

WEDNESDAY OF JOB

The cycle of the **Holy Week**, although Job is not mentioned in this rite. There is an ancient oral tradition that links **Job** to Holy Wednesday and is called “The Wednesday of Job.” This oral tradition is supported by a manuscript tradition. In fact, some manuscripts contain a collection of homilies for the Holy Week including four homilies attributed to John Chrysostom.

Only a small allusion to this link survived in the excellent edition of the **Euchologion**, edited by Hegumen ‘Abd al Masih Salib al-Mas’udi al-Baramousi, mentioned in the **Anaphora of St. Cyril**: “The priest shall sing with the melody of **Job** which is the melody of sorrow.”

The melody of **Job** is not attested elsewhere, but the reference to “a melody of sorrow” makes one assume that this hymn, which has actually disappeared, was used for the recitation of the Book of **Job** for the Holy Week (for Holy Wednesday). It is important to mention that only the late manuscripts of the **lectionary of the Holy Week** dated in the 18th century contain a lesson from the Book of Job.

It seems that earlier to that date the whole Book of **Job** was read during Holy Wednesday; hence, there was no need to have prophecies from this book. This tradition is dated back to the sixth century as attested by the homilies of Leontius of Constantinople.

GAWDAT GABRA

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