

God's Megaphone: Pain and Providence in the Book of Job, 8

"Behold, these are but the outskirts of his ways..."

Job 26 and 27

Sunday Evening Bible Study

February 23, 2020

Wisdom Literature and Job

- Wisdom is seeking to live under God's rule in all the particulars of our life.
- The book of Proverbs teaches us what the fear of the Lord looks like in everyday life, applying wisdom to the practical realities of human existence.
- Ecclesiastes gazes at another dimension of reality and reflects on the irrationality and perverseness of life under the sun.¹

Assumptions made by Job's friend's and many others	
Human action	God's Justice
Wise and Good	→ Success and Reward
Stupid and Evil	→ Disaster and Punishment

What is Lordship?

- God has control, authority, and is present.
- Control means that God has the power to direct the whole course of nature and history as he pleases. Authority means that God has a right to do that. Presence means God is with his creatures to bless and to judge in terms of the standard of his covenant.²

Job's Reply

- Job questions his accusers and their authority suggesting they have not truly reflected on who God is (26:1-4).
- Job sets his mind on the majesty of God revealed in creation (4-14).

Job's Closing Discourse

- Job pleads his innocence (27:1-6).
- Job wishes that his adversaries would be considered wicked (7-12).
- Job affirms that God punishes the wicked (13-23).

Things to consider

- A full understanding of God's reasons for events are not a prerequisite for faithfulness.
- Job's deep perplexity is not a provocation to God.³
- Job successful struggle depends on holding on to revealed truth.
- We have a greater degree of revelation to hold on to than Job.

¹ Tom Schreiner, *The King in his Beauty*, 280-318.

² John Frame, *Systematic Theology*, 14-35.

³ ESV Study Bible, 870.