

## Job notes

### Basic outline

Wisdom literature, but with exception- Job's upright behavior brings him a lot of trouble. No author, characters are not Israelites, so it's kind of weird that way.

Start the story without the prologue- save that for later

Job loses everything. God takes everything from him, including his health, and his family.

Why? How can he deal with this? Why would God do this to him?

Job sits and scratches at his sores and has friends visit him. The friends offer comfort in the form of rationalizations that don't really help much. They are a study in how not to help people. Basically, they boil down to "You deserve it, somehow."

Finally, God answers him. "Eifo hayitah be yosdei erez?" "Where were you when I founded the earth?"

Basically, the argument is that Job doesn't have divine perspective. We can't apply our limited human perspective to huge questions that require a Divine perch to see properly.

God's sovereignty involves the firmament

38:1 Then the LORD replied to Job out of the tempest and said:

38:2 Who is this who darkens counsel, Speaking without knowledge?

38:3 Gird your loins like a man; I will ask and you will inform Me.

38:4 Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations? Speak if you have understanding.

38:5 Do you know who fixed its dimensions Or who measured it with a line?

38:6 Onto what were its bases sunk? Who set its cornerstone

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38:7 When the morning stars sang together And all the divine beings shouted for joy?  
38:8 Who closed the sea behind doors When it gushed forth out of the womb,  
38:9 When I clothed it in clouds, Swaddled it in dense clouds,  
38:10 When I made breakers My limit for it, And set up its bar and doors,  
38:11 And said, "You may come so far and no farther; Here your surging waves will stop"?

And the animal/agricultural world.

39:1 Do you know the season when the mountain goats give birth? Can you mark the time when the hinds calve?  
39:2 Can you count the months they must complete? Do you know the season they give birth,  
39:3 When they couch to bring forth their offspring, To deliver their young?  
39:4 Their young are healthy; they grow up in the open; They leave and return no more.  
39:5 Who sets the wild ass free? Who loosens the bonds of the onager,  
39:6 Whose home I have made the wilderness, The salt land his dwelling-place?  
39:7 He scoffs at the tumult of the city, Does not hear the shouts of the driver.  
39:8 He roams the hills for his pasture; He searches for any green thing.  
39:9 Would the wild ox agree to serve you? Would he spend the night at your crib?  
39:10 Can you hold the wild ox by ropes to the furrow? Would he plow up the valleys behind you?  
39:11 Would you rely on his great strength And leave your toil to him?  
39:12 Would you trust him to bring in the seed And gather it in from your threshing floor?

So what about this? Is this a reasonable thing to say? I go back and forth on it.

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Is this wisdom? Consider the differences with other Wisdom books. Does Wisdom help anyone out here? Is it purely an intellectual exercise?

## The Prologue

This is sort of the elephant in the room part of this book. We, the readers, DO know why all this is happening to Job, and it isn't really a good reason.

Note the role of the Satan in chapter 1. Is this what we think of when we think of Satan/the Devil?

Ha-Satan means "The Adversary." in Greek it is the Kategor, the prosecutor, and in Latin, also the prosecutor, the Diabolos, from whence we get our word Devil.

1:6 One day the divine beings presented themselves before the LORD, and the Adversary came along with them.

1:7 The LORD said to the Adversary, "Where have you been?" The Adversary answered the LORD, "I have been roaming all over the earth."

1:8 The LORD said to the Adversary, "Have you noticed My servant Job? There is no one like him on earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and shuns evil!"

1:9 The Adversary answered the LORD, "Does Job not have good reason to fear God?"

1:10 Why, it is You who have fenced him round, him and his household and all that he has. You have blessed his efforts so that his possessions spread out in the land.

1:11 But lay Your hand upon all that he has and he will surely blaspheme You to Your face."

1:12 The LORD replied to the Adversary, "See, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on him." The Adversary departed from the presence of the LORD.

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2:1 One day the divine beings presented themselves before the LORD. The Adversary came along with them to present himself before the LORD.

2:2 The LORD said to the Adversary, "Where have you been?" The Adversary answered the LORD, "I have been roaming all over the earth."

2:3 The LORD said to the Adversary, "Have you noticed My servant Job? There is no one like him on earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and shuns evil. He still keeps his integrity; so you have incited Me against him to destroy him for no good reason."

2:4 The Adversary answered the LORD, "Skin for skin -- all that a man has he will give up for his life.

2:5 But lay a hand on his bones and his flesh, and he will surely blaspheme You to Your face."

2:6 So the LORD said to the Adversary, "See, he is in your power; only spare his life."

2:7 The Adversary departed from the presence of the LORD and inflicted a severe inflammation on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

2:8 He took a potsherd to scratch himself as he sat in ashes.

2:9 His wife said to him, "You still keep your integrity! Blaspheme God and die!"

2:10 But he said to her, "You talk as any shameless woman might talk! Should we accept only good from God and not accept evil?" For all that, Job said nothing sinful.