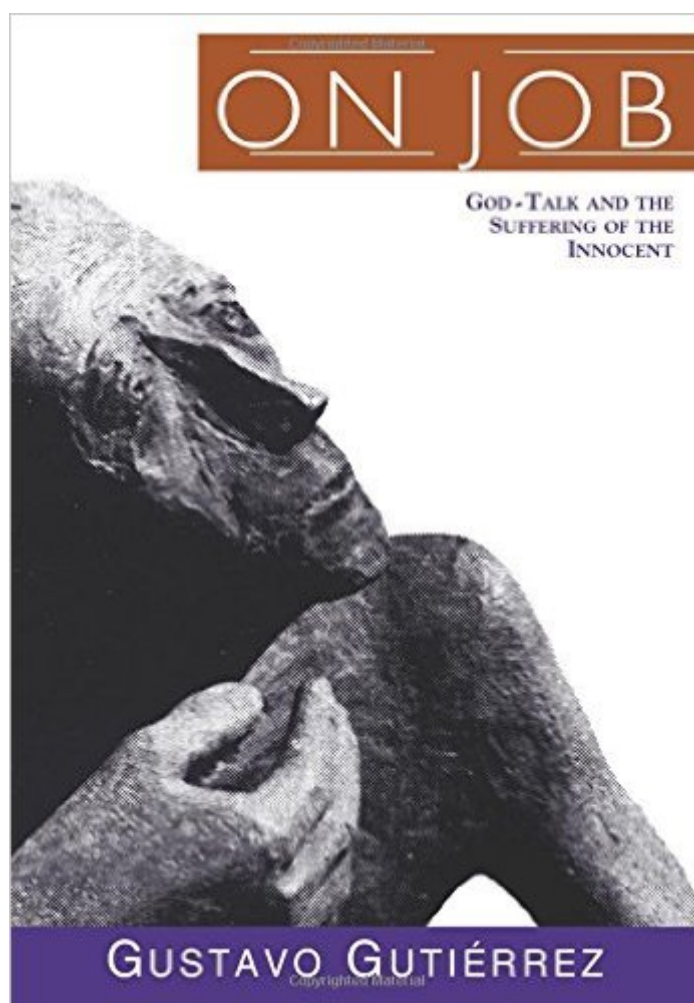


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# On Job (God-Talk And The Suffering Of The Innocent)



## Synopsis

The Latin American liberation theologian's profound reading of the book of Job.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Here is a theological reflection-cum-commentary on the book of Job by the founder of liberation theology. Seeking fruitful ways to talk about God from the perspective of innocent suffering (a concern grounded in commitment to the poor of Latin America), Gutierrez focuses on two types of language Job discovers: that of prophecy, as he generalizes beyond his own plight to the suffering of others, and that of contemplation, as he responds to the voice in the whirlwind. Extremely well done. ECCopyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"Brilliant"--Elie Wiesel

Gustavo Gutierrez, a leading Liberation theologian, in "On Job: God-Talk and the Suffering of the Innocent" sheds light upon some of the various meanings of the book of Job. Gustavo sees Job's author's as emphasizing Job's faith which is "disinterested, ""for nothing."" Gustavo says that this "disinterested religion alone is true religion." Gustavo also emphasizes another theme of Job: innocent suffering. These core themes drive Gutierrez to emphasize the importance of "God Talk" that is real; that engages the God of mystery and the mystery of innocent suffering and not the

stagnant God of one's own theology. Having never read a commentary on Job, I found this work quite interesting. Being approximately one hundred pages, the work was engaging, informative and readable. The aforementioned emphases, are concerned with Theodicy, how to rectify all of creation's suffering with the existence of God, and Gutierrez desires to inform others of the suffering of the innocent and how to foster meaningful dialogue and action between their experience and faith. The work offers no concrete answers in regards to suffering, rather it emphasizes the mystery of suffering, even God's suffering. Job is truly a mysterious work with various meanings, but Gutierrez "On Job" reveals a human heart's attempt to reconcile innocent suffering and disinterested religion with the existence of the divine. For anyone interested in Liberation Theology, it is a good introduction to Liberation Theology's core concerns and values. Also, if you are simply interested in Job, it is a good accessible work which holds your attention and perhaps may give you some new and alternative ways of thinking about Job. It is not a must read, but is certainly a good one.

Of all the "Wisdom Literature" in the Bible, Gutierrez showed how Job was the "wisest" reality based author. Unlike Proverbs, etc., Gutierrez brought to light the message of Job that suffering people are not evil. If you do everything right, life still may give you rotten lemons that you can't even make lemonade from, and God is for you wherever you are. The antithesis of "Wisdom Literature" is "Liberation Theology."

Gustavo Gutierrez gives an analysis of the Book of Job that puts the teaching of Francis, Bishop of Rome, in context. Two concepts that stand out: the gratuitous love of God and the struggle for justice are the essential elements of authentic religion. Worth a read for anyone who wants to understand the contribution of Latin American's contribution to the Catholic Church.

One of my favorite commentaries on Job. As a pastor and a person who has experienced tragedy in their own life, I found this book immensely refreshing and powerful.

Excellent book for understanding suffering from the Judeo-Christian perspective

Very interesting ideas on the subject of why bad things happen to good people. I would recommend this book to those who study theology/philosophy.

As many times as I've read Job, I never really understood it until reading this book. Highly recommend to all.

scholarly written with easy to access foot-notes--insightful into book of Job and modern application  
-reveals knowledge of Hebrew and other languages

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