

***Night*: Chapter Three Analysis**

A Summary of The Book of Job from the Old Testament (Bible)

The book of Job says important things about suffering. Almost everyone at some point in life asks, "Why do bad things happen to good people? The Book of Job does not really answer the question, "Why is there suffering?" But it does show right and wrong ideas and feelings about suffering and the meaning of life.

Job is a man who is wise, rich, and good. Then suddenly, terrible things happen to him. His ten children are killed. He loses all his wealth. And he becomes ill with a painful skin disease.

Three friends come to visit him, and they try to explain to Job why these bad things have happened. They tell Job that sin caused his suffering and that God was punishing him. Job insists it is not true, but no one believes him. Job becomes very discouraged and angry, but he still believes God cares about him, although he don't understand why he must suffer so much.

In the end, God answers Job in a whirlwind, reminding him that humans can never understand how great God is. After Job hears God speak, he says, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

Job realized that his trust in God should not depend on what happens to him. God says that Job's friends didn't know what they were talking about.

Finally, God restores Job's health, makes him twice as rich as he had been before, and gives him ten more children.

The book of Job illustrates that God is in control of everything that happens. Satan can only do what God allows him to do, and when God allows suffering, He has ways of making everything turn out okay in the end. The book of Job also shows that it is the part of human beings to trust God and ask Him for strength and comfort in whatever we go through. The book of Job portrays the challenge in accepting that God has said in the Bible that He will never leave or forsake his followers.

Directions: One of the most important aspects of the book *Night* is the spiritual transformation of Elie Wiesel. Remember how he describes himself in 1941. Now reread the bottom passage on page 45. Explain in the space below why Elie Wiesel says, "As for me, I had ceased to pray. I concurred with Job!" What does he mean by this statement?

Now reread page 37 beginning with, "The night had passed completely..." What does Elie Wiesel mean when he says, "My soul had been invaded – and devoured – by a black flame"?