

BEYOND BLACK & WHITE

A STUDY OF THE BIBLE'S WISDOM LITERATURE

Lesson 2 — Introduction to Job

I. Outline of The Book of Job

A. Chapters 1-2

1. Introduction to Job, the man
2. Introduction of God & the Satan
3. The satan attacks Job's _____, _____, and _____
4. Job's three friends come to _____ him

B. Chapter 3

1. Job wishes he'd never been born

C. Chapters 4 - 38

1. Job's (4) friends speak their beliefs about God's _____ and Job's sin.
 - a) Essentially, "You _____ this from God."
2. Job defends his _____, decries God's justice as _____, wishes for an _____ with God

D. Chapters 38-41

1. God speaks three points:
 - a) Job's friends are _____
 - b) God's justice is grander and more _____ than humans can understand
 - c) Men must _____ him even when we don't understand his inscrutable ways

E. Chapter 42

1. God declares _____ failures
2. God declares _____ righteousness
3. Job intercedes for God to _____ the friends' sins
4. Job's fortunes and honor are _____

F. The assumption throughout: That God provides _____ justice in the world: good for good, bad for bad

G. The overall teaching: We must _____ God and serve him even when we don't _____ his methods of justice

II. Re: God

- A. 1:6-12 – God and the “_____” or “divine counsel”
 - 1. Fits with the rest of the Bible
 - 2. There are other spiritual beings, and YHWH is the _____ of them all
- B. YHWH sometimes _____ human affliction, and sometimes _____ it
- C. Does not have to explain himself
- D. Asks us for _____ in his nature more than understanding of his ways
- E. See Job’s _____ even when Job laments his ways (cf. 42:7-9)

III. Re: Job

- A. Knows himself to be a man of _____
 - 1. cf. 31:1-40 – Job claims his _____
- B. Operates (somewhat) on the same assumption as his friends...
 - 1. ...and also sees _____ in God’s treatment of humans (cf. Job 21:7-34)
- C. Wants to plead his case before God...
 - 1. ...yet answers with _____ when confronted by God (cf. 40:4, 42:1-6)
- D. Does two things right all the way thru:
 - 1. Always speaks _____ as he knows it
 - 2. Turns _____ God, not away from him
 - a) _____ shows more faith than _____

IV. Re: The friends

- A. Come to Job to bring him comfort
 - 1. First effort: Brilliant (2:11-13)
 - 2. All other efforts: rubbish (cf. 16:1-4)
- B. A simple theological system:
 - 1. If you’re good, God will bless you now. If you’re bad, God will punish you now.
 - 2. Utterly _____ in this assessment (Ch. 4-5, 8, 11, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 32-37)
- C. Finally _____ by God as incorrect

V. Re: justice

- A. So why does Job suffer?
 - 1. Because Job is unrighteous?
 - 2. Because God is not good?
 - 3. Because God is not all-powerful?
 - 4. Because God is not there?
- B. _____

FOR WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22

Reading assignment: Job 38-41

Questions:

- What is God's main point in drawing Job's attention to the various elements of Creation?

- Opinion question: Which part of God's creation [as described in Job] impresses you the most?
Why?

- The Bible is one unified set of writings that point us to Christ. How does the book of Job do that?
What elements or descriptions of the whole book help us see the impact of God's plan in Jesus?
