

Outline of Job

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 - C. To the comforters (2:11-13)
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- II. Theodicy Debates (4:1-27:23)
 - A. Round 1 (4:1-14:22)
 - 1. Eliphaz to Job (4:1-5:27)

Remember, I pray thee, who ever perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off? Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same. (4:7-8)
 - 2. Job (6:1-7:21)
 - a. To comforters (6:1-30)

Return, I pray you, let it not be iniquity; yea, return again, my righteousness is in it. Is there iniquity in my tongue? cannot my taste discern perverse things? (6:29-30)
 - b. To God (7:1-21)

And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be. (7:21)
 - 3. Bildad to Job (8:1-22)

Doth God pervert judgment? or doth the Almighty pervert justice? (8:3)
 - 4. Job (9:1-10:22)
 - a. To comforters (9:1-35)

If I be wicked, why then labour I in vain? If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean; (9:29-30)
 - b. To God (10:1-22)

I will say unto God, Do not condemn me; shew me wherefore thou contendest with me. Is it good unto thee that thou shouldest oppress, that thou shouldest despise the work of thine hands, and shine upon the counsel of the wicked? (10:2-3)
 - 5. Zophar to Job (11:1-20)

If iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles. For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be steadfast, and shalt not fear: (11:14-15)
 - 6. Job (12:1-14:22)
 - a. To comforters (12:1-13:19)

Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him. He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him. (13:15-16)

b. To God (13:20-14:22)

Withdraw thine hand far from me: and let not thy dread make me afraid. Then call thou, and I will answer: or let me speak, and answer thou me (13:21-22)

B. Round 2 (15:1-21:34)

1. Eliphaz to Job (15:1-35)

Behold, [God] putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight. How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water? (15:15-16)

2. Job (16:1-17:16)

a. To comforters (16:1-22)

I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all. (16:2)

b. To God (17:1-9)

Mine eye also is dim by reason of sorrow, and all my members are as a shadow. (17:7)

c. To comforters (17:10-16)

But as for you all, do ye return, and come now: for I cannot find one wise man among you. (17:10)

3. Bildad to Job (18:1-21)

He teareth himself in his anger: shall the earth be forsaken for thee? and shall the rock be removed out of his place? Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine. (18:4-5)

4. Job to comforters (19:1-29)

And be it indeed that I have erred, mine error remaineth with myself. If indeed ye will magnify yourselves against me, and plead against me my reproach: Know now that God hath overthrown me, and hath compassed me with his net. (19:4-6)

5. Zophar to Job (20:1-29)

Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth, That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment? (20:4-5)

6. Job to comforters (21:1-34)

Shall any teach God knowledge? seeing he judgeth those that are high. One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet. His breasts are full of milk, and his bones are moistened with marrow. And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure. They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the worms shall cover them. (21:22-26)

C. Round 3 (22:1-27:23)

1. Eliphaz to Job (22:1-30)

Will [God] reprove thee for fear of thee? will he enter with thee into judgment? Is not thy wickedness great? and thine iniquities infinite? (22:4-5)

2. Job to comforters (23:1-24:25)

Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. (23:8-10)

3. Bildad to Job (25:1-6)

How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman? (25:4)

4. Job

a. To Bildad (26:1-14)

Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand? (26:14)

b. To comforters (27:1-23)

My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit. God forbid that I should justify you: till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me. (27:4-5)

c. On wisdom (28:1-28)

And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding. (28:28)

d. On his fall from former blessing (29:1-30:31)

i. Former blessing (29:1-25)

I chose out their way, and sat chief, and dwelt as a king in the army, as one that comforteth the mourners. (29:25)

ii. Current derision (30:1-31)

But now they that are younger than I have me in derision, whose fathers I would have disdained to have set with

the dogs of my flock. (30:1)

- e. On his own integrity (31:1-40)

Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps? If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot hath basted to deceit; Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity. (31:4-6)

5. Elihu (32:1-37:24)

- a. His wrath (32:1-5)

Then was kindled the wrath of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram: against Job was his wrath kindled, because he justified himself rather than God. (32:2)

- b. His reasoning (32:6-22)

Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment. (32:9)

- c. To Job(33:1-33)

Behold, in this thou art not just: I will answer thee, that God is greater than man. Why dost thou strive against him? for he giveth not account of any of his matters. (33:12-13)

- d. To the comforters (34:1-37)

If now thou hast understanding, hear this: hearken to the voice of my words. Shall even he that hateth right govern? and wilt thou condemn him that is most just? (34:16-17)

- e. To everyone (35:1-37:24)

Look unto the heavens, and see; and behold the clouds which are higher than thou. If thou sinnest, what doest thou against him? or if thy transgressions be multiplied, what doest thou unto him? If thou be righteous, what givest thou him? or what receiveth he of thine hand? (35:5-7)

III. God settles the debate (38:1-42:6)

- A. God to Job (38:1-40:2)

Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it. (40:2)

- B. Job to God (40:3-5)

Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. (40:4)

- C. Got to Job (40:6-41:34)

Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous? (40:8)

- D. Job to God (42:1-6)

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. (42:5-6)

IV. Conclusion (42:7-17)

- A. God chastises the (three) comforters (42:7-9)

- B. God restores Job (42:10-17)