

Lecture 23 – Job, I

*Every word of God is flawless;
He is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
Do not add to his words,
Or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar. Proverbs 30:5-6*

Key Terms

Job, historicity, setting, authorship, structure

Lecture Objectives

- *Identify and discuss key issues related to the background of Job and how they are related to a proper interpretation of Scripture.
- *Discuss the setting of Job and how that guides (and limits) your understanding of the book.
- *Outline the structure and identify key themes throughout the book.

Preliminary Questions

- *Describe your personal experiences with the book of Job. What characteristics or themes have stood out to you? What difficulties have you encountered in understanding Job? How has the book impacted you personally?

Dr. Long begins with a devotion on Proverbs 30:5-6

Job, I

I. Job

A. Introductory Matters

- *Thomas Carlyle – “*One of the greatest things ever written with a pen..*” As great literature we should expect it to be challenging

1. Job: the man

a. Meaning of the name

- 1) Where is my father?
- 2) One who turns back to God/repents
- 3) To be at enmity/assailed/afflicted one

b. Historicity of the man Job?

- 1) Job 1:1
- 2) Name in ANE?
- 3) Is it vitally important that Job be a historical character?
- 4) Is it a link in sweep of redemptive history? Or periphery?

c. Historical setting: the patriarchal age?

- 1) Sounds like it!
- 2) Possessions measured in livestock Job 1:3
- 3) Other factors

2. Job: the composition

a. Date?

- 1) Kidner, p. 76 “Anytime from Moses to Ezra”
- 2) Book doesn’t tell us!

b. Comparative literature

- 1) Nothing else matches it!
- 2) “Why do bad things happen to good people” books in ANE

c. Authorship?

- 1) Reticent writer, no indication
 - 2) Israelite “Yahwist,” prologue & epilogue
- d. Structure in Overview

See handout: Job an Inductive Survey-Architectronics (last page of appendix 9)

What is your view on the historicity of Job? Is this important to your view of Scripture? Why or why not?