

Why We Need the Whole Bible

International Bible Lesson

Job 24:1, 9-12, 19-25

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“Why, seeing times are not hidden from the Almighty, do they that know him not see his days?” (Job 24:1—KJV).

“Why are times not kept by the Almighty, and why do those who know him never see his days?” (Job 24:1—NRSV).

Job did not have the complete Bible as we have it today. He did not have the Law of Moses. The Book of Job was probably written before God called Abraham to go to the Promised Land. Job probably only knew about some of the events in the first eleven chapters of Genesis. The Book of Job reveals the limits of people’s knowledge of God when their knowledge does not extend very far beyond their observations of the world around them. Job and others thought people suffered because of their sins, and suffering was a sign that someone had personally sinned against God and others. The more severe the suffering, the more serious the sin, or so they thought. However, Job’s suffering disproved their theological notions because in spite of his suffering Job declared his innocence before God and his friends. Job knew he did not deserve his suffering. When Job spoke about the widow, the orphan, and the poor who suffer unjustly, and how God prolonged the life of the powerful who afflicted them, his limited knowledge about the justice and mercy of God moved him to call out for God to hold court publicly and announce the times He would meet with people to give justice to the oppressed and punish their oppressors. Job knew that his Redeemer would come someday, but that did not prevent him from wishing that God would appoint times and announce when His court would be in session to enforce what Job knew to be right behavior. God answered Job’s questions, but we need the whole Bible to understand better God’s ways on earth.

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Thinking Further

1. According to these verses in the Book of Job, what are some of the bad things that can happen to people?
2. According to these verses in the Book of Job, what are some of the good things that can happen to those who do bad things to people?
3. Do you think Job was right about good things happening to those who do bad things? Give a reason for your answer.
4. What did Eliphaz say happens to those who do bad things? Explain.
5. Who do you think is speaking in verses 24 and 25? Explain your answer.