the patriarchal period. Did Job know Jacob? It is possible. It was written before Exodus, it would seem, as there is no reference to the Mosaic Law nor to any of the events recorded in the Book of Exodus. Here are the arguments which seem to place Job with the patriarchs:

1. Length of Job's life span (42:16).
2. Job acted as high priest in his family.
3. Eliphaz the Temanite was descended from Esau's eldest son (Genesis 36:10, 11).

Purpose

Many problems are raised and settled in this book.

1. To determine why the righteous suffer (This is not the primary teaching).
2. To refute the slander of Satan.
3. To reveal Job to himself.
4. To teach patience. Was Job patient?
5. Primary purpose: To teach repentance.

God selected the best man who ever lived (Christ is the exception) and showed that he needed to repent. In contrast, we usually choose the worst man who repents as an illustration. Manasseh, a most ungodly king, repented; Saul of Tarsus repented; St. Francis of Assisi, a debauched nobleman, repented; and Jerry MacAuley, a drunken bum, repented. God chose the best man and showed that he repented — "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5, 6).

Estimation

Tennyson said of the Book of Job, "The greatest poem, whether of ancient or modern literature." Carlyle said, "I call [Job] one of the grandest ever written with pen." Luther said, "More magnificent and sublime than any other book of Scripture." Moorehead said, "The book of Job is one of the noblest poems in existence."

Source: Dr. John Vernon McGee (1904 – 1988), THRU THE BIBLE RADIO NETWORK

STRUCTURE OF JOB

- A. PROLOGUE (1-2) prose
Two rounds: GOD and SATAN
- B. DIALOGUE (3-42⁶) poetry
 - 1. HUMAN (3-37)
 - a. ELIPHAZ, BILDAD, ZOPHAR (3-31)
 - i. Round 1 (3-14)
 - ii Round 2 (15-21)
 - iii Round 3 (22-31)
 - b. ELIHU (32-37)
A monologue!
 - 2. DIVINE (38-42⁶)
 - i. Round 1 (38-39)
 - ii. Round 2 (40-42⁶)
- C. EPILOGUE (42⁷⁻¹⁷)
Final round: GOD and JOB

JOB'S THREE 'FRIENDS'

ELIPHAZ

BILDAD

ZOPHAR

RIGHTEOUS PROSPER
WICKED SUFFER

GOD'S
TRANSCENDENCE

GOD'S
OMNIPOTENCE

GOD'S
OMNISCIENCE

I. Drama

Chapters 1,2

(Prose)

- A. Scene I**, Chapter 1:1-5
Land of Uz; Job's prosperity and serenity
- B. Scene II**, Chapter 1:6-12
Heaven; Satan's slander of God and Job
- C. Scene III**, Chapter 1:13-22
Land of Uz; Job's loss of children and wealth
- D. Scene IV**, Chapter 2:1-6
Heaven; God and Satan
- E. Scene V**, Chapter 2:7-10
Land of Uz; Job's loss of health and wife's sympathy



II. Dialogue

Chapters 2:11 – 42:6

(Poetry)

- A. Scene VI**, Chapters 2:11 – 37:24
City Dump
 1. Job's loss of understanding of friends, 2:11-13
 2. Job vs. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, 3:1 – 32:1
 3. Job vs. Elihu, 32:2 – 37:24
- B. Scene VII**, Chapters 38:1 – 42:6
Jehovah vs. Job

III. Epilogue

Chapter 42:7-17

(Prose)

Scene VIII

Land of Uz; Job's blessings doubled



Quiz on Job

1. Who did God present to Satan as a perfect and upright man?

2. Where did Job live?

3. What type of disease was Job struck with?

4. How many children did Job lose in the storm?

5. In Job Chapter 2, what did his wife advise him to do?

6. Who was Eliphaz the Termanite?

7. In Job Chapter 32, why was Elihu initially afraid to give his opinion?

8. In Job Chapter 42, why was God angry with Job's friends?

9. How many children did God bless Job with after his suffering?

10. How much longer did Job live after his sufferings?

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