

Unit XIII Job

- I Have read: 1) Job 1-42
2. Syllabus pp. 120-130
3. Young, pp 309-321

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1..What happened:

The book of Job is written almost as if it was a dramatic presentation with the players responding to cues. The Cast of players are: The Lord, The Devil, Job, his wife, and his three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. Young divides the book into five parts. 1) The Prologue. (Sets the stage. God gives Satan power to remove first, all of Job's material and familial possessions, and then, finally to afflict him physically to just short of death.)

II. Job's complaint. III. The discourses with his three "comforters". IV. The speeches of Elihu, and V. The words of the Lord. His three "friends" get increasingly insistent that he has sinned grievously, and that if he just will confess and repent the Lord will restore both his wealth and his health. He remains strong--in the face of increasingly discouraging circumstances. His friends, to me, equate the "emotional" and "psychic" suffering he goes through ^{with that} ~~to that~~ of his "physical" sufferings from the boils. Finally the Lord comes to him and restores all, but most importantly, reveals himself to Job because of his faithfulness.

2. Evaluation and Conclusion: List things you feel you should think or do and things you should not think or do, as you evaluate your vicarious experiences in reading Job.

The strongest feeling I came out with from reading Job is that a person should be very, very careful in judging others. Only our Father in Heaven knows a person's heart and can judge in righteousness, taking everything into consideration, because of sure knowledge. Job's friends, who really should have been "comforters" made this mistake. And I have heard the same thing over and over, expressed and unexpressed. "What have I done to deserve this?" "What sin has he (or she) committed that this has befallen him? Especially is this true when someone dies. Why? Why, especially, me? We are in a mortal world, and much of our suffering comes through having that mortal body. As was pointed out in class--what we do with our suffering or pain is the important thing. Do we become bitter, or does it, in the final ^{analysis} result ^{in good} ~~to ourselves and to those around us, result in good?~~

3. Job is a book so full of ramifications, it is difficult to sort out just one. Chapter 10: 7, shows that Job does not fully comprehend the "physical" nature of God. "Hast thou eyes of flesh? Or seest as

man seest? Are thy days as the days of man? And thy years as man's days?" And then, of course, in the final chapter of Job, God reveals himself to Job. Can there be a greater reward for righteousness? And then comes the restoration of "all things" to Job--children, wealth and all.

I would (if I had been writing the book) added an epilogue (before the final Words of the Lord) in which could be seen the fury of Satan at his failure to tempt Job. I wanted the Lord to tell him to "begone"! It is a book of pathos and beauty and one of those books where re-reading would never fail to turn up new aspects of understanding. (That seems to fit scripture in general, however.)

*I agree -
one has to have
lived awhile to truly
appreciate Job. A*