Finding the Truth: Understanding the Bible

The Wisdom Books: Job

Author: Unknown

Date: Probably takes place before the calling of Abraham. It is set in the time of the Patriarchs.

Theme: Why is there suffering in the world? Where is wisdom found?

Structure:

- Job 1-2: Prose prologue that introduces the characters and plot.
- Job 3-31 Job's dialogues with his three friends.
    - Job 3 Job's lament.
    - Job 4-27 Three cycles of dialogues.
    - Job 28 The poem on divine wisdom.
    - Job 29-31 Job's last speech.
- Job 32-37 Elihu's monologue.
- Job 38-42:6 God speaks from the whirlwind
- Job 42:7-17 the prose epilogue that draws the action to a close.

The speech cycles in Job

First Cycle	Second Cycle	Third Cycle
Eliphaz (4-5)	Eliphaz (15)	Eliphaz (22)
Job (6-7)	Job (16-17)	Job (23-24)
Bildad (8)	Bildad (18)	Bildad (25)
Job (9-10)	Job (19)	Job (26:1-27:12)
Zophar (11)	Zophar (20)	
Job (12-14)	Job 21	Job (28-31)

Lesson 21

Studying the Bible:
The Wisdom Books: Job

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Suggested Reading

HTRTBFAIW: pages 249-251
HTRTBBBB: pages 121-129
HTRTBTTJL: pages 69-73

Scripture Reading

Job

Key Verses:

Job 1:8
8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

Job 28:28
And he said to the human race, "The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding."

Notes