The **Job** Process – A Theodicean Flowchart

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Jesus is the ultimate Suffering Servant

Foreshadowed

Points Toward

Yahweh

START

Prologue (1:1-5) → 1 → Sons of God Assembly I (1:6-8) → 2 → 3 → Yahweh Allows Testing of Job → 4. "Don't touch Job!" → Sons of God Assembly II (2:1-3) → 6 → 7 → Yahweh Allows More Testing → 8. "Don't Kill Job!" → Observes & Influences

CONFLICT

CONSTRAINTS

Speaks from the Whirlwind: "Where were you when I created the universe? Do you have Divine wisdom?" (38:1 – 42:6)

Satan

First Challenge to Job's Faith (1:9-11)

Inflicts Family, Material Losses

Second challenge: "Skin for skin" (2:4)

Inflicts Physical Suffering

Observes & Influences

Suffers utter defeat

Try again

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Job

Life is good so far...

5 → Children, Servants, Belongings Lost (1:13-19)

9 → Disease, boils (2:7) → 10 → Job's Lament Ch. 3

Job's Wife: "Curse God and die!" (2:9)

Cycle I: 273 verses

Job Responds to Cycle I (Ch. 6-7; 9-10; 12-14)

"I am righteous and I suffer. I will keep worshipping God." 17

Cycle II: 151 verses

Job Responds to Cycle II (Ch. 16-17; 19; 21)

"Why do wicked prosper? You are false comforters!" 23

Cycle III: 115 verses

Job Responds to Cycle III (Ch. 23-24; 26-27)

"I am denied justice" 27 → Poem on Divine Wisdom (Ch. 28) → 28 → Last Speech: "I am innocent" (Ch. 29-31)

Epilogue: Repentance; only God is good and wise (42:7-17) → END

Eliphaz

11 → Concern for Job; ANE Orthodoxy: sin punished, goodness rewarded (Ch. 4-5)

12 13 14 15 16 18 19 20 21 22 24 25 26 30

Job is "hot wind" (Ch.15)

Specific Accusations (Ch. 22)

Bildad

Repeats orthodoxy: Suffering due to sin (Ch. 8)

Job is self-destructive (Ch. 18)

Very Short Speech (25:1-6)

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Zophar

The guilty suffer: Job must be at fault (Ch. 11)

Warning: The fate of the wicked (Ch. 20)

Silence (Possibly 27:13-23 – See Serafa)

Elihu

Observes Patiently

Monologue: addresses Job's positions directly, but essentially repeats previous arguments. Leads to Yahweh's speech. (Ch. 32-37)

Thematic Questions

Is God Just? (Why suffering?)	Satan: no, he bribes worshippers	Job: God punishes unfairly	Job's opponents: God is just: he punishes the wicked and rewards the righteous; therefore Job is wicked.	**Yahweh's supreme justice inferred from his wisdom**
Who is Wise?	Satan?	Job?	Eliphaz? Bildad? Zophar?	Job? Elihu? **Yahweh is the ultimate source of wisdom**
Why does man serve God?	Satan: For selfish reasons	Yahweh: For altruistic reasons	Job: I will keep worshipping, even if I don't understand	Yahweh speaks of the mystery of creation and grace → **Job serves Yahweh out of love – he trusts God**

To be cont'd

Plot Development

Job worships God, enjoys life → **Setting for Conflict** → Satan challenges Job's faith → **Inciting Moment** → **Rising Action**: Three cycles of dialogue: Job proclaims his innocence and righteousness; his opponents condemn him → **Turning Point**: Job says, "I know that my Redeemer lives,...I shall see God" (19:25-26) → **Falling Action**: Job has the initiative; his opponents run out of steam. However, he still proclaims his righteousness and the unfairness of his suffering. → Elihu affirms Yahweh's superiority, condemns Job, introduces Yahweh... → **Denouement**: Yahweh is supreme. Job's opponents chastised. → Job repents → **Epilogue**: Job restored