CONTENTS

Preface	9
Abbreviations	11
Introduction	13
Preliminary Considerations	14
Introductory Sermon	18
I. Job 1–2: Prologue	23
Supersaint	23
Reasons for Serving God	27
When Life Goes Topsy-Turvy	31
"The Lord Gave the Lord Has Taken Away"	35
Friends	38
II. Job 3: Job's Anguish	43
Dealing with Bitterness	43
Life's Pathway	50
III. Job 4-27: The Three Friends	53
Eliphaz	55
Bildad	66
Zophar	75
IV. Job 4-27: Job's Responses to His Friends	83
Job's Condition	83
Three Brief Glimpses of Hope	88
Taking God to Court	93
A Violent God	98
V. Summary of the Dialogues	103
Three Blind Mice	103
VI. Job 28: Interlude	107
The Way to Wisdom	107

VII. Job 29-31: Job's Manifesto	113
Before the Calamities, I Was Living a Fantastic Life	113
After the Calamities, I Wanted to Die	114
I Do Not Deserve All This Suffering	118
VIII. Job 32–37: Elihu	121
A Young Whippersnapper Takes on Job and His Friends	121
God as Creator	124
God as Sovereign	125
God as Just	126
God as Free and Mysterious	128
God as Communicator	130
God as Disciplinarian	133
IX. Job 38-41: God's Speeches	135
An Awesome God	135
God's System of Justice	138
God's World	141
X. Job 40:3-5; 42:1-6: Job's Response to God	145
Only a Novice Trying to Correct an Expert	145
Who Am I?	149
XI. Job 42:7-17: Epilogue	153
And He Lived Happily Ever After	153
Conclusion	157
Major Theological Themes	157
The Purpose of the Book of Job	162
Trust in God	165
Appendix: Biblical Illiteracy	169
References	173