

“Let That Day Be Darkness”: An Analysis of Intertextuality between the Book of Job and the Priestly Tradition in the Pentateuch

The recent publications in the scholarship in the book of Job reflect the interest of scholars in the field of the intertextuality of Job. The relationship between Job and the Priestly tradition (P) in the Pentateuch has been discussed by many OT scholars. Specifically, the intertextual connection between Job 3 and Gen. 1 has received a significant amount of scholarly attention. In addition, scholars have also proposed various other literary and thematic links between Job and P. Taking into consideration the arguments hitherto made for the intertextual links, and by conducting targeted searches for shared significant idioms or rare vocabulary words between Job and P, I aim to analyze the claims for their intertextual relationship. Furthermore, I intend to assess the overall attitude of the authors of Job (or P's stance toward Job, in cases where P's usage of Job is likely) toward P's theology.

To this end, I use an intertextual approach. Although the theory of intertextuality as conceived by J. Kristeva does not concern itself with the question of the diachronic relationship between the texts, the term has now become an important idiom in biblical studies that has been widely used to examine relationships between various biblical texts from a diachronic perspective. Similar to the methodological approaches adopted by several biblical scholars, I intend to investigate the intertextuality between Job and P with a focus on the historical aspects and importance of such a relationship, without neglecting the intertextual links that are established only synchronically.

I begin my analysis by recognition of the links between the two texts. To accomplish this, I search for the proposed links in published articles, books, or commentaries. In addition, I focus on crucial motifs and vocabulary words idiosyncratic to P that occur in Job. Then, using M. Pfister's model for determining the density of intertextual links, I investigate if there is sufficient evidence that may warrant the claims for these links to be drawn by the authors of Job (or P) intentionally. In the next phase, I explore the meaning of these links. For the links that are author-oriented, I examine the dialogic relation between the text and the pre-text, i.e., how does the context of the pre-text relate to the context of the target text. As for the links that do not show the evidence for a deliberate usage, I examine how participating in an intertextual dialogue from a synchronic perspective enriches the interpretation of Job or P.

Finally, I assess the overall evidence for the intertextual links between Job and P. Considering the broader picture, I ask which portions of the book of Job show the awareness of P's material and to what degree. Moreover, what is the attitude of the book of Job toward P's theology, and how significant is its stance toward P when compared to its attitude to other text traditions of the Hebrew Bible?