

Texas Baptist Bible College

Poetical Books Class

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Poetical Books Introduction

1. The “Poetical books” is a collection of 5 books in the Bible, which includes the following: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and The Song of Solomon. There are other passages in the Old Testament that are “poetical,” yet they are found in books with other classification. The designation “Poetical Books” deals with the grouping of these five books.
2. The seventeen books that precede the Poetical Books are _____ in nature, whereas the five books of poetry are _____ in nature. The seventeen historical books are primarily concerned with the _____ of Israel, while the five books of poetry are concerned with _____. The seventeen books of history deal with the Hebrew _____, however, the five books of poetry deal with the human _____.
3. The term “poetical” does not imply that the writings included in this section of the Old Testament are purely the product of the writers’ _____. These “holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” just like every other writer of scripture. *The term poetical refers to the _____ of their writings.* These writings vividly detail the many facets of the human experience; from _____ with God, to _____ with the consequences of sin; from cultivating a relationship with _____ to cultivating an _____ with your spouse. They provide a map through the whole of our existence that guides us to a _____ character and _____ relationships.
4. The order of their _____ in Scripture is as interesting their content. “In these five books, we have the _____ of the old life in self (Job), the _____ of the new life in God (Psalms), the _____ disciplining of the soul in the school of God (Proverbs), the _____ of the heart from worldly desires (Ecclesiastes) and the _____ of communion with the heavenly Bridegroom (Song of Solomon).” BAXTER

Someone said, “The first step in the spiritual life is to abhor equally one’s badness and one’s goodness; the second step is to live by the faith of the Son of God, that is, to live in the energy of the faith by which Messiah lived; the third

step is the subjection of the will to Christ the Wisdom of God; the fourth step is deliverance from the spirit of this present world; and the climax is the joy unspeakable of union and companionship with Christ.” ANNONYMOUS

5. Each of the Poetical books can be summed in a phrase.

The Book of Job – _____

The Psalms - _____

The Proverbs – _____

Ecclesiastes – _____

Song of Solomon – _____

6. The nature Hebrew poetry differs from that of the western world in many ways. In the western culture, poetry is expected to parallel in both _____ and _____. Often, poetry that does not rhyme or that has different rhythm beats is considered odd or poor in quality. Hebrew poetry was not written with “western values” of poetry in mind. It is not written with sound parallelism in rhyme or time parallelism in rhythm. Instead the Hebrew poets wrote with parallel _____ and _____ in mind. There are three types of parallelism in ideas: Completive, Contrastive, and Constructive.

A. COMPLETIVE PARALLELS

Completive Parallels are those in which the second line of the parallel _____ with the first line and further develops the intended point of the verse. Rather than just being a repeat of the first line, the second line colors, enriches, _____ and completes the thought of the first line.

Psalm 19:7

The law of the LORD is perfect,
 Converting the soul:
The testimony of the LORD is sure,
 Making wise the simple.

Psalm 30:11

Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing:
 Thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.

Psalm 92:12

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree:
He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Triple Complete Parallel

In some instances, Hebrew poetry utilizes a multiple, progressive parallelism to strike home the primary point of thought. The triple parallel as well as the progressive instruction in Psalm 1:1 is quite obvious. The opening phrase, “Blessed is the man...” is the primary truth and applies to the whole of the parallel, yet is equally applicable to the individual statements within the parallel.

Psalm 1:1

Blessed is the man...
That **walketh** not in the **counsel** of the **ungodly**,
Nor **standeth** in the **way** of **sinners**,
Nor **sitteth** in the **seat** of the **scornful**.

Walking – friendly terms

Counsel – general advice

Ungodly – negatively wicked

Standing – closer intimacy

Way – chosen course conduct

Sinners – positively wicked

Sitting – permanent connection

Seat – set in mind

Scornful- contemptuously wicked

B. CONTRASTIVE PARALLELS

Contrastive parallels are those parallels in which the second thought _____ or shows a _____ from the first. This seems to be a favorite poetic form employed by the writer of Proverbs.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;
And lean not unto thine own understanding.

Psalm 30:5

For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life:
Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Psalm 32:10

Many sorrows shall be to the wicked:
But he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.

Proverbs 14:11

The house of the wicked shall be overthrown:
But the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish.

Proverbs 27:6

Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

{NOTE: Sometimes the parallels are multiple: }

Psalm 37:10-11

10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be:
yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.
11 But the meek shall inherit the earth;
and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Isaiah 65:13-14

Behold, my servants shall eat,
but ye shall be hungry:
behold, my servants shall drink,
but ye shall be thirsty:
behold, my servants shall rejoice,
but ye shall be ashamed:
14 Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart,
but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit.

C. CONSTRUCTIVE PARALLELS

Constructive Parallels are those in which successive parallels are built up together into structural form until they unite to express one _____ idea.

Proverbs 30:17

The eye that mocketh at his father,
and despiseth to obey his mother,
The ravens of the valley shall pick it out,
and the young eagles shall eat it.

Psalm 21:1-2

- 1 **The king shall joy** in thy **strength**, O LORD;
and in thy **salvation** how **greatly shall he rejoice!**
2 **Thou hast given him** his heart's **desire**,
and **hast not withholden** the **request** of his lips.

Psalm 20:7-8

- 7 *Some trust in chariots, and some in horses:*
but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.
8 *They are brought down and fallen:*
but we are risen, and stand upright.

Isaiah 55:6-7

- 6 **Seek ye the LORD while he may be found,**
call ye upon him while he is near:
7 *Let the wicked forsake his way,*
and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD,
and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly
pardon.

Psalm 135:15-18

- 15 The idols of the heathen are silver and gold,
the work of men's hands.
16 They have mouths, but they speak not;
eyes have they, but they see not;
17 They have ears, but they hear not;
neither is there any breath in their mouths.
18 They that make them are like unto them:
so is every one that trusteth in them.

7. The ability to understand Hebrew poetry is not only important to appreciating the _____ of this form, but it is also very important in the _____ of Scripture. Because we know that corresponding phrases shed light on those around them, then it is possible to allow the Scripture to Provide for it's own interpretation. For example, in Psalm 12:4 we read, "The LORD is in his holy temple.." To which temple is the Psalmist referring, an earthly temple or a heavenly temple? Because we know about the complete parallel in Hebrew poetry, the interpretation can be made with assurance that he is speaking of the temple in heaven:

The LORD is in his holy temple,
the LORD'S throne is in heaven:

The Book Of Job

Introduction:

1. This is one of the most ancient books of the entire Bible.
 - a. The ancient historical allusions: the _____ (3:14), the cities of the _____ (15:28), and the _____ (22:16).
 - b. The omission of Israel's history. No reference is made to the Law, the _____, the Red Sea crossing, _____, or any of the _____ of Israel.
2. Job was a historical character, mentioned later by both _____ (Ezek. 14:14, 20) and _____ (5:11).
3. The Greek Septuagint identifies Job with _____, the second king of _____ (Gen. 36:33).
4. The land of Uz may have been located northeast of the Sea of Galilee, running toward the _____ River. (See Gen. 36:28; Lam. 4:21.)
5. Job's disease may have been leprosy, complicated with elephantiasis, one of the most loathsome and painful diseases known in the world of his time.
6. Job's sufferings are intensified by three _____ friends, a bitter _____, and an impetuous _____.
 - a. _____ bases his advice on _____ experience. (See 4:8, 12-16; 5:3, 27; 15:17.) Eliphaz was a descendant of Esau. (See Gen. 36:11.)
 - b. _____ bases his advice on _____. (See 8:8-10; 18:5-20.) Bildad was a descendant of Abraham and Keturah. (See Gen. 25:2.)

- c. _____ bases his advice on pure _____.
(See 11:6; 20:4.) Zophar was from the land of Naamah.
- d. _____ seems to base his advice on _____ alone. (See 32:6-10.) Elihu was a descendant of Nahor, Abraham's brother. (See Gen. 22:21.)
- e. Job's wife bases her advice on sheer _____. (See 2:9.)
7. The statements from Job's various "friends" cannot be used for doctrinal purposes, for they are often wrong.
- a. God _____ them for not speaking the truth about him; see 42:7.
- b. They were also wrong in calling Job a _____.
(See 8:12; 15:34; 20:5; 34:30.) God, however, had found *no fault* in him. (See 1:8; 2:3.)
8. The book of Job is an extended _____ on Luke 22:31, 32 and Hebrews 12:7-11.
9. The following opinions have been given concerning the book of Job.
- a. Victor Hugo: "The book of Job is perhaps the greatest masterpiece of the human mind."
- b. Thomas Carlyle: "Call this book...one of the grandest things ever written. There is nothing written, I think, of equal literary merit."
- c. Alfred, Lord Tennyson: "The greatest poem, whether of ancient or modern literature."
- I. Job's terrible _____ (Job 1-2).
- A. The _____ of these trials.
1. First trial: His oxen and _____ are stolen and his farm hands are killed by a Sabeian raid.
 2. Second trial: His sheep and _____ are burned up by fire.
 3. Third trial: His _____ are stolen and his servants killed by a Chaldean raid.
 4. Fourth trial: His sons and daughters _____ in a mighty wind.
 5. Fifth trial: Job himself is struck with a terrible case of _____.
- B. The _____ for these trials.
- A conversation takes place in the _____ between God and Satan concerning Job. The _____ sneeringly charges that Job only _____ God because of two selfish benefits:
1. Because God has given his servant much _____.

2. Because God has given his servant good _____, Satan argues that if he could but remove these two elements, that Job would _____ God to his face. Thus, to shut the devil's mouth, God gives him permission to remove both Job's wealth and health. It should be noted here that Satan cannot tempt a believer apart from God's specific permission.

C. His _____ wife (2:9, 10).

“Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die. But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.”

II. Job's _____ friends (4-37).

It has been pointed out that his friends came to sympathize, but stayed on to sermonize. Job's three “friends” delivered eight full-blown messages.

_____ preached _____ of these (Job 4-5; 15; 22);

_____, _____ (ch. 8; 18; 25); and _____,

came up with _____ (11; 20). No sooner, however, had this tiresome trio finished than the filibuster began again by a young “preacher boy” named Elihu who drones on for _____ chapters (32-37). See Genesis 36:10.

A. The speeches of _____ (ch. 4, 5, 15, 22).

1. He claimed Job was _____ for his sins. “Remember, I pray thee, who ever perished, being innocent? Or where were the righteous cut off? Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same” (4:7, 8).

“Thine own mouth condemneth thee, and not I: yea, thine own life testify against thee” (15:6).

2. He then accuses Job of the following:

a. That he had _____ the poor (22:6).

b. That he had withheld _____ from the hungry (22:7).

c. That he had _____ widows and orphans (22:9).

d. That he was a windbag (15:2).

3. He bases his conclusions on _____ experience. (See 4:8, 12-16; 5:3, 27; 15:17.)

4. He relates his night vision “_____ story” (4:12-17).

5. He urges Job to _____ and turn back to God (22:21-28). “If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity very far from thy tents” (22:23).

- B. The speeches of _____ (ch. 8; 18; 25).
1. He claimed Job was _____ for his sins. “Behold, God will not cast away a perfect man, neither will he help the evildoers” (8:20).
 2. He bases his conclusions on _____. “For inquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers” (8:8). (See also 8:9, 10.)
 3. He urges Job to _____ and turn back to God. “If thou wouldest seek unto God betimes, and make thy supplication to the Almighty; If thou wert pure and upright; surely now he would awake for thee, and make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous” (8:5, 6).
- C. The speeches of _____ (11, 20).
1. He claimed Job was _____ for his sins. “For thou hast said, My doctrine is pure, and I am clean....But oh, that God would speak, and open his lips against thee....Know, therefore, that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth” (11:4-6).
“Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon the earth, that the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment” (20:4, 5).
 2. He bases his conclusions on sheer _____.
(See 11:6; 20:4.)
 3. He urges Job to _____ and turn back to God. “If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him. If iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tents. For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be steadfast, and shalt not fear” (11:13-15).
- D. The speech of _____ (ch. 32-37).
1. He waits awhile before speaking because of his youth (32:4-7).
 2. However, once begun, he feels as confident and qualified to straighten out Job as the former three did. In fact, he actually suggests that he is the one whom Job seeks! “Behold, I am according to thy wish in God’s stead; I also am formed out of the clay” (33:6).
 3. Elihu seems to be _____ with all four. He is angry with Job because of his self-_____; and with the three friends because they had “found no answers, and yet had condemned Job” (32:3).
 4. He accuses Job of both foolish _____ (34:35-37; 36:16) and false _____ (35:2).

5. He exhorts Job to consider God's _____ and his greatness (37:14-24).

III. The _____ and _____ of Job.

A. The suffering patriarch responds to his accusers in nine separate speeches.

1. First: chapter 3
2. Second: chapters 6-7
3. Third: chapters 9-10
4. Fourth: chapters 12, 13, 14
5. Fifth: chapters 16-17
6. Sixth: chapter 19
7. Seventh: chapter 21
8. Eighth: chapters 23-24
9. Ninth: chapters 26-31

B. During these nine speeches Job discusses _____ topics.

1. I am _____, and therefore not suffering for my sin (27:6; 31:1-30). "My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go; my heart shall not reproach me as long as I live" (27:6).
2. In the past I have _____ many good works (29:12-17; 30:25).
3. Oh, for those good old days when I enjoyed _____, wealth, and _____ (29:1-11, 20-25).
4. But now I am being _____ punished by God (9:16, 17, 30, 31, 32, 33; 13:26, 27; 10:2, 7, 8; 19:6-11; 30:20, 21).
5. My three so-called _____ are miserable comforters (12:2; 13:4; 16:2; 19:3).
6. If they were in my place I would help them and not unjustly _____ them (16:4, 5).
7. Even my _____, associates, and servants have turned against me (19:13-22; 30:1, 9, 10).
8. I wish I could find the _____ for all this (28:12-28).
9. I wish I could find _____ (23:8, 9).
10. My flesh is _____ with _____ (7:5; 30:17, 18, 30).
11. I wish I had never been _____ (3:3-11, 16; 10:18).
12. I wish I were _____ (6:8, 9; 7:15, 16).
13. I have no _____ (10:20-22).
14. In spite of all, I'll _____ God (13:15; 16:19; 23:10).

IV. His glorious _____ (38-41).

Suddenly from out of a whirlwind comes the mighty voice of God. The sullen Job is then subjected to a _____ -question quiz.

A. God's first series of questions and Job's Reply (Job 38-39).

1. Job 38:4: "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding."
2. Job 38:18: "Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? Declare if thou knowest it all."
3. Job 38:19: "Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof?"
4. Job 38:24: "By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth?"
5. Job 38:28: "Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew?"
6. Job 40:2: "Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? He that reproveth God, let him answer it."
7. Job's reply (40:4, 5): "Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further."

B. God's second series of questions (40:6-41:34).

1. Job 40:15: "Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox."
2. Job 41:1: "Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? Or his tongue with a cord which thou lettest down?"
{Note: These two creatures may very well refer to a land dinosaur and a sea dinosaur.}
3. Job's reply (42:1-5)
"I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? Therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye seeth thee: Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

V. His bountiful _____ (42:7-17).

Job has been subjected to five fiery _____ and has participated in five painful _____, but now he receives at the hand of God a _____ blessing.

A. He is allowed to see the _____ of God.

- B. He sees _____ as God sees him. (This is always a blessing.)
- C. He is _____ by God before the eyes of his three critical friends.
- D. He discovers the joy of _____ for these three friends.
- E. His former _____ is fully restored.
- F. He is comforted by his _____ and sister.
- G. He is given double his former _____.
- H. He is given _____ more sons and three more daughters.
- I. He lives to enjoy his _____ and great-grandchildren.
- J. He is given an additional _____ years—twice the number normally accorded a man. (See Psalm 90:10.)

VI. The _____ Study of Job

- A. The aesthetic value of the book of Job
 - 1. "Tomorrow, if all literature was to be destroyed and it was left to me to retain one work only, I should save Job." (Victor Hugo)
 - 2. "...the greatest poem, whether of ancient or modern literature." (Tennyson)
 - 3. "The Book of Job taken as a mere work of literary genius is one of the most wonderful productions of any age or of any language." (Daniel Webster)
 - 4. Oswald Chambers referred to the Poetical books this way:
 - a. Job - How to _____
 - b. Psalms - How to _____
 - c. Proverbs - How to _____
 - d. Ecclesiastes - How to _____
 - e. Song of Solomon - How to _____
- B. AUTHOR AND DATE OF WRITING:

Who wrote the book, and when? No one really knows.

 - 1. Jewish _____ attributes the book to Moses, and other authors have been suggested (Job, Elihu, _____, Isaiah, Hezekiah, and Baruch, Jeremiah's scribe). "All that can be said with certainty is that the author was a loyal _____ who was not strictly bound by the popular creed that assumed suffering was always the direct result of sin" (Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown).

2. Because the author is unknown, its date has been hotly debated among scholars. Some think it was written before Moses (pre _____ B.C.). Others put it at the time of Solomon (ca. _____ B.C.), and some even as late as the Babylonian Exile or later (post _____ B.C.).
3. The uncertainty of author and date does not nullify the book's inspiration, for it is affirmed in the _____. Paul quotes from it on several occasions in his writings (Compare 1 Co 3:19 with Job 5:13; and Ro 11:35 with Job 4:11). For the Christian who accepts the _____ of the New Testament, such evidence is sufficient.

C. THE _____ OF THE BOOK:

The historical events appear to be set in the " _____ " period (i.e., sometime between _____ and _____). There are no allusions to the Law of Moses in the book, but there is a mention of a _____ (22:16). Job functions as a priest in offering _____ for his family (1:5), similar to what we find with Abraham (cf. Gen 12:7). His longevity is typical of the patriarchs (42:16; cf. Gen 11:22-26,32). For such reasons most students of the book place him somewhat contemporary with _____ (_____ B.C.).

D. THE _____ OF THE BOOK:

It is common to suggest that the purpose of the book is to answer the age-old question, "Why does God allow the _____ to suffer?" That is certainly the question Job raises, but it is worthy to note that he himself never receives a direct answer. Nor is one given by the author, other than to answer Satan's challenge, "Does Job fear God for nothing?". We are privileged to know of the challenge of Satan, and that God allows Job to suffer in answer to that challenge, but Job is never told of this. Perhaps the purpose of the book is to answer the question, "**How should the righteous suffer?**" While Job's questions and _____ often come close to charging God with wrong, he never crosses the line and humbly submits to God when told that the answers to his questions are beyond his ability to understand. Thus the book shows us how the righteous should bear up under _____ ("You have heard of the perseverance of Job" - Ja 5:11)

E. SOME _____ FROM THE BOOK:

In his study on the book (The Book Of Job, Quality Pub.), Wayne Jackson offers the following lessons to be gleaned:

1. The book defends the absolute _____ and perfection of God – It sets forth the theme echoed in Ps 18:3 ("I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised"). God is deserving of our praise simply on the basis of who He is, apart from the _____ He _____. Satan denied this (1:9-11), but Job proved him wrong (1:20-22; 2:10).
2. The question of suffering is addressed - Why do we suffer? Who or what causes it? Why doesn't God do something? Not all questions are answered, but some important points are made:
 - a. Man is unable to subject the painful _____ of human existence to a meaningful analysis - God's workings are beyond man's ability to fathom. Man simply cannot tie all the "loose ends" of the Lord's purposes together. We must learn to _____ in God, no matter the _____.
 - b. Suffering is not always the result of _____ sin – The erroneous conclusion drawn by Job's friends is that suffering is always a consequence of sin. Job proves this is not the case.
 - c. Suffering may be allowed as a _____ to one's spirituality - God allowed Job to suffer to prove to Satan what kind of _____ he really was. What confidence God had in Job!
 - d. The book paints a beautiful picture of " _____ " - The word describes the trait of one who is able to abide under the _____ of trials. From the "patience of Job", we learn that it means to maintain _____ to God, even under great trials in which we do not understand what is _____.
 - e. The book also prepares the way for the coming of _____ Christ! His coming is _____ in several ways. Job longs for a _____ between him and God (9:33; 33:23), and Jesus is one (1 Ti 2:5). Job confessed his faith in a _____ who would one day come (19:25); Christ is that Redeemer (Ep 1:7)!

- F. BRIEF OUTLINE (adapted from Warren Wiersbe)
 - I. Job's Distress (1-3)
 - A. His Prosperity (1:1-5)
 - B. His Adversity (1:6-2:13)
 - C. His Perplexity (3)
 - II. Job's Defense (4-37)
 - A. The First Round (4-14)
 - 1. Eliphaz (4-5)_Job's reply (6-7)
 - 2. Bildad (8)_Job's reply (9-10)
 - 3. Zophar (11)_Job's reply (12-14)
 - B. The Second Round (15-21)
 - 1. Eliphaz (15)_Job's reply (16-17)
 - 2. Bildad (18)_Job's reply (19)
 - 3. Zophar (20)_Job's reply (21)
 - C. The Third Round (22-37)
 - 1. Eliphaz (22)_Job's reply (23-24)
 - 2. Bildad (25)_Job's reply (26-31)
 - D. Young Elihu Speaks (32-37)
 - 1. Contradicting Job's friends (32)
 - 2. Contradicting Job himself (33)
 - 3. Proclaiming God's justice, goodness, and majesty (34-37)
 - III. Job's Deliverance (38-42)
 - A. God humbles Job (38:1-42:6)
 - 1. Through questions too great to answer (38:1-41:34)
 - 2. Job acknowledges his inability to understand (42:1-6)
 - B. God honors Job (42:7-17)
 - 1. God rebukes his critics (42:7-10)
 - 2. God restores his wealth (42:11-17)