

THE BOOK OF JOB



CONTRACT OR COVENANT (REVISITED)

Job 14:7-17 NRSV

*For there is hope for a tree,
if it is cut down, that it will sprout again
and that its shoots will not cease.
Though its root grows old in the earth
and its stump dies in the ground,
yet at the scent of water it will bud
and put forth branches like a young plant.
But mortals die and are laid low;
humans expire, and where are they?
As waters fail from a lake
and a river wastes away and dries up,
so mortals lie down and do not rise again;
until the heavens are no more, they will not awake
or be roused out of their sleep.*

*¹³ O that you would hide me in Sheol,
that you would conceal me until your wrath is past,
that you would appoint me a set time and remember me!
If mortals die, will they live again?
All the days of my service I would wait
until my release should come.
You would call, and I would answer you;
you would long for the work of your hands.
For then you would not number my steps;
you would not keep watch over my sin;
my transgression would be sealed up in a bag,
and you would cover over my iniquity.*

- Job 14:7-17

THE BOOK OF JOB



CONTRACT OR CONVENANT (REVISITED)

*There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job.
That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God
and turned away from evil.*

- Job 1:1

*For you say, 'My conduct is pure,
and I am clean in God's sight.'*

- Job 11:4

*But I have understanding as well as you;
I am not inferior to you.
Who does not know such things as these?*

- Job 12:3

*But I would speak to the Almighty,
and I desire to argue my case with God.*

- Job 13:3

*Only grant two things to me;
then I will not hide myself from your face:
withdraw your hand far from me,
and do not let dread of you terrify me.
Then call, and I will answer;
or let me speak, and you reply to me.
How many are my iniquities and my sins?
Make me know my transgression and my sin.*

- Job 13:20-23

*For there is hope for a tree,
if it is cut down, that it will sprout again
and that its shoots will not cease.
Though its root grows old in the earth
and its stump dies in the ground,
yet at the scent of water it will bud
and put forth branches like a young plant.
But mortals die and are laid low;
humans expire, and where are they?*

- Job 14:7-10

*Do you not know this from of old,
ever since mortals were placed on earth,
that the exulting of the wicked is short
and the joy of the godless is but for a moment?*

- Job 20:4-5

*Why do the wicked live on,
reach old age, and grow mighty in power?*

*How then will you comfort me with empty nothings?
There is nothing left of your answers but falsehood.*

- Job 21:7, 34

Is Zophar in a relationship with God because of what he gives or because of who he is?

“The whole story of Job is a massive raising of questions to which the book does not provide answers; it is about living with questions to which we do not have answers.”

- John Goldingay, Job For Everyone

God is in a relationship with us because of who we are, not because of what we give him