

USC Academic Bible Study 9-18-17

Psalm 104/Job 38-40

Next: ??

Psalm 104

- Structured on Gen. 1 (water, cosmology), incorporates other creation traditions (e.g. Leviathan)
- Perhaps influenced by the Egyptian “Great Hymn to the Aten”
- In Jewish liturgy, Psalm 104 is read at the New Moon

Job 38-40

- Job: legend of Job is probably one of the earliest stories in the Bible, book itself written (Persian period, 539-332 BCE) using archaic-sounding language.
- In chp. 38-41, God responds to Job and his friends’ complaints about human suffering with a speech of rhetorical questions about creation.
- Chp. 40-41: Behemoth = hippopotamus, Leviathan = crocodile, allusions to Egyptian god Horus’s fight against those forces of chaos.

Main questions:

Who wrote this and what message were they originally intending?

What can we learn from this text in our own 21st century Los Angeles context?