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Reading Questions Week 2

The Book of Job

- The *Book of Job* is a story within a story. What is the behind-the-scenes story of which Job (the protagonist) and his friends are unaware? God was allowing satan to test Job.
- What takes place “within” the story of Job? God is proving to the devil that not everyone is going to fall for his treats.
- How is Job characterized? As a man of God. A blameless and righteous man who respected God.
- 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.
 - Job’s wife: **Job 2:9** Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.”- she sounded very negative and angry
 - Eliphaz: Job 15:1 “Should a wise man answer with windy knowledge, and fill his belly with the east wind? Should he argue in unprofitable talk, or in words with which he can do no good?- he sounded annoyed and sarcastic.
 - Bildad: Job 18: “Indeed, the light of the wicked is put out, and the flame of his fire does not shine.- he is saying that all evil comes to an end.- he is accusing Job of doing wrong
 - Zophar: Job 20: He will fly away like a dream and not be found; he will be chased away like a vision of the night.- he saying the wicked will suffer.
 - Elihu: Job 22: Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right, or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless?- he saying that God does need to have a reason to do what he does. He is God, he does what he wants.
- How would you describe God’s own response to Job (chapters 38-41)? God reminds Job who he is. He reminds him that he is the creator of this world and he runs it the way he feels like it. He reminds Job he is in no position to question God.
- How does the book conclude (chapter 42)? God asked Job to trust his wisdom.

Excerpts from *The Kebra Nagast*

- According to sections 19 and 20, what are the two legitimate empires of the world and what legitimizes them? The Empire of King Solomon the son of King David and Queen of Ethiopia.
- Who influences Queen Makeda’s decision to go and visit Solomon for herself? Solomon, she was intrigued by his wisdom.
- What impact do the words of Solomon have on the queen? (section 28) She is marveled with his way of thinking.
- How is King Solomon’s multitude of wives and concubines “justified” in the story (section 28)? There was never anything that addressed this issue in his time. So in other words he didn’t know any better. But Paul in the new testament makes this subject very clear.
- How does Solomon “trick” Makeda into sleeping with him? By making her swear and then making her thirsty so he could accuse her of stealing his water.
- Solomon and Makeda’s son grows up in Ethiopia, but as a young adult visits his father Solomon. Why does Bayna-Lehkem (Menyelek) want to return to Ethiopia rather than staying with his father (section 36)? What does he request to take with him?
- What important ceremony takes place before Menyelek leaves? Kebra Nagast