

Lutheran Foundations: A Confirmation Curriculum[©]

It Starts Here! Stories of the Old Testament

The Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish

Year 1, Lesson 28:

Job

Who wrote Job? Probably a Jewish author writing to Jews – The book contains quotes from other Biblical books and uses the name YHWH for God.

What is this book? Job is not a history! It is also not a book to tell us about God. JESUS tells us about God. Jesus SHOWS us God. Wherever we find a story in the Bible that presents a vision of God different than what we see in Jesus, then we KNOW that whatever is being said about God is not descriptive but rather a literary construct to move a story forward. It is super important that you never forget that Jesus is God. It is super important that you never forget Jesus' words: "The Father and I are one." As Luther said, when you are in terror of the hidden God, run to the revealed God! So, it's not a story meant to tell us about God. Rather, it is a long meditation on the problem of undeserved suffering. It tries to give answers to questions like "Where is God in my suffering?", "Why do innocent people suffer?", & "What kind of the world do we live in?"

Where and when was Job written? Maybe written during the Babylonian captivity something like 700 years before Jesus???

Summary: The Book of Job tells the story of a very strange bet between God and the Dark One about whether or not Job is faithful and Godly only because God has made him rich and healthy and happy. But again, you must not leave the story thinking that the point is to describe how God operates and/or the relationship between God and the Dark One. That would be to miss the point entirely!

Buckle up!