

Old Testament Workshop
Morrison Heights Baptist Church
December 1, 2019

BOOK OF JOB



WISDOM LITERATURE

KIND	FOCUS	EXAMPLES
Practical Wisdom	RULE of LIFE	Proverbs
Speculative Wisdom	EXCEPTIONS to the RULE	Job Ecclesiastes

Rule of Life

“No harm befalls the righteous, but the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble.” **(Pr. 12:21)**

Exceptions

Why do bad things happen to good people?

Why do the wicked prosper?

SEE Job and Ecclesiastes.

The Problem
of
EVIL

BOOK OF JOB: GENRE



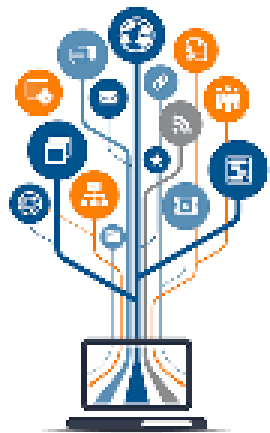
According to Old Testament scholars, WHAT is the Book of Job?

Parody
Bi-Polar Mashal
Epic
Legal Disputation
Theo-Novella
Dramatized Lament
Comedy
Tragedy
Drama
Epic-Drama
Ballad
Poeticized Folk-Tale

BOOK OF JOB: GENRE

Think simple! Job is a **STORY**.

Every story, whether fiction OR non-fiction, has common features.



CHARACTERS

POINT OF VIEW

THEME

SCENES

PLOT

CONFLICT

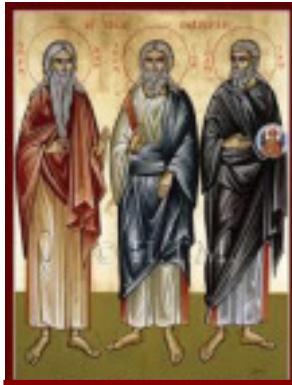
SETTING

BOOK OF JOB: GENRE

- ① The Book of Job is a TRUE story.
SEE **Ezekiel 14:14, 20** and **James 5:11**.

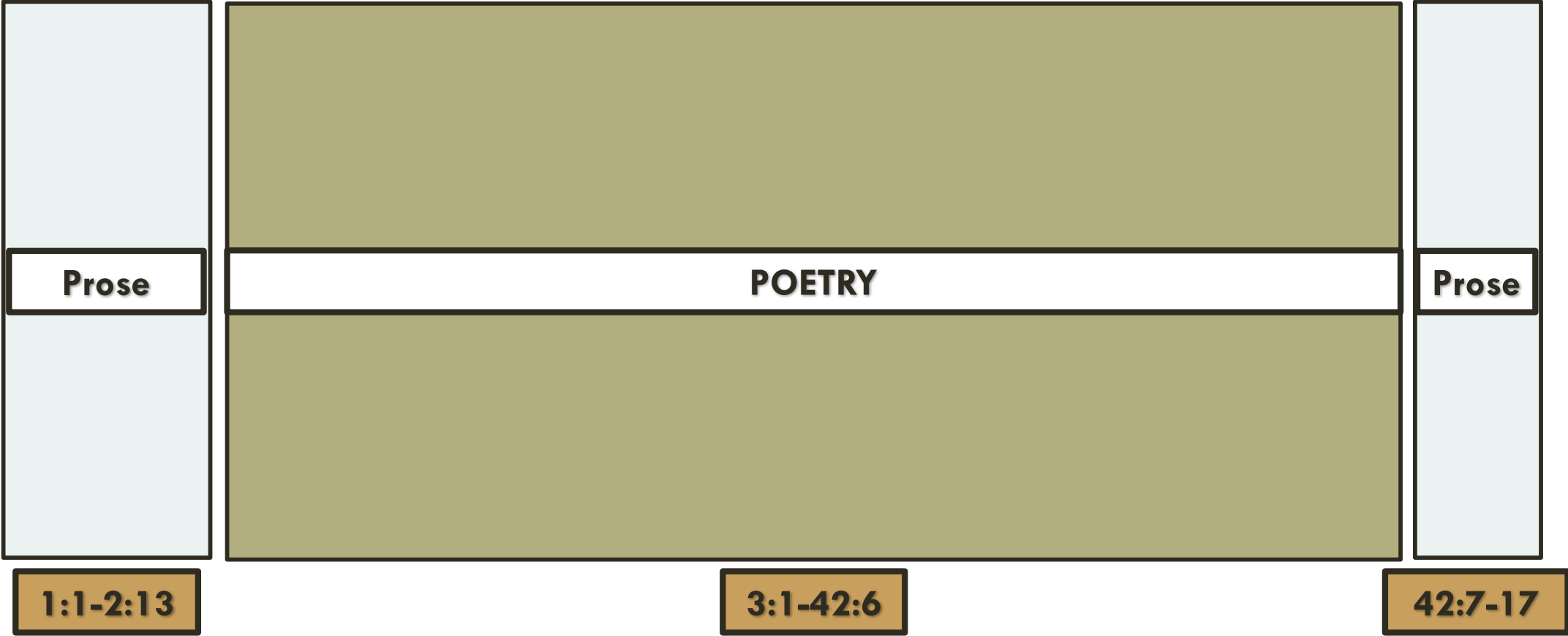


- ② The Book of Job is an OLD story.

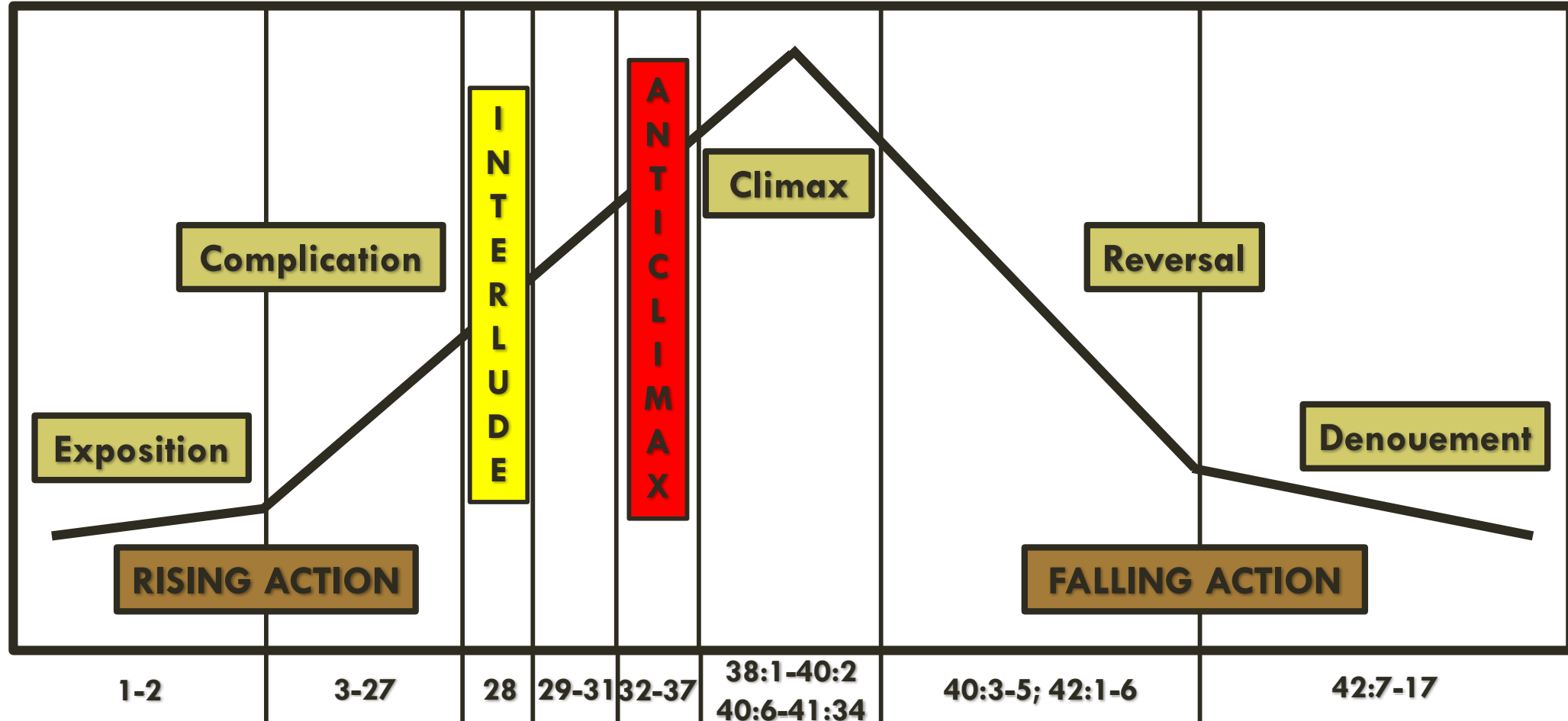


SETTING
Time of the Patriarchs
Genesis 12-50

BOOK OF JOB: STRUCTURE



BOOK OF JOB: PLOT



BOOK OF JOB: THE DEBATE



Deuteronomistic Theology popularized a causal link between behavior and consequences.

- ① Righteousness → BLESSINGS
- ② Wickedness → CURSES

Proponents and opponents eventually clashed. Israel's wisdom movement would be the forum. **Proverbs** espouses Deuteronomistic Theology. **Job** and **Ecclesiastes** dissent loudly.

BOOK OF JOB: THE DEBATE

In **ETERNITY**, unlike on **EARTH** (imperfect world), Deuteronomic Theology always applies, without qualification.

On **EARTH**, therefore, Jesus twice cautioned the theologically overconfident.

- ① **Luke 13:2-5**
- ② **John 9:1-5**



BOOK OF JOB: THE DEBATE

WHY?

① God is a MYSTERY.

e.g., Perfect Will (**Rom. 12:2**) vs. Permissive Will

According to **Matthew 6:9-10**, His will occurs perfectly IN HEAVEN.

② We are NOT God.

Therefore, we lack His perspective AND understanding.

“Who has stood in the council of the LORD, that he should see and hear His word?”

Jeremiah 23:18

BOOK OF JOB: THE DEBATE

③ We live in a **FALLEN** world (**Rom. 8:18-25**).
According to Jesus, Satan is the “ruler of this world” (**Jn. 12:32; 16:5-11**).

④ We are **SINNERS** needing sanctification, a priority for God (**1 Th. 4:3a**).

Therefore, He will use “all things” for our good (**Rom. 8:28-30**), even the unthinkable (**e.g., Lk. 22:31-32**).

As sinners, we’re bad umpires; what might seem **BAD** may be **GOOD** for us; what might seem **GOOD** may not be that **GOOD** for long.



BOOK OF JOB: MESSAGE

PROPOSED

① Suffering

a. A Mystery

b. An Explanation

NOT a mystery to us readers
Job never knows why he suffered.
God never addresses the subject.

② Faith

③ Patience/Perseverance

(SEE Jas. 5:11)

④ Relationship

definitely themes, but NOT the message unless Job is the MAIN character



MAIN CHARACTER: GOD

PROTAGONIST

WHY?

- ① God spoke first AND last.
- ② The sons of God convened to report to God. The purpose of their meetings was NOT to discuss Job (1:6-12; 2:1-6).
- ③ ONLY God is mentioned in EVERY chapter of the book.
- ④ Job's suffering was NEVER mentioned in God's speeches.
- ⑤ God rebuked Job's friends because they had not spoken rightly about Him (42:7-9).

BOOK OF JOB: MESSAGE

SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

Note how the characters answer two interrelated questions.

	Is God in control?	If so, is He loving and just?
ADVERSARY	YES	NO (Job 1:9)
JOB	YES	YES (Job 1:21; 2:10)
JOB'S WIFE	YES	NO (Job 2:9)
JOB	YES	NO (Job 3-27, 29-32)
JOB'S FRIENDS	YES	YES (Deuteronomic Theology)
ELIHU	YES	YES (Job 32-37)
JOB	YES	YES (Job 42:1-6)