

Monique Lubin

Professor Stubbs

English 201

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The Book of Job.

- 1) What is the behind-the-scenes story of which Job (the Protagonist) and his friends are unaware? What takes place “within” the story of Job?
 - A. The book of Job introduces us to a man who, by God’s own admission, is blameless and upright and who suffers “for no reason” (Job 2:3). Can such a thing happen in God’s good world? This is the theological and ethical question being explored in the poetic dialogue to follow in Job 3-27. Job suffered because Satan accused him of a self-serving devotion to God, Satan claimed that Job was not righteous but was simply currying God’s favor. God used the accusation as an opportunity to prove Satan wrong, and all the hurtful events in Job’s life unfold from there. Also, Job suffered that he might have a deeper and more accurate knowledge of God.
- 2) How is Job Characterized?
 - A. Job is characterized as innocent, blameless, he never blames God foolishly. He complains about his suffering to his friends. Job was the “persecuted one”, he was the “repented one”; Job held to his integrity and he lives an upright life, he was righteous and faithful.
- 3) Select a quote from each of the following characters that you think captures their attitude or advice. Type the quote with reference. Next to the name of the appropriate character. Then briefly, describe the advice and or attitude you believe is expressed by this quote.
 - a) Job’s wife, this said his wife to him, “dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God and die”. (KJV Job 2:9) With this quote, Job’s wife asked him to renounce God, put all regard for Him away from him, even though He killed thee, for so doing. Job’s wife implied that death is preferable to Job than his suffering.
 - b) Eliphaz, the Temanite, Eliphaz poses a loaded question to Job: “Remember, I pray thee, whoever perished, being innocent? Or where were the righteous cut off”. (KJV Job 4:7) At the core of that quote, is the statement that Eliphaz made that all human mess up. None of us are totally innocent. Eliphaz noted that God disciplines even angels.
 - c) Bildad, the Shuhite said to job, in chapter 8:3 “Doth God pervert judgment? Or doth the Almighty pervert justice”. Verse 4- “If thy children have sinned against Him and

- He have cast them away for their transgression”. (KJV). I think that Bildad feels the same way as Eliphaz, by the had another idea on of it. What if it was Job’s kids or ancestors who had sinned? Like Eliphaz, Bildad was putting it on Job to admit fault.
- d) Zophar, the Naamathite said to Job, “He shall suck the poison of asps: The viper’s tongue shall slay him.” (Job 20:16) KJV. Zophar followed the same line as his two friends: God is just, and Job must have done something wrong to offend God’s law. Is that the righteous are rewarded and the wicked are punished; then Job’s predicament is his own fault.
- e) Elihu, the son of Barachel, the Buzite⁴. Job 36:26, Elihu states, “Behold, God is great, and we know him not, neither can the number of his years be searched out.” (KJV) In short, Elihu condemns Job’s friends and Job’s claim of being without sin; Elihu declared God is justice and condemns Job’s attitude toward God and exalts God’s greatness. By the way Elihu was the youngest and not a friend of Job. And God never mentioned Elihu when He reprimanded Job’s three friends.
- 4) How would you describe God’s own response to Job (Chapter 38-41)?
 God never response to Job’s complaints, concerns and questions. He was always silent even when his three friends accused job of unrighteousness, and unfaithfulness and many other accusations. It was during Elihu’s turn to question Job after all Job’s three friends finished with their dialogue and narratives, that God finally answered Job; not to prove a point but to show to Job that He is Almighty and that He is God and that He is Sovereign.
- 5) How does the book of Job conclude? (chapter 42).
 The book of Job concludes with God speaking about his greatness and his Sovereignty. God ends up blessing Job two times more than before. Job had more children and his life was prospered and he lived to be one hundred and forty-two years old. In Job 42:7, God condemned Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophaz; but Elihu was not mentioned again after that.

Excerpts from The Kreba Nagast

- 6) According to section 19 and 20, what are the two legitimates empires of the world and what legitimizes them?
 A- The two legitimates empires of the world are: Emperor of Rom and Emperor of Ethiopia; and what legitimizes them are the Emperor of Constantinople of Rom and Byzantium of Ethiopia. The emperor of Rom is the son of Solomon and the emperor of Ethiopia is the first born and the eldest son of Solomon.
- 7) Who influences Queen Makeda’s decision to go and visit Solomon for herself?
 A- The person who influences Queen Makeda’s decision to go and visit Solomon was Queen Makeda’s tradesman and servant by the name of Tamrin, who himself encountered Solomon during a trades visit and went back and told the Queen all he had seen and learned by being with King Solomon, therefore, Queen Makeda got

curious and excited about all that her servant had related to her regarding King Solomon.

8) What impact do the word of Solomon have on the Queen? Section 28.

A. The impact that the word of Solomon has on the Queen is the word Wisdom, how he spoke to the queen about everything in wisdom. As King Solomon was educated the queen about wisdom, he mentions that wisdom came from his Creator, who is God. During their conversation, Queen Makeda, mentioned that while growing up, she always saw her household worshiping the sun and King Solomon, informed the Queen that the sun was created by God and she needs to worship the Creator and not the sun. That new information had made an impact on the Queen. Right then and there, the Queen vowed never to worship the sun; and she will make sure that her people do the same. I believed that King Solomon had converted Queen Makeda into a new believer of the God of Israel.

9) How is king Solomon's multitude of wives and concubines "justified" in the story? Section 28.

A. According to the reading, and to the book of kings, Solomon married these multitudes of women not for the sake of fornication, at that time people were living in the flesh and the Holy Spirit was not really given to them. But, it was as a result of the wise intent that God given unto Solomon and also, his remembering what God had said unto "Abraham, "I will make thy seed like the stars of heavens for number, and like the sand of the sea". (Genesis 13:16; KJV) And Solomon said as well in his heart, "what do I know? God will give me men children from each one of these women". And wisely, he said, "my children shall inherit the cities of the enemy and shall destroy those who worship idols."

10) How does Solomon "trick" Makeda into sleeping with him?

A. According to the dialogues that was going on between King Solomon and Queen Makeda; Queen Sheba sent message to King Solomon letting him know that she wanted permission from him to return to her country. And king Solomon responded, "Why come all the way to hear my wisdom and watched me displaying all my wealth, splendor of my kingdom, and to see you go like that? No way, I want you to stay, which she did without even realized that king Solomon had another intention in mind. Therefore, King Solomon went to great length to show Queen Makeda more of his kingdom by arranging a banquet where guests come daily to dine and entertain. At the same time, king Solomon make sure that Queen Sheba will be a witness to all those displays. At the end, Makeda was convinced, she was marveled at what she saw; until king Solomon make sure that they were together at last. From there, they became intimate and he made her a vowed that if she had a male son, she would have to send him back to him as soon as he was able to travel; which she did at the end.

11) Solomon and Makeda's son grow- up in Ethiopia, but as a young adult visits his father Solomon. Why does Bayna-Lehkem (Meneylek) wants to return to Ethiopia rather than staying with his father (section 36)? What does he request to take with him?

A. Queen Makeda had made her son to swear to come back to her after he visited his father in Jerusalem. Meyelek did not want to stay to Jerusalem because everything there was not to his liking, Solomon's son mentioned that everything that Jerusalem could offer, he can get them better at his own country. Therefore, Solomon could not persuade him enough to remain in Jerusalem. And Solomon's son declared to his father that he was not conceived through marriage and that his mother was considered a concubine. According to the Jewish law, the people of Jerusalem will not accept him as one of their King. In another word, he was a bastard child. Solomon's son requested to take with him "The Tabernacle of the God of Israel."

12) What important ceremony takes place before Menyelek lives?

A. Menyelek was made king of Ethiopia by the request of his mother, Queen of Sheba. King Solomon gathered all his nobles and announced for his son to be made king; therefore, all the nobles, the counselors, the officers, and their children, and the priests gathered together and anointed Menyelek King of Ethiopia with anointing oil, with two horns; one small and one large and hailed him king of Ethiopia.