

JOB

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To demonstrate Yahweh's sovereignty and faith in the midst of suffering.

Author

Unknown, but possibly Job. Moses, Solomon, or Elihu have been suggested.

Date

Unknown. Job records events that very likely occurred during the time of the Patriarchs, approximately 2000-1800 BC.

Audience

To answer the question, "Why do the righteous suffer?"

Setting

The land of Uz, probably southeast of Canaan, south of the Dead Sea near Edom (cf. Lamentations 4:21).

Special Features

Job sets out from the beginning to show that the reasons for human suffering often remain a secret to human beings. Indeed, Job's sufferings come upon him because Satan accused him in the heavenly courts, and the reader never learns whether these reasons were explained to Job. Probably they were not.



Key Verses

And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason?" (1:8-9 ESV)

"The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong." (1:21b-22 ESV)

"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God." (19:25-26 ESV)

Key People

Job, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, Zophar the Naamathite, Elihu.

Key Place

Uz.