

THE CHRONOLOGY REGARDING JOB & “WHY DO THE RIGHTEOUS SUFFER”

Job is Issachar’s third son (Gen. 46:13), and Issachar is still alive at the time of Job’s trial (cp. Gen. 46:13 & Job 15:10). Thus, Job lived during the age of the Patriarchs. This is further seen in that:

1. He acted as the chief priest for his family (Job 1:5)
2. Eliphaz descended from Ishmael’s 9th son Tema (Gen. 25:15; Job 6:19: or Esau’s 1st, Gen. 36:10–11)
3. In 42 chapters, there is no mention of the Law, Tabernacle, or Temple.

Thus, with regard to his age, the correct understanding of Job 42:10 & 42:16 is not that his life-span was $70 + 140 = 210$. That is far too old compared to the ages of the other patriarchs at this time (e.g., Jacob 147, Joseph 110, Moses 120). Job 42:10 infers that God’s blessing at the end of the trial was to *also* double his age. This would mean that Job was half of 140 or 70 years old at the time of the trial.

Job departed Egypt long before Joseph died and the cruel Pharaoh’s that followed him came to power. As he dwelt among the unregenerate offspring of Esau in Edom of the land of Uz (see Gen.36:28; Jer. 25:20), God greatly prospered Job. Obviously, it would have taken time for the news of Job’s plight to reach his family in Egypt. This is why they did not arrive to comfort him until the end of his trial (Job 42:11). So why do the righteous suffer? Reason (#1): There are *none* righteous! (Rom. 3:10-12)

Another reason for his anguish was that, although they may be one’s friends, the wisdom of lost religious philosophers simply cannot help or comfort the children of God in time of trouble.

- c. 1750 BC – Issachar’s approximate birth year (derived from data on Charts 3d & 3e)
- 1706 BC – year Issachar came to Egypt – see Dr. Floyd Nolen Jones’ Chart 3

44 Issachar is c.44 when he came to Egypt in 1706 with 4 sons – Gen. 46:13

- c. 1750 BC – Issachar born
- 30 Issachar’s approximate age when 3rd son, Job, is born

- c. 1720 BC – Job’s approximate birth year

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- 1706 BC – year Issachar came to Egypt with young Job – see Chart 3

14 Job about 14 when he came to Egypt – Gen. 46:13

- c. 1720 BC – Job’s approximate birth year
- 70 Job’s approximate age at the time of his trial

- c. 1650 BC – Year of Job’s trial (approximate)

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- 70 God doubled Job’s lifespan, so he died at age 140 (Job 42:16)

- c. 1580 BC – Year Job died

Although approximate, the above dates should be seen as biblically logical and sound – hence:

Joseph is c.25 when Job is born.

Job is c.31 when his grandfather Jacob died.

Joseph dies at 110 years in Egypt c.15 years after Job’s trial when Job is 85.

Job dies c.9 years before Moses is born.

Job dies c.55 years after Joseph died.