

Abstract

In my bachelor's thesis, I focus on the Biblical view of suffering in the Old Testament book of Job and the reflected suffering of the pious in selected themes of the wisdom literature of ancient Mesopotamia. The Book of Job could be seen as an „extraordinary complicated“¹ book and in my opinion, it seems to me even provocative in several ways.

This dense text, which I consider among other things, to be a theological treatise, contains not only very deep thoughts but also scary, sometimes even dark statements, in which even a well-informed reader can easily get lost.

Paying attention to this possible confusion the thesis simplifies the topics by clarifying the main line of thought or intent of the book. The intent is to reference biblical pericopes, which I found and documented by studying the literature and the Scriptures. The book of Job is not the only composition from which wisdom, refined by pain, speaks. The problem of suffering is one of the timeless problems of human existence.

As a consequence of that, I searched for texts from the wisdom literature of ancient Mesopotamia, such as „Man and his God,“ „I want to praise the Lord of Wisdom,“ and „Babylonian Theodicy,“ and compared the book with above mentioned literatures. This effort may be seen boldly by several readers, but I believe it to be a worthy undertaking.

In addition to other professional literatures, the study of the Swiss Reformed Old Testament by Johann Jakob Stamm „The Suffering of the Innocent in Babylon and Israel“² was a resourceful tool while writing this thesis. I have noticed some similarities, parallels, and connections that might suggest that the writer of Job may have known the Mesopotamian wisdom texts before writing the scripture.

However, I also found several differences, which makes me believe that the knowledge of Mesopotamian texts is uncertain. My intention was to underline the uniqueness of the Old Testament book by comparing the book of Job with the above-mentioned writings; which was accomplished.

¹ DELITZSCH, Friedrich. *Das Buch Hiob. Neu übersetzt und kurz erklärt. Ausgabe mit sprachlichem Kommentar.* Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichssche Buchhandlung, 1902. s. 1.

² STAMM, Johann Jakob. *Das Leiden des Unschuldigen in Babylon und Israel.* Zürich: Zwingli-Verlag, 1946.

