

THE BOOK OF JOB



CONTRACT OR COVENANT?

Job 1:1-5 NRSV

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. There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

- Job 1:1-5

⁴ His sons used to go and hold feasts in one another's houses in turn, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. And when the feast days had run their course, Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all, for Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts."

This is what Job always did.

- Job 1:1-5

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CONTRACT OR COVENANT?

character study = looking at the life of
someone and how they react and respond
to what is happening in their life

The Book of Job is classified as poetic
(or wisdom) literature

*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

blameless

blameless
upright

blameless
upright
feared God

blameless
upright
feared God
turned away from evil

blameless - what you see is what you get
upright
feared God
turned away from evil

blameless - what you see is what you get
upright - "the straight and narrow"
feared God
turned away from evil

blameless - what you see is what you get
upright - "the straight and narrow"
feared God - respect and awe for God
turned away from evil

blameless - what you see is what you get

upright - "the straight and narrow"

feared God - respect and awe for God

turned away from evil - avoided the wayward path

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and the accuser also came among them.

- Job 1:6

“This is pictured in earthly terms- not to be taken literally, of course- as a royal court where the Lord, the God of Israel, grants audiences to his servants, here called “the sons of God.” [or in our translation, the heavenly beings].

- A. van Selms, Job: A Practical Commentary

“Though the individual functioning as an adversary to Job here may well be the one who later bears the name Satan that cannot be concluded with certainty. The Hebrew word satan is used to describe an adversary and can be used of human beings or supernatural beings...Those who serve as adversaries are generally in the role of monitoring or challenging God’s policies and decisions.”

- IVP Background Bible Commentary

Do God and Job have a contractual relationship with each other, or a covenantal one?

And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

- Romans 5:3-5

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face various trials, consider it all joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance complete its work, so that you may be complete and whole, lacking in nothing.

- James 1:2-4

In the trials and afflictions of life, do we lean
on our covenantal relationship with God?
Or do we believe our relationship with him is
only what we get out of it?

Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshiped. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; 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 wrongdoing.

- Job 1:20-22

Job's outward posture reveals
his inner attitude

Do you have a contractual or covenantal
relationship with God?