

Job Lesson 1

What have you taken from the book of Job?

- Patience in suffering, practical application (James 5:11, only reference to Job in the New Testament)
- How to encourage those who are suffering (or how to not be an encouragement)
- The book of Job addresses many philosophical arguments both for and against God

About the book:

- Rabbinic tradition holds that Moses wrote the book of Job, but no one really knows who the author was with confidence
- Job is a book of poetry:
 - Scholars in the Hebrew language recognize poetic devices that are difficult for non-experts; things like rhyme and how ideas are structured
 - Considered a literary masterpiece
 - The name “Job” literally means “persecuted.”
 - But does that mean Job is just a fictional character?
 - What about Ezekiel 14:12-14?
- Genre and literary features:
 - Parsons and combination of three genres: lawsuit, lament, and controversy dialogue:
 - https://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/ted_hildebrandt/otesources/18-job/text/articles/parsons-literaryjob-bs.pdf
 - Irony and “mythopoeic language”, insulting competing gods and pagan beliefs.
- When was it written?
 - Oldest book in the bible?
 - Job 1:5 where Job offers sacrifices on behalf of his family, as it is argued this would be more of a common thing to do in the patriarchal age before the Law of Moses was in place
 - The absence of any mention of the Law of Moses or its practices
 - What do literary scholars have to say:
 - Greenstein:
 - Greenstein, Edward L. “The Language of Job and Its Poetic Function.” *Journal of Biblical Literature*, vol. 122, no. 4, 2003, pp. 651–666. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/3268070. Accessed 17 Aug. 2020.
 - This essay talks about how the book of Job intertwines non-Hebrew languages or linguistic devices (like variations in how a singular word is pluralized) that seem to span centuries and cultures:
 - Phoenician
 - Arabic
 - Aramaic
 - Interesting and mysterious...
 - “Hey Baby, Que Paso?”
 - “Thy Word”
 - Conclusions about when Job was written, and where I am:
 - We don’t know when it was written, with any confidence
 - Some of its richness is going to be lost on us

- Septuagint variants:
 - As you would expect with any direct translation, a lot of the poetry is stripped so that the meaning was clear for Greeks.
 - Other differences:
 - The Septuagint adds some words from Job's wife, but nothing that really changes the meaning of the book.
 - It contains an epilogue that identifies Job as King Jobab of Edom from Genesis 36:33, and also identifies his three friends as other royalties.
 - The epilogue in the Septuagint also mentions that Job will be resurrected, which I find very interesting

Conclusions

- Value in the process even without a perfect understanding – like Karate Kid!