

Bible Snapshots



Wisdom literature –Typically five books are recognized from the Bible as being wisdom literature – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. Other

Comparing Wisdom literature with other books

- The preceding books we have considered are primarily historical and written as prose. The five books considered as wisdom literature are written in Hebrew metre. They are more fully religious in character and are of great importance.
- The books, however, must be interpreted in an entirely different way than the previous books. There is a lot more figurative language and much of what we will read, in the Proverbs for instance, will be principals that are “generally true,” but not all encompassing.

Job – Patience in Suffering

Author – *Perhaps Elihu, Job or Moses*

- The name “Job” means “hated” or “persecuted” and is obviously a description of either his worldly circumstances or how others perceive him and not God’s estimation.
- That Job was a historical figure and not a character in some allegory or parable is evidenced by latter mentions of him by Ezekiel (14:14, 20) and James (3:11).
- Most scholars date the book to about 2200 BC, making it the most ancient of writings in the Bible

Ways to look at Job

- A history – It details the life, prosperity, loss and victory of Job.
- A drama in two parts – an upper stage (heaven) and a lower stage (earth). In this view Job become a microcosm for our spiritual life in general.
- A dispute - Of which there are two. The first is between Satan and God. The second and larger one is between Job and His friends. Of course God acts as moderator and settles the matter.

Themes of Job

- Reveal that the righteous and wicked both suffer (Rom. 8:18)
- Reveal the sovereignty of God; nothing simply “happens” to the believer (Rom. 8:28)
- Reveal how God’s ways are not always aligned with men’s ways

Key chapter / verse / phrase/ thought

- Chapter 38 – Consciousness of God / 23:10 with 13:15 / blessed be the name of the Lord (1:21) / Testing – the death of self (Phil. 4:13, 19) includes often a lot of suffering.

The science of Job

- The book of Job contains a great number of scientifically accurate statements.
- Bone anointed with marrow (21:24)
- Height of the stars (22:12)
- The moon shines not (25:5) – this would not be discovered for thousands of years.
- North over the empty place (26:7a) – Only after the invention of powerful telescopes was it realized that there is a great empty space without a single star in the northern sky.
- The earth hanging in space (26:7b) – Copernicus wouldn’t say this until 1543 and it was a bold statement indeed that went against many ancient traditions.
- Rain – water in the clouds (26:8; 36:27, 28; cf. Eccl. 11:3).
- The vulture’s eye (28:7) – It was once thought that smell brought scavengers, but science has revealed it is the eye, equipped with amazing sight and shape that allows perfect focus.
- Weight of winds (28:25 – air pressure); Ocean boundaries (38:8-11)
- Earth revolving around the sun (38:12-14) – this fact was not discovered until about 3,000 years after Job, when Copernicus observed it in about 1500 AD.
- Springs in the oceans (38:16a); Treasures of snow and hail (38:22, 23) – keeps earth from

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freezing; gives protection for seeds in winter; purifies and cleanses soil; provides abundance of water for streams and reservoirs when it melts (cf. Isaiah 55:10).

- The sun and wind (38:24) – Science has established that not only is the sun our energy source, but the source of our wind system.
- Lightning (38:25) – describes the “path” of lightning. Science now knows that lightening does indeed travel along a distinct and charged pathway a few inches wide, sometimes as hot as 35,000-45,000 degrees centigrade.
- Pleides and Orion (38:31) – Stars appeared fixed in position, but actually do change positions. It has been discovered that the two stars at the opposite ends of the great dipper are moving in one direction, while the rest of the group are moving in the opposite direction. The Pleides and Orion are true star groups. All the stars in these groups are, unlike others, fixed – that is, they move together, not in various directions like those of the Big Dipper.
- The Zodiac (38:32a) “Mazzaroth” is Hebrew for constellation. Each of the twelve zodiac constellations make their appearance for about a month at a time – brought forth in their season, as Job states.
- Arcturus with his sons? (38:32b) in 1718 Arcturus had unmistakably shifted its position since the days of Ptolemy (2nd century AD). Artcturus is moving at such speeds that it is regarded as a runaway star. It is 14,000 times the volume of our sun and has 90 times its light. Who could guide it? It also has its own satellites that orbit it, which Job calls “sons.”
- Ordinances of heaven (38:33) Refers to the fixed motions of heaven that are so predictable that mariners for years have used hem to navigate.
- The Ostrich (39:13-18, 29) Science has revealed the nature of the ostrich to be the same as depicted in Job – eggs left on the earth for predators; treats her young poorly; lacking wisdom, will eat prickly pears and die. However they can outrun a horse and have very keen eyesight.

Job outlined

- I. The charge of Satan (1, 2)
- II. The controversy with three friends (3-31)
 - a. The first cycle (4-14)
 - b. The second cycle (15-21)
 - c. The third cycle (22-31)
- III. The contention of Elihu (32-37)
- IV. The climax by God (38-41)
- V. The confession of Job (42:1-6)
- VI. The conclusion of Job’s story (42:7-17)

Knowing the adversary – observations about Satan

- Separates one from the best company – 16:7
- Disfigures the faces – 16:8a
- Brings leanness to life – 16:8b
- Takes advantage of he helpless – 16:9
- Breaks asunder and shakes to pieces – 16:12
- Has many helpers – 16:13
- Uses powerful tactics – 16:24