

somehow). While Dorsey would attribute ch. 28 to the author, in the book's present shape it is attached to Job's response to his friends. If these words come from Job, then rightly does God judge his words to be correct in 42:7. Except for this small observation, it would seem of all the explanations cited here, Dorsey's is the most convincing, based on an analysis of lexical parallels between numerous texts at either end of the book.

Here is the overall literary structure of Job according to Dorsey (p. 170):

A prologue: Job's suffering (1:1-2:13)

B Job's introductory speech: he wishes his birth had never happened (3:1-26)

C cycle of speeches by Job and his three older friends (4:1-27:23)

D Center: poem about wisdom (28:1-28)

C' cycle of summation speeches by Job and his younger friend (29:1-37:24)

B' God's closing speech: birth and all life is under God's good control (38:1-42:6)

A' epilogue: Job's suffering reversed (42:7-17)

He also illustrates how the prologue and epilogue, as mentioned above are set up to form a concentric pattern. The order of the prologue is neatly reversed in the epilogue so that the reversal of his fortunes described in the latter is reflected in the literary structure as well.

Theodicy

The main issue in Job is one of theodicy. In the end God justified himself but perhaps not in an entirely satisfactory manner for most modern readers. Job's friends contended that suffering is the result of sin. Indeed, Israel suffered for its sin as the Pentateuch and Former Prophets testified to abundantly. However, although sin has its negative consequence of suffering, suffering also comes to the innocent and righteous. Men should not jump to conclusions regarding the reason for individual situations until God reveals the real reason. God acts in his wisdom and power without consulting anyone, although he can reveal his plan to mankind. Job suffered but never denied what he knew to be true, that he had not been unfaithful to God. No one could show him his sin and he knew of none. Even God in heaven as he spoke to Satan confirmed the exemplary righteousness of Job. So the righteous and