

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                                                       |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Table of Contents .....                                                                               | v  |
| Acknowledgments .....                                                                                 | xi |
| Abbreviations .....                                                                                   | xv |
| 1. The Prosperity of the Wicked and Divine Injustice .....                                            | 1  |
| Job in Light of Ancient Near Eastern Compositions .....                                               | 4  |
| A One-Sided Theodicy.....                                                                             | 6  |
| Retributive Justice and the Prosperity of the<br>Wicked.....                                          | 15 |
| The Other Side of Theodicy .....                                                                      | 20 |
| Raison d'être and Trajectory .....                                                                    | 22 |
| 2. The Conflict over the Fate of the Wicked .....                                                     | 27 |
| The Lions, the Wicked, and the Retribution: Eliphaz—<br>4:10–11.....                                  | 28 |
| Lion Imagery as a Trope for Judgment upon the<br>Wicked.....                                          | 31 |
| Eliphaz the Instigator .....                                                                          | 40 |
| Crushed Hope, Ruined Households, and Restored<br>Happiness: Bildad—8:8–22 .....                       | 41 |
| Traditional Wisdom as a Literary Technique in<br>the Bible and Ancient Near East—Job 8:8–<br>10 ..... | 42 |
| Malnourished Plants—Bildad in Job 8:11–14.....                                                        | 45 |
| The Ungodly, the Unwise, and an Unsteady<br>House—Bildad in Job 8:15, 22 .....                        | 47 |
| Well-Watered and Wicked?—Bildad in Job<br>8:16–19.....                                                | 52 |
| Assurance of Retribution and Restoration—<br>Bildad in Job 8:20–22 .....                              | 53 |

|                                                                                           |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| The Whimsical God: Job in 9:20–24 .....                                                   | 54  |
| The Destruction of the Blameless with the Guilty<br>in Job and the Ancient Near East..... | 55  |
| Job's Righteousness—vv. 20–21 .....                                                       | 59  |
| The Wicked vs. The Righteous: Identical<br>Outcomes—vv. 22–23 .....                       | 60  |
| A Problematic Issue for the Sages.....                                                    | 65  |
| God is the “Unjust Justice”—v. 24.....                                                    | 65  |
| God's Hostilities to Job—Job in 10:2–3, 7–8, 14–16.....                                   | 70  |
| God Swallows Job—10:8 .....                                                               | 72  |
| God the Lion Hunts Job the Prey—10:14–16 .....                                            | 74  |
| Job Cannot Be Guiltless—Zophar in Job 11:7–8, 20 .....                                    | 75  |
| God's Immeasurable Wisdom—11:7–8 .....                                                    | 76  |
| The Consequences for the Wicked—11:20 .....                                               | 78  |
| Conclusion.....                                                                           | 79  |
| 3. “Unequivocal Reiteration”: Eliphaz in Job 15:17–35.....                                | 81  |
| The Demise of the Deranged Wicked—vv. 20–21, 24 .....                                     | 83  |
| Terror, Torment & Delusion.....                                                           | 83  |
| Terror for the Wicked in Biblical Literature .....                                        | 87  |
| Terror for the Wicked in Extra-Biblical<br>Literature.....                                | 88  |
| Darkness & Violence—vv. 22–23 & 30 .....                                                  | 90  |
| Reason for Retribution: The Wicked Challenge God—<br>vv. 25–26.....                       | 93  |
| The Loss and Futility of Possessions, Again—15:27–29 ....                                 | 96  |
| Botanic Imagery & the Wicked—vv. 30–33 .....                                              | 104 |
| Godless: Sterile Procreators—vv. 34–35 .....                                              | 110 |
| Conclusion.....                                                                           | 115 |
| 4. “Woe is the Way of the Wicked”: Bildad in Job 18 .....                                 | 117 |
| The Light of the Wicked Will Wane—vv. 5–6, 18.....                                        | 119 |
| Light/Life/Land vs. Darkness & Death in the Bible .....                                   | 121 |
| Darkness & Death in Ancient Near Eastern Literature.....                                  | 123 |
| The Ballad of Early Rulers .....                                                          | 123 |
| The Descent of Ishtar to the Netherworld and<br>Nergal and Ereshkigal .....               | 124 |
| The Way of the Wicked—vv. 7–10.....                                                       | 126 |
| Terrors and Trouble in the Way of the Wicked— vv. 11–<br>12.....                          | 130 |

|                                                             |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Definite Death—vv. 13–14 .....                              | 133 |
| The Firstborn of Death—v. 13 .....                          | 134 |
| The King of Terrors—v. 14 .....                             | 139 |
| Terror Resides in the Wicked's Estates—vv. 15 .....         | 142 |
| Eradication of the Wicked's Progeny—vv. 16–17, 19.....      | 147 |
| Progeny as a Problem in the Bible .....                     | 150 |
| Progeny as a Problem in Ugaritic Epics .....                | 152 |
| Making an Example of the Wicked—vv. 20–21 .....             | 159 |
| Conclusion .....                                            | 160 |
| 5. "The Destitute, the Dispossessed, and the Dead"— Zophar  |     |
| in Job 20:4–29.....                                         | 163 |
| Zophar: Job's Agitated Companion—vv. 1–3.....               | 164 |
| Traditional Appeal to Traditional Wisdom—v. 4.....          | 164 |
| Ancient Near Eastern Affiliation .....                      | 165 |
| Ill-Gotten Gain and its Consequences in Job.....            | 166 |
| Job: The Exploitation of the Weak/Poor—vv. 5,               |     |
| 10, 19 .....                                                | 166 |
| Job: The Imagery of Swallowing—vv. 12–18,                   |     |
| 20–21a.....                                                 | 170 |
| Job: The Ephemerality of Possessions—vv. 21b,               |     |
| 26–28.....                                                  | 178 |
| Job: The Terror and Death of the Wicked— vv.                |     |
| 6–9, 11, 22–26 .....                                        | 188 |
| Zophar's Imagery in the World of the Ancient Near           |     |
| East .....                                                  | 206 |
| Amenemope: Cautions against Exploiting the                  |     |
| Disadvantaged .....                                         | 208 |
| Amenemope: The Temporary Nature of Illicit                  |     |
| Possessions .....                                           | 213 |
| Amenemope: Imagery of Swallowing .....                      | 214 |
| Zophar's Imagery in Context: Two Observations .....         | 215 |
| Job's Wealth.....                                           | 216 |
| Just Retribution in Job.....                                | 217 |
| Conclusion .....                                            | 219 |
| 6. The Prosperity of the Wicked According to Job—Job 21.... | 221 |
| Job's Appeal to Experience—A Superior Standard of           |     |
| Reality .....                                               | 223 |
| Job's Intertextual Considerations .....                     | 224 |

|                                                      |     |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Job's Introduction: An Appeal for Quiet Consolation— |     |
| vv. 2–5 .....                                        | 226 |
| The Prosperity of the Wicked—vv. 6–34 .....          | 230 |
| Job's Alarm at the Life of the Wicked—vv. 6–7 .....  | 230 |
| The Wicked Experience Prosperity in Life and a       |     |
| Normal Death—v. 13 .....                             | 236 |
| Does the Lamp of the Wicked Wane?—v. 17 .....        | 237 |
| How often are the Wicked Blown Away?—v. 18 .....     | 241 |
| The Offspring of the Wicked—vv. 8–9, 11–12,          |     |
| 19–21 .....                                          | 243 |
| Financial Prosperity of the Wicked—vv. 10, 16 .....  | 252 |
| From an Alienated Life to an Arbitrary Death—        |     |
| vv. 14–15, 22–26 .....                               | 259 |
| All Meet the Same Fate: A Case Study on Death        |     |
| as the Common Fate—vv. 22–26 .....                   | 262 |
| The “Honorable” Wicked—vv. 27–33 .....               | 270 |
| Conclusion .....                                     | 281 |
| 7. Conclusions .....                                 | 285 |
| Recurrent Themes Related to Retribution .....        | 287 |
| The Appeal to Traditional Wisdom .....               | 287 |
| The Temporality of Wealth and Impending              |     |
| Poverty .....                                        | 287 |
| The Absence of Offspring and Infertility of the      |     |
| Impious .....                                        | 288 |
| The Wicked are Terrorized by Perpetual Fear .....    | 290 |
| The Ephemerality of the Existence of the             |     |
| Wicked and their Public Demise .....                 | 290 |
| The Imagery of Job's World .....                     | 291 |
| The Dichotomy between Light and Darkness .....       | 292 |
| Botanic/Agricultural Imagery .....                   | 293 |
| Swallowing and Vomiting .....                        | 294 |
| Moving Forward .....                                 | 294 |
| Reconciling Job's Honesty with God's Response .....  | 295 |
| True Wisdom in Job: A Diatribe against Existing      |     |
| Values? .....                                        | 295 |
| Tracing the Retribution Principle through            |     |
| Second Temple Judaism .....                          | 296 |
| Concluding Remarks .....                             | 297 |

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Bibliography..... | 299 |
| Index.....        | 311 |

