

Book of Job

Man's Wisdom versus God's Wisdom and Plan for Man



INTRODUCTION

Setting | Summary | Main Themes



MAN'S WISDOM

Suffering | Man's Justification | Prosperity of the Wicked



GOD'S WISDOM

Incomprehensible | God's Plan for Man | Points to Jesus

Literary Style – Was Job Real?

Prose	Poetry
Chapters 1-2, 42:7-17	Chapters 3-42:6
Is the story of Job an allegory?	

References to Job in Other Books of the Bible

14 even though these three men, Noah, Daniel and Job were in their midst, by their own righteousness they could only deliver themselves,” declares the Lord God.

20 even though Noah, Daniel and Job were in its midst, as I live,” declares the Lord God, “they could not deliver either their son or their daughter. They would only deliver themselves by their righteousness.”

11 We count those blessed that endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

19 ...”He is the one who catches the wise in their craftiness”

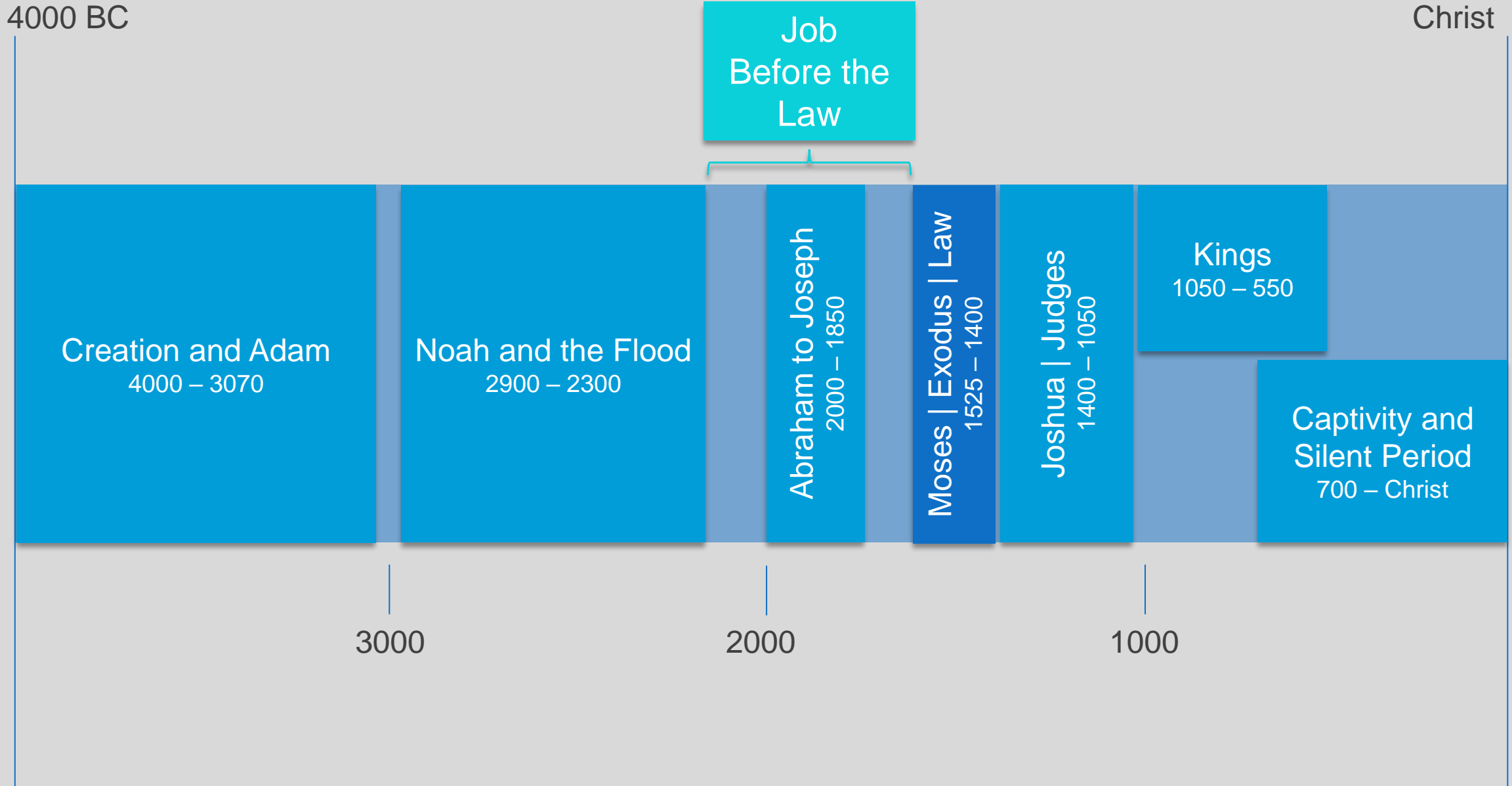
Ezekiel 14:14,20

James 5:11

1 Cor 3:19
quotes Job 5:13

*Passages from Job are quoted 65 times throughout the Bible
(37 in the Psalms, 18 in Proverbs, 9 in the Prophets, 1 in the New Testament)*

Date of the Events



Evidence for and Relevance of the Time Period

Evidence for the Time Period

Wealth was measured in animals and servants, not gold and silver	Job 1:3
Sacrifices made by the head of the family, priests are mentioned but not Israel/law	Job 1:5, 12:19
Job lived to be ~200 years old	Job 42:16
Reference to the flood?	Job 22:15-16
Behemoth and Leviathan (dinosaurs) mentioned	Job 40:15-24; 41 Ps 74:12-14 Ps 104:26 Is 27:1 (symbol)
Reference to Adam hiding his sin	Job 31:33

Relevance of the Time Period – Before God Fully Reveals His Plan for Man

1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. 2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge .	Ps 19:1-2
God reveals Himself in creation and within the creature	Rm 1:18-22

All of the characters reference creation when speaking about God's wisdom

God's law (from Moses) is not referenced as the basis or authority for their arguments.

Job does make reference to God's laws/words (covenant of works) – maybe understood through the account of Adam.

What is Wisdom – 3 Aspects

KNOWLEDGE facts or information, things that are learned

16 Every prudent man acts with knowledge, but a fool displays folly Pr 13:16

15 The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge Pr 18:15

UNDERSTANDING comprehension, using knowledge

6 A scoffer seeks wisdom and finds none, but knowledge is easy to one who has understanding. **7** Leave the presence of a fool, or you will not discern words of knowledge. **8** The wisdom of the sensible it to understand his way, but the foolishness of fools is deceit. Pr 14:6-8

MORALITY distinguishing right/wrong; correctly applying knowledge and understanding

1 just weight/false balance **2** humility/pride **3** integrity/crookedness **4-11** righteous/wicked
12-13 trustworthy/gossip **16** gracious/ruthless **17** merciful/cruel **20** blameless/perverse
24-26 generous/stingy Pr 11

True wisdom is from God and characterized as being gentle, peaceful, reasonable, merciful, unwavering, good fruits, and righteous **versus** bitter, jealous, selfish, ambitious, arrogant, earthly, natural, and demonic James 3:13-18

SOURCE of WISDOM Proverbs 1:7, 9:10 | Job 28:28, 32:8, 37:24 | Proverbs 2:2-11

Summary – Job’s Testing

Who was Job?	Job 1:1-8 Job 29:12-27
Blameless Upright Feared God Turned Away from Evil	
Very wealthy	
Acted as a priest for his family, offering sacrifices for sins (Noah, Abraham, Melchizedek)	
Helped the needy	
No one like him on earth	

God and Satan	Job 1:6–2:9
God asks Satan to consider His servant Job	
Satan says Job fears God because God protected and blessed him	
God allowed Satan to take away all of Job’s wealth and 10 children	
Job did not curse God or lose his faith/trust in Him	
God allowed Satan to physically inflict Job	
Job did not curse God or lose his faith/trust in Him	

Job’s Suffering	Job 1:12–2:13
All of Job’s animals stolen	
All of his servants died	
All of his children died	
Painful and itchy boils all over his body	
Satan, no doubt, did the worst he could do to Job without killing him (God’s command)	

Summary – Debate and Resolution

Speeches Job & 3 Friends	Job 3-31
Job Eliphaz Bildad Zophar 5 3 3 2 Speeches	
Job does not curse God or lose his integrity like Satan said he would	
Job states his innocence, questions life's purpose, God's concern for man, and God's judgment on Job	
His friends insist that Job is suffering due to his sins, but would be restored if he repents	
The friends claim to speak for God, but they state their wisdom is from what they have seen, understood, and from the aged	

Elihu Speaks	Job 32-37
Elihu seems to appear out of nowhere – not Jesus because he has a family listed	
Angry at Job's friends - condemned Job without giving a good argument	
Angry at Job - justified himself, questioned God, and spoke without knowledge	
Wisdom comes from God, not necessarily the aged	
God does not need to give an account of all His doings	
God can speak to men through suffering for their refinement	

God Speaks	Job 38-42
God questions Job because he darkens counsel by words without knowledge	
God states that Job is a faultfinder trying to reprove God, annul His judgment, and condemn Him so Job can be justified	
Wisdom comes from God	
God does not answer Job, but only illustrates His sovereignty, judgment, providence, and goodness over all creation	

Main Themes

JOB'S SUFFERING

Man's
Wisdom

Man's faith/trust in God
while acknowledging His

Sovereignty
Judgement
Providence
Goodness

And knowing it's for our good
and His glory (*Job 19:23-24*)

God's
Wisdom