

Notes on Job

Job's Character:

- ✓ Perfect
 - Ø The Hebrew word is *yashar*, which means “straight (literally, or figuratively), (as in a straight path), just.”
- ✓ This is the same word that is used in other parts of the Old Testament to speak of good people.
- ✓ Upright
 - Ø The Hebrew word is *yashar*, which means “straight (literally, or figuratively), (as in a straight path), just.”
 - Ø This is the same word that is used in other parts of the Old Testament to speak of good people.
- ✓ Feared God
 - Ø This is the Hebrew word *yare*, which means “to fear (as in to tremble with fear)”
 - Ø “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 1:7, 29; 2:5; 3:7 and others). In these cases, the Bible uses the word *yir'ah*, which means “fear or reverence of someone powerful.”
- ✓ Eschewed (shunned) evil
 - Ø The word “eschewed” in Hebrew is *sur*, which means, “to separate, leave, take away from”
 - Ø The word “evil” in Hebrew is *raah*, which means, “bad, affliction, calamity, misfortune”

Job's Friends

- ✓ Elifaz
 - Ø Is characterized as an “old wise man,” very devoted to God. For his years, he has profound understanding, accompanied by tender compassion; while still maintaining the ability to be severe when needed. His arguments are based on his many experiences through the years.
- ✓ Zofar
 - Ø Is more impetuous, easily entering into youthful outbreaks. He is very dogmatic in his morals; intolerant of Job's ideas.
- ✓ Bildad
 - Ø A person who uses a lot of sayings, more educated, knowing the traditions of his people. His discourse is more polite and his language more harsh than Elifaz.

Ø However, Job's three friends only defend the "traditional thesis," or understanding, that suffering is nothing more than divine retribution

✓ Elihu

Ø Is an Arameic youth who comes across more positive and original. He disapproves of Job and his friends justifying God's punishment with eloquence. However, his high self-esteem (pride) comes across stronger than his intellect.

The God of Job

✓ There is no other book in all the Bible in which God speaks of Himself as He does here in His discourse with Job.

Ø Job 38:4-6 – as Creator

Ø Job 38:8-11 – the Powerful One

Ø Job 38:12-15 – His authority

Ø Job 38:16-18 – He who has wisdom and understanding

Ø Job 38:19-21 – The Eternal One

Ø Job 38:22-24 – He who is in control of everything

Ø Job 38:31-33 – The Highest; King of the Universe

Ø Job 38:39-41 – The Provider

Ø Job 39:1-4 – The Healer; He who watches over us

Ø Job 39:5-8 – The Liberator

Ø Job 39:9-12 – Lord over us

Ø Job 39:13-19 – He whose thoughts are higher than ours

Ø Job 39:19-29 – He who made everything perfect

Ø Job 39:26-29 – Our Teacher

Ø Job 40:8-14 – The Just Judge