

Outline of Job

The Questions:

1. Is Job righteous?
2. Is God just?
3. Who has wisdom?
4. Does Job serve God only for God's blessings?
5. How can Job get justice?
6. What is true comfort?

I. Prologue (1:1-2:13)

- A. Intro (1:1-5)
- B. First round, Job loses family and possessions (1:6-22)
Job does not curse God, but rather worships. He does not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.
- C. Second round, Job loses health (2:1-10)
Job does not curse God, but accepts the misfortune. He does not sin in what he said.
- D. The three 'comforters' arrive (2:11-13)

II. Job complains- curses the day of His birth (3:1-26)

III. Dialogues- (4:1-

- A. First Round (4:1-14:22)
 1. Eliphaz responds- the innocent aren't punished- ask God and He will forgive (4:1-5:27)
 2. Job replies- I am innocent, you are bad friends, pleads to God (6:1-7:21)
 3. Bildad responds- God judges right, everyone knows that (8:1-22)
 4. Job replies- I know that, but I am innocent, I can't dispute God, but I still blame Him, I need an arbitrator. (9:1-10:22)
 5. Zophar responds- Job is wrong, You can't understand God's wisdom,[implies 'I can'], therefore repent (11:1-20)
 6. Job replies- I know that. My wisdom is not inferior, I want to ask God, you are worthless help, I ask God to relent, but He terrifies me, like death terrifies all men (12:1-14:22)
- B. Second Round (15:1-21:34)
 1. Eliphaz responds- You are not a wise man, but a sinner, I will explain wisdom, the wicked are punished (15:1-35)
 2. Job replies- You are terrible comforters, I am innocent, my advocate will prove me true, they have no wisdom (16:1-17:16)
 3. Bildad responds- Are you the exception? The wicked are punished. (18:1-21)
 4. Job replies- You torment me, God has wronged me, my friends should comfort me, I have hope that I will see God, even after the grave, if you continue to accuse me, you should beware. (19:1-29)
 5. Zophar- I hear your rebuke, so I will rebuke back, The wicked are punished. (20:1-29)
 6. Job replies- Please listen, look at my situation! I deny that the wicked are always punished, God judges, but your cliché is false (21:1-34)
- C. Third Round (22:1-26:14)
 1. Eliphaz responds- The wicked are punished, You are wicked, therefore repent and be delivered (22:1-30)
 2. Job replies- I want to talk to God, I am innocent, Why doesn't God judge the wicked? But He does judge all. (23:1-24:25)
 3. Bildad responds- God is great, no man can be righteous before Him. (25:1-6)
 4. Job replies- You give terrible advice without wisdom, God is great, we know a fraction of His greatness. (26:14)

IV. Monologues (27:1-42:6)

- A. Job's monologue (27:1-31:40)
 1. Job continues his discourse- God has denied me justice, but I will not deny my integrity, I will teach you about God, God always punishes the wicked. (27:1-23)
 2. Interlude: Where is wisdom found? (28:1-28)
 - a. a miner searches very, very hard for treasure in difficult places, (1-11)
 - b. but where can wisdom and understanding be found? It is harder to find than treasure, it is more valuable than treasure. (12-19)
 - c. Where do wisdom and understanding come from? No living creature knows. Only God knows- (20-27)
 - d. He tells humans: the Fear of the Lord is wisdom, to shun evil is understanding. (28)
 3. Job continues his discourse- (29:1-31:40)
 - a. I long for the past when God protected and blessed me (1-6)
 - b. I was prosperous and respected, because I was righteous (7-17)
 - c. I comforted the mourning, but now I am mocked by those I once helped (29:18-30:8)

- d. my dignity is gone, I really suffer (9-19)
- e. I cry out to God, but He does not answer. Rather, He attacks me (20-23)
- f. I have done good, and hoped for good, but found only evil (24-31)
- g. I have only done good and righteousness- let God honestly judge me and He will find me blameless (31:1-6)
- h. if I have done wrong, I accept punishment (7-12)
- i. but I didn't do wrong because I dreaded punishment from God (13-23)
- j. I have not been unfaithful to God because I feared the crowd (24-34)
- k. I stand by my defense and wish God would tell my why I am being punished (35-37)
- l. if I have sinned, I accept my punishment (38-40)
- m. the words of Job are ended (40)

B. Elihu's monologue (32:1-37:24)

1. Intro: The three stopped, Job was righteous in his own eyes, Elihu angry at Job for justifying himself rather than God and at the three because they couldn't refute him. He waited to speak, but when they ran out, he was angry, so he spoke (32:1-5)
2. Elihu said: I didn't speak because I expected wisdom, which comes from God, but you didn't speak wisdom because you didn't refute Job. I have to speak, Listen Job, because I speak the truth. You say you are innocent and God has judged wrongly but you are wrong. God does speak to warn people that they might repent, confess, and turn back. Listen and I will teach wisdom. (32:6-33:33)
3. Then Elihu said: Listen wise people and lets find what is right. Job claims innocence, that God denies justice. Job is extraordinary in this sin. Listen understanding people. God is always just. The wicked are always punished. How can Job presume to judge God? God is sovereign judge of kings. If a mere man demands justice, should God bend over backward for such presumption. But Job is doing this very thing. He is not only unwise, but rebellious to do this. (34:1-37)
4. Then Elihu said: Job demands a hearing with God, but God is beyond having to respond to Job's demand, because Job is not righteous. therefore, his demand is empty talk. (35:1-16)
5. Elihu Continued: I have knowledge, God is just, he punishes the wicked, for their correction, Job should repent, God is not answerable to humans because of his greatness, He is far beyond humans and He is just. (36:1-37:24)

C. God Speaks (38:1-42:6)

1. Questions Job: Who is Job to question God? Has Job created everything? then how can he presume understanding? Can Job create and give wisdom? Does Job understand the working of the universe? How then can Job presume to contend with and correct God? (38:1-40:2)
2. Job replies: I am unworthy, I have nothing to say. (40:4-5)
3. Questions Job: Would Job discredit God's justice? I challenge Job to punish the wicked. Can Job control Behemoth or Leviathan? God can and does control them. How then does Job presume to have a claim against God? (40:6-41:34)
4. Job replies: I realize that God is able to run the universe with justice. God challenged me and I realize I am not able to run the universe. God has questioned me and I repent. (42:1-6)

V. Epilogue

- A. God rebukes Job's friends. They have not spoken of God what was right, like Job has. Job should pray for the three and God will forgive. (42:7-9)
- B. Job is blessed twice as much as before his suffering (42:10-16)
 1. He is blessed twofold
 2. He is comforted and consoled finally after the failure of the three friends to do so.
 3. He is blessed twofold- with twice as many animals and the same number of children, his daughters are noted for their beauty
 4. He lives a long and prosperous life