



Job – Textbook Reading



Textbook Reading

(Other material may be read for extra credit/benefit)

Ch. 20

- ☐ Overview
- ☐ Theological Themes

Study Guide for Textbook chapter 20

Contents of the Book of Job

Overview

- What point does the textbook make about the author assuming an omniscient point of view? How does that help us understand the book and evaluate its arguments?
- How does the textbook define the term “theodicy”? How does it relate to the arguments in this book, according to the textbook? How does it relate to the idea of monotheism? What is the significance of this?
- How does the prologue describe Job? How did satan challenge Job’s credibility? What happened to Job as a result?
- How did Job start the arguments between him and his friends? What idea did he express?
- How are these speeches organized, according to the textbook? How does this help us understand the book of Job?
- Describe the ‘characteristic approach’ of each of the friends. In what way(s) do their approaches all agree about Job and the reason for his suffering?
- What ideas were expressed in the first cycle? What problems did the friends have with Job’s statements? How did they disagree and challenge him? How did he respond? What can we learn from this?
- What ideas were expressed in the second cycle? What did each of the friends accuse Job of doing or being in these speeches? How did Job respond to them?
- What ideas were expressed in the third cycle? What can we learn from this?
- According to the textbook, what did Job say in his summarizing speeches? How does the speech on wisdom contribute to the message of this book? What is the significance of this?
- What does Elihu contribute to the discussion? Why was he angry? What ideas did he express?
- Why did God rebuke Job? What did he challenge Job to answer? What point was God making? What difference does this make?
- What is the point of the two sections about Behemoth and Leviathan? How should we respond?
- How did Job respond to God’s speeches? Was this a good and appropriate response? Why or why not?

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- Describe the two events of the epilogue. What does each contribute to the message of this book? How does each bring the book to a fitting conclusion? What can we learn from this?

Theological Themes

- What does the textbook say about the relationship of retribution theology to the book of Job?
- According to the textbook, what did Job's friends fail to understand? How did this affect their arguments?
- What is the point that the textbook makes about the triangle? Do you agree? Why or why not? How is this related to things you have learned earlier in this course?
- According to the textbook, in what way is the argument of the book of Job incomplete? What brings completion and conclusion to these ideas? Why is this important?

Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter