

Job Overview

Job is the oldest book in the Bible...written 2000 – 1800 BC

Books of Moses written about 1450 BC

He was a contemporary of Abraham

Author is unknown

“1st mentions” in the Bible’s oldest book

- The nature of God (Elohim, 1:1)
- life begins in the womb (31:15)
- ransom for sin (33:23-28)
- Mediator (9:28-33, 16:11-19)
- Resurrection (19:25-27)

Outline

1. testing/suffering (Ch 1-2)
2. lament (Ch 3)
3. advise and counsel from friends and Job’s rebuttal (Ch 4-37)

3 rounds with 3 friends

Eliphaz

Bildad (“Pay, Dad!”)

Zophar (“so far” off base)

4. The Lord speaks (Ch 38-42)
5. Rebuke and restoration (Ch 42)

Broad themes

- The justice of God and the suffering of man...Natural man comes to a conclusion that man's suffering is a measure of guilt for his sins
"You deserve whatever you get."

But that conclusion is insufficient for the question,
"Why do bad things happen to good people?"
Note: What good people?

In Job's case, why did a righteous man (Ch 1:8) suffer so bitterly?

- The accusations and attacks of Satan
There is something going on "behind the scenes" that is much bigger than Job

Satan desires to be above God and worshipped (Is 14:12-17)...
and he tirelessly works to disrupt the plan of God

1. he tempts men
2. he accuses men
3. he seeks to forever alienate man from God and God from man

in Job, we see the full frontal assault on a righteous man...not only to destroy the man and to show God to be a fool

"Job's righteousness is self-serving...You are a fool to not see him as he really is."

The intent is to drive a wedge between God and man that cannot be bridged...
to make redemption unthinkable

The accusation cannot be ignored and must be answered in order to silence the accuser

My trials and tribulations...are none of my business

- I am not my own.
- I have been bought with the highest price
- "Not my will but Your will be done."
- God is trustworthy...He knows how to deliver the righteous
(2 Peter 2:9)

Subject: Faith

- In what or in whom do you put your faith?
- After great calamity and suffering...after volumes of aggravating and wounding (vs. comforting) advise from his well-intended friends...
Job hears the Lord...and rests in faith
- Faith placed in oneself or in the things of the world cannot stand against overwhelming circumstances of life.
- Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.
- Faith that transcends the pain and suffering of this life comes in a personal encounter with the all-knowing, all-powerful God.

I do not want “the patience of Job”...I want the faith of Job

The end of the matter:

- Satan is silenced
- Theologians, philosophers, and worldly counselors are silenced
- Job, the sufferer, is silenced
- God is NOT silenced
 1. God always has the Last Word
 2. His Word is forever
 3. His Word is sufficient

Job Chapter 1

v1 Job: from the Heb. word meaning “persecuted”

the character of the man

- undefiled, a man of integrity
- pleasing to God (a humble man of faith)
Prov 6:16-19 with Heb 11:6
- revered and adored God...a loving relationship, not a legal relationship...
therefore...
- turned away from/withdrew from/fled evil
(even the appearance of evil, 1 Thes 5:22)

Note: “fear God” and “hate evil” always go together
A matter of faith and a loving relationship

the character of God

- “Elohim”
- a compound unity (Gen 2:24)
- Triune nature of God revealed in the Word of God
 1. God the Father
 2. God the Son
 3. God the Holy Spirit

v2-3 the blessings of Job, the Bill Gates of Uz

- 7 sons
- 3 daughters
- 700 sheep
- 3000 camels
- 1000 oxen
- 500 donkeys
- unnumbered servants
- his health

v4 Job loved his children like God loved him and he raised them in the ways of the Lord
Now, grown and out on their own, they remain close

OR

feasting” is the same word used in the “banquet of wine” Esther prepared for the King
and Haman in Esther 5
drink = “to imbibe” on alcoholic beverages and to feast on delicacies“

the subject of this book is faith...Job’s faith
his faith is not anyone else’s...not

- his wife’s (Ch 2:9)
- his children’s (living the good life, they were party-ers it seems)

perhaps his kids don’t fear God...

v5 Job, who turned away from evil and feared God, would frequently intercede for his
children.

Lesson: Pray for my kids every morning!

The sacrifice for sin cost them nothing...the cost to cover the sins of the children was
borne by the father

He covered his children with prayer and sacrifice.

When? Very first thing, in the peaceful stillness of the day

v6 a shift in scenes...from Uz to the Throne of God in heaven

sons of God: angels

God: “Elohim”

LORD: “Yehweh”, the covenant name of God

Satan: “adversary”

So we a mixed crowd before the Throne

v7 Satan has been cruising all over the earth...why?

- Roaming his kingdom (2 Cor 4:3-4)
- Looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8)
- Looking for someone to accuse (Rev 12:9-11)
- Looking for ways to disrupt the plan of God

v8 the all-knowing God asks a question to which He already knows the answer –
Satan had his eye on Job

“considered” = a military term meaning “to study to devise a plan of attack to destroy
(strategy to exploit weaknesses)”

USA is currently “considering Iraq

The Lord’s assessment of Job:

1. servant
 - all that he has, all that he is, all that he ever hopes to be is Mine
 - My will is his will, My desires are his desires
2. unique in character

v9-10 “Does Job revere God (impersonal 3rd person vs personal 2nd person) without a cause?”

“No! He reveres You because You have

- made him untouchable
- super-abundantly blessed him”

“His reverence for You is due only to Your blessings.
He is godly because...and only because You have blessed him.
He is righteous only because it pays pretty good!”

v11 “But if You were to take away all of his stuff, he would curse You to Your face!”

Strong words!

Satan does not politely accuse us before the Lord, he boldly assassinates the character of
God’s children...while indirectly assailing the character of God by insinuating the
he is smarter and wiser than God

Satan challenges God

nonetheless, Satan know that God is sovereign...in complete control
he knows that if Job is to lose all his stuff, it will be because the Lord takes it away
so God allows Satan to test his theory about Job

v12 Test 1: possessions

the direct challenge cannot be ignored, the insinuation cannot be left unanswered
so the Lord gives Satan a longer leash...to take all of Job's material possessions...
and a command to not touch him physically
having received permission from God to attack Job, Satan immediately leaves...
he never wastes any time!

Nothing happens to me but that God allows it (Rom 8:28)
God has Satan on a leash
Satan's power is strictly limited by God
So fear God and hate evil...don't fear the evil

v13 either fellowship or a party at the firstborn son's house...again

v14-15 The attack of the enemy comes in waves, like a combination of punches from
Mike Tyson

devastating left jab: servants are taken captive then slain, and valuable livestock stolen
by raiding marauders

oxen: the means to work the fields
donkeys: the beast of burden
servants the skill to use the "tools/machines"

gone is the primary occupation and source of provision for the family

v16-17 Satan destroys man and blames God.

devil = “slanderer”

Tragically, most men believe him

Wrong! Given v12 and Eph 2:2, God gets the blame for Satan’s evil work
ala insurance industry’s escape clause “act of God”

Satan attacks and blames God for the pain and suffering...and man believes the lie

thunderous body shot: all his sheep and the servant tending them were consumed by fire
falling from the sky

gone is another occupation and the source of clothing

then another left job: another wave of raiding marauders steals the camels and killed the
servants tending them

gone are the vehicles

v18-19 wicked upper cut followed by a kidney punch: his precious children lose their lives
when the house collapses on them in a killer storm

the most agonizing pain any person can ever know...the death of a child
Job loses all 10 at the same time

“Bill Gates” has suffered a complete reversal of fortune in one devastating day.
Job has been brutally and mercilessly pummeled by the most powerful of God’s creatures

How will he respond?

v20 Job

- mourns (renting of his garment and the shaving of his head)
and...
- worships the Living God!

Job is prostrate, bowing his will and his life to the One Who gave him life and Whose
will he continually sought

not a natural reaction, a Spirit-filled reaction

we see the integrity...the faith...of Job

v21 this is faith! Complete and unconditional...like God's love

“I came into this strange land with nothing, I will leave with nothing. (Gen 3:19)
Whatever I had I got from the Lord. Everything is and always will be His. (Ps 24:1)
He gives and takes as He pleases. (1 Sam 3:18)
Lord, You are an awesome God!
There are no other gods, You alone are all-powerful and all-knowing.
Praise Your holy name!”

When you lost your job...your possessions...your wealth...your child/children...
did you PTL?

v22 Satan's desire was to drive a wedge between God and man...and man and God.
If he could do so with Job, the one God said was unique on the earth, then no man would
be able to stand...and God would wipe out man rather than send the Seed of the
Woman to redeem him...and smash the serpent's head
he would win the war declared in Gen 3:15!

But Job did not take his eyes off God and focus them on himself, as Satan thought he
would.

the Bible says

- 1 Cor 10:13
- Matt 6:24-34
- Matt 14:22-33
- Mark 8:36
- Rom 3:10, 23
- Jer 29:11
- Rev 3:8b
- Gen 3:15

Job clung tightly to his faith in the Word of God
In your terrible pain and suffering do the same!

Job Chapter 2

v1 change of scenes again: back before the throne of God with the same cast of characters.

v2 God asks the same question, Satan gives the same answer

Satan has nothing to “follow up on” from the first conversation...

God allowed him to test his theory...and was proven wrong

v3 Satan stills has his eyes on this unique man, Job.

God again asks if he is “sizing up” His servant.

God’s appraisal of Job is unchanged, even though Satan was allowed to destroy all his material possessions, his retirement account, and his children

Actually, God adds the adjectives

- “integrity” (“innocence”)
- “with out cause = innocent”

Even after Satan attacks us, God’s appraisal of us is unchanged!

We are righteous...and innocent!

i.e. justified (just-as-if-it-never-happened) by faith in Jesus

The Father sees us thru “Jesus colored glasses”

Job, a humble man of faith, is justified before God...

even though God moved against him!

movedst = “to prick, to stimulate, provoke, or persuade”

But...why? Why did God move against Job?

“Without any reason.”

The “Why”’s belong to God, not to man

He does not owe us ANY answers!

Something bigger than Job is at play here...

Rather than focus on what we do not know, we must focus on what we do know...

the heart of our God

Remember...

- nothing comes into my but that which God allows
- Rom 8:28-39
- Lam 3:22-23
- Jer 29:11

v4-5 Job was hammered by “Mike Tyson”...even knocked down to his knees...in worship!

With blind arrogance Satan blows off his embarrassing failure and resumes the contemptuous attack.

“The first time You limited me... You kept me from touching his body.
If his body is affected, he WILL curse You to Your face!”

- Satan despises flesh and bones i.e. man
Satan hates the physical being called man.
His contempt for man is enormous...intense
- Satan returns to get the only thing he was denied the first time
- Does satan know us? Yes!
Our strongest instinct is that of self-preservation...
we will “naturally” fight to the death.
So...if God can be blamed and seen by Job as an enemy...
- when we are feeling bad physically, our emotions and our spirit suffers too.
It is very difficult to rejoice when we are physically hurting
- we cling to every PART of our body
Don McClure’s eye...he had given his whole life and body to the Lord but
when He came for a part of his body, Don was very upset and
discouraged

v6 after Round 1, all Job had left was his wife and his health
well, here comes Round 2

“He’s yours...but...”

God still puts limits on what Satan can do.

Job’s health will suffer but he will not be killed by the father of murderers

God had placed a hedge around Job, now the hedge is around his “breath”

v7 again, Satan wastes no time just hanging around God...
he is immediately off to attend to his wicked plan

physically touched by Satan, Job's ENTIRE body erupts into hideous, open, oozing
ulcers/boils
throbbing pain and open wounds...

- on the bottoms of his feet
- in between his toes
- behind his knees
- on his "backside"
- on his shoulders
- under his arms
- on the palm of his hands
- in his ears
- in his nose
- all over his head...
- and all points not mentioned

and imagine the horrible stench!

Do you have your health?

Have you ever taken it for granted?

What has a sudden, debilitating illness or injury done to your outlook on life?

- Tony R: back
- Ronnie: back
- Tony C: gall bladder
- Tony A: brother with cancer
- Naderer's relative involved in a car accident...

v8 oh how lovely this must have felt...a self-scraping of "raw skin" with a jagged potsherd!
It makes me shudder just thinking about it!

was Job comforted by his "self-cleaning"?

I don't think so

What a pathetic and pitiful sight was this unique man of God!

Job lost his health...but at least he still has his lovely wife to comfort and care for him!

v9 well...so much for that!
He is truly at a point where only God's healing touch can bring comfort

retain: "to obstinately seize"

Is your faith in the Lord "obstinate", deeper than any circumstance?

Mrs Job is not a Godly wife

- Contentious
Proverbs 17:1
19:13
21:9
21:19
25:24
27:15-16
- Not a sweet and gentle spirit
1 Peter 3:1-4
- no faith

before we bash Mrs Job unmercifully, has any one had to be constant caretaker for a
"failing" loved one?

It is a terrible burden...that can be borne only by Jesus Christ (1 Peter 5:7, Gal 6:1-2)

v10 foolish woman: "stupid and wicked and vile"

the foolish "Christian"

- loves conditionally
- has a circumstantial walk with the Lord
- has a "strong" faith during times of smooth sailing but no faith during times of great tempest
- has a shallow, superficial relationship with the Lord...that is abandoned when life gets really tough...
- is carnal

"We cannot pick and choose our circumstances.

The circumstances the sovereign God of the universe wants to give us will find us.

He is all-knowing...we know so little and understand even less

He is all-powerful...we are powerless

He is infinite...we are finite

He is God! We are clay."

Satan succeeded with Job's wife, but not with God's man

Rom 8:28

Rom 8:5-9

1 Peter 1:7-9

1 Sam 3:18

Prov 19:29

so Mrs Job is 180 degrees from where her husband is...and an added agony to a man in great agony

Job is unequally yoked...a painful burden in his spirit

on the flip side, our faith can comfort another going thru an intense trial by re-focusing their attention on the Lord walking above the storm and by re-orienting our perspective away from self and back to God

did not sin with his lips: how remarkable is this!

We are

- so quick to talk
- so slow to listen
- so impatient
- so lacking in self-control (a fruit of the Spirit)

I don't want the patience of Job...I want the faith and the obedience of Job!

v11 Job has no one to comfort him in his misery

Then 3 friends come to do just that.

1. Elipaz ("God of gold"), the Temanite
2. Bildad, the Shuhite
3. Zophar ("departing"), the Naamathite
(zophar off base!)

They had heard about all that had befallen Job and agreed together to come console and comfort their suffering friend

When you hear of a friend who is sick of suffering, do you take time away from your busy schedule to go console and comfort (minister) to them?

We all have a role in a "visitation ministry"

v12 as they approach and look upon Job, they do not recognize him!
He is so ulcher-ed and so miserable that all they could do was to break down in
compassion...weep, tear their clothes, and throw dust all over themselves

v13 they cannot believe what they see!
They are stunned speechless...for a full week

Job's friends at their very finest...silent

In times of suffering, the best support is often just being there...
Comfort with your tears and share the grief

when ministering to a suffering loved on...and you don't know what to say...
don't say anything.

Keep quiet...you need not speak!

When you talk when you don't know what to say, you are most likely to cause more
suffering.

And don't let "I don't know what to say!" keep you away from going to your loved one
Weep with those who weep.

They do not need your words, they need your compassion and your embrace

My heartache regarding Margaret's friend, who lost her daughter to a car crash...
and never told her 2 year old grandson what happened...
because she didn't know what to say

Go. You don't have to say anything.

Job Chapter 3

Job's lament

- Curses the day he was born
- Wishes he had never been born
- Wonders why he was born...why he is suffering
- Wonders why he can't just die

Job's responses thus far

Ch 1 worship

Ch 2 "Foolish woman!"

v1-2 but now, after 7 days of silence and brewing self-pity, Job begins to speak...
verbalizing contempt for the day he was born.

Key point: Satan's second test also ends in failure because Job does NOT vilify God

What has happened in the last week?

Job has lost his perspective.

His God-centered perspective has eroded to a self-centered perspective.

Pain (physical, emotional, spiritual) should drive us to the Lord, the God of all comfort,
but it usually pulls us within ourselves

Job is so "inward" that he not only despises the day of his birth but also the night he was
conceived!

He wishes his dad had just fallen to sleep or his mom would have had a headache that
night!

- v3-4 he laments the day he was born
- an “ink blot” on the calendar of man...”UnDo”
 - a day God would not even bother searching for
 - a day hidden and obscured
 - a day bought by death

Job is, in a sense, fighting against history...wanting an “UnDo key on the keyboard of his life

I can relate! Can you?

There was a very painful period in my life when choices I made caused terrible damage in the lives of many

But can any man go back and re-work the past? No

All we can do is press onward...with our eyes on Jesus

- v6-9 he laments the night he was conceived
- a night not to be included in time
 - a night that never existed (the non-night of Job vs the long day of Joshua)

- v10 why such a mournful lament?
- Because his mother’s womb was not shut...
that his mother’s womb was fruitful instead of barren.

“This past week makes life worth NOT living!”

- v11-12 “Why did I not die in my mother’s womb?
Why was I not stillborn?
Why didn’t my mother just let me fall on my head when I came out of her womb?
Why did her breasts have to nurse me?

Why did none of those things happen?

Because God is sovereign.

Dan 5:23 breath

Heb 9:27 # of days

2 Cor 12:9-10 His grace is sufficient

“Why...?” not to be confused with Waaa!”

he is being very self-centered

Job had begun to be a Why-ner...he needs a Waambulance

We are so quick to whine when troublesome circumstances come into our lives
We are all expert whiners, complainers, murmurers

But maybe that is why God allowed all these things to happen to Job...

to comfort US...who follow Job!

that, written in the oldest book of the Bible, we can see God has not forsaken Job but is
working in Job's suffering so that we would know that God has not forsaken us
and is working in our suffering

So...why did these things happened to Job?

To benefit us!

So when we ask, "Why?" we could hear "Trust Me."

And our faith would grow...and we would not be Why-ners

Notice: when does life begin, according to the oldest book in the Bible, one of the oldest
pieces of literature?

In the womb! Not at birth

v13-19 "I wish I had died as an infant. Then all this trouble would have left alone right now."

Job despises his life and desires Abraham's Bosom/Paradise

In a terribly low time, how many of us have fervently desired the Rapture?

In Job's voice we hear anguish...not necessarily truth

e.g. v17a...but the Bible says the wicked are like a troubled sea (Is 57:20)

v20-23 in his miserable self-centeredness

(the result of self-centeredness is misery), Job would rather be dead...

just as will the whole earth in

Rev 9:1-10

life is given and taken....by the Giver of Life.

Notice: Job wants to die...but he does not curse God!

v24-26 groaning and moaning, the sudden terror that befell Job is just what he was hopeful would not come

“I did not know tranquility and safety.
My life was not a bed of roses.
My life was difficult.
Yet great trouble still found me.”

Job has lost sight of the fact that something much bigger than him is at play...thru his life

Ch 4-37 Job's friends and their advise

3 friends come to comfort him...but cause greater harm (emotional and spiritual)
by telling him he deserves all this because it is God's punishment for some
sin in his life
...like being comforted by prosecuting attorney

but...Rom 1:22

Beware the advise of natural man

- Carnal
- Worldly
- Opinions
- Feelings
- Pre-conceived notions
- Wrong concepts of God
- Wisdom of the world

e.g. psychology – self-centered vs denial of self

Christian counselors mix salt (of the world, God's ways) with sugar (warm fuzzies and man's ways, teaching to itching ears)

The Word of God is not politically correct...the world is politically correct
and the world is not godly

which advise do you want?

Job rejects their counsel, asserts his innocence, and continually wonders why
these things happened to him

Job Chapter 4

v1-2 first friend to speak is Eliphaz (God of gold")

“If I speak will you be angry? We have been here with you for a week...silently.
But after hearing you, I can keep quiet no longer.”

v3-4 “Who have we here? The one who was always able to

- advise those who have great problems
- encourage and strengthen the weak
- hold up the fallen”

v5-6 “But now that some of the things that have come upon others have come upon you...
you have no answers...no encouragement...no strength...
no comfort.

How does the wise and strong Job react to trouble?
Just like anybody else.”

Q: how many of those Job helped ever suffered as Job is?
I'll go with None

“Where is your trust in God?”
Are you a hypocrite?
Are you a phony?
Where is your much bally-hoed faith?”

Note: the 3 friends were not around in Ch 1-2
Job does not know what is going on behind the scenes and neither do his 3 friends

Eliphaz's suggestion is that Job does not trust God...
because he is out of favor with God due to some horrible sin in his life

- v7 Elipaz's words are built upon:
- a false assumption...
 - a pre-conceived notion...
 - man's innate sense of justice...
 - a deceiving philosophy

where were the righteous ever cut off?

- At the hands of Cain
- On Calvary

The righteous suffer and die just like the unrighteous!

The "Health and Wealth" wind of false doctrine has the mind of Eliphaz, not the mind of Christ

"You are sick...you are poor...because there is something wrong with your faith. There is something wrong with your relationship with God. Get right and get rich!"

this is a dangerous heresy that has shipwrecked the faith of many

Truth is...the believer does not escape the tribulations of life but we do have an "escape route" to endure suffering by the strength of the Lord, Who suffered to save us (1 Cor 10:13).

anyone can say "PTL!" when life is good.
What about when life is upside down and kicking you?

So remember

- everyone is watching you when times are tough to see if your faith is real
- the witness of Stephan

- v8-9 a corrupted truth (Gal 6:7-8)...and...
a wrong concept of God (just waiting for us to mess up so He can hammer us)

v12-21 in a vision, Eliphaz saw a spirit
what sort of spirit was this?!
1 John 4:1 test the spirits

would the Holy Spirit say these things? No!
These are words of condemnation (Rom 8:1, 1 Thes 5:23) and rebuke

so who does that leave? Satan is continuing his attack on Job...this time thru his friends

who is a friend? The one who

- points you to Jesus Christ
- re-orient's your perspective to God's via an aptly
spoken Word
Prov 15:23
Prov 25:11

Whenever you get advise, ALWAYS Acts 17:11.

The Word used as a club...the Word without love...is not from the Lord

Job Chapter 5

v1 a misdirection play – turning Job to mere man rather than to God Almighty.

Whenever give counsel to someone, point them to Jesus

saints: Hab2:4

this was written long before the Roman Catholic Church got into the act

v2 accusing Job of folly

v6-7 “As sure as the Law of Gravity, trouble reigns in this life.
Therefore, these things did not just happen to you.
There was a reason.
Evil and Sin in your life, for example.”

Again, words of condemnation not edification

Job’s friend Eliphaz is wrong: the innocent and the righteous do suffer.

Neither Job nor his friends were aware of what was going on “behind the scenes”
in Job 1-2.

v8 “Get right with God!”

the best thing anyone can do in a time of intense suffering and chaos is to seek the Lord

v9-16 his elaboration of the nature of God

- worker of innumerable unsearchable things (Ps 139)
- in control of all creation
- exalts the humble (Matt 5:5)
- thwarts the plans of the wicked (“You, Job.”)
- saves the poor (Matt 5:3)

v17-23 “Just get right with God, Job!”

v24-26 “If you will just get right with God, you will

- not sin
Wrong! Rom 7:14-26
- have a peaceful life
Wrong! John 16:33
- be blessed by the Lord with stuff
Wrong! The ‘name it and claim it’ doctrine is one of the oldest lies
around...comes from the pit of hell
- have a long life
Wrong! Heb 9:27

these are all “religious” doctrines...
man’s performance-based.
Biblical Christianity is God’s performance-based!

v27 “I have checked it out. Trust me!”

the worst advise possible.
Acts 17:11 is the best advise.

Job Chapter 6

v1 Job answers his critic...the “friend that came to comfort”

v2-3 Eliphaz’s words did not relieve the hurt of Job, they compounded it.
Already burdened with calamity, Job now feels even worse

“My sorrows weigh more than all the sand on earth. Now you make them even heavier.”

to which he responds, “I barely know what to say to you. I don’t know how to respond to such counsel, but I do not receive it.”

v4 “The hot displeasure of God’s piercing wounds have taken the spirit right out of me.”

Job is blaming God for his calamities

Wrong!

James 1:13-17

God is not the perpetrator, Satan is.

God has allowed these things to happen to accomplish His sovereign will and purpose.

Job cannot see it, but God has a plan in all this.

v5-6 Rhetorical questions. No!

“I have enormous sorrow! I have a right to complain!”

v7 “I shunned evil, now my plate is overflowing with evil.

These things are not a result of evil in my life, my dear friend!”

v8-9 “If only God would let me die.”

Job has lost all hope.

Sometimes we think circumstances are so overpowering that the only relief is death....
times when living becomes a more miserable thought than death

Job is feeling like Elijah and Jonah did at the depths of their self-centeredness and misery

But the hour of death belongs to the Giver of Life.

v10 Ps 119:9-16

we need to store up God’s Word because we will need it later when we are afflicted.

v11-13 “I’m only human! I am not a machine!”

but...1 John 4:4

the world and Satan cannot touch what/Who is inside me!

v14 Now he turns on Eliphaz...

“Where is the compassion...the warmth...the love?

What happened to Gal 6:1-2?

What kind of a friend are you?”

v15-18 Answer: a fair weather friend

an empty glass is no comfort to the thirsty.

In times of affliction, we need John 7:37-39

Eliphaz’ words are not godly...God would not say those things to Job

v19-21 fear is a self-centered emotion.

Perhaps a nagging thought in the back of his mind is another twisted thought...
a fearful one...

”If this happened to Job, what will happen to me? Oh I
shudder at the thought!

v22-23 “Who called this meeting?
Did I ask you to help me?
Why are you here?
Did I ask for a hand-out?
Did I ask you to fight for me?
Did I ask you to save me from the hand of God?”

v24-26 “If I don’t know the truth, teach it to me.
Tell me something helpful.
Show me where I have sinned.
If I misunderstand God, reveal Him to me.
Then I will know the truth and the truth shall set me free.
But do not come here to condemn me with your empty self-righteousness!
Don’t sit there and smugly judge me.”

on the other hand, this is a great prayer!

1. teach me
2. hold my tongue
3. give me understanding

v27 “You have not lightened my crushing burden even one ounce.
No, you have added many pounds to it!
I’ll not follow blind men.”
Matt 23:1-4, 15, 27-28
Luke 6:39-42

v28-30 “Look honestly, without any pre-conceived ideas.
I speak the truth.
I am righteous and innocent, not wicked and guilty.”

Job Chapter 7

v1-3 Heb 9:27

Being cynical, Job spouts off:

“Some reward for a faithful servant, huh?

A faithful servant would get his reward (paycheck) at the end of the day.

What did I get?!

Hey, you guys want to have a pity-party?”

v4-6 the days pass quickly but the nights are forever.

Time drags when we are suffering...it flies when things are wonderful!

v7-10 Is Job right? No, just extremely distraught and discouraged

James 4:14

Who knows this truth the best?

The older amongst us

“I will never see good again.”

What is the problem with this statement?

Job can't see the future...his BEST days are yet ahead!

Do you feel Job's despair?

Can you see the future any better than he can?

If not, trust the Lord Who is outside of time

v11-16 No why-ners, please!

“I hate life. Life has mistreated me. I have a right to complain.”

It is very hard to listen to a complainer...the self-centeredness shouts and is obnoxious

v17-19 Job now turns back to God

in the moment of highest anxiety, stripped of everything and at the end of himself, man
ponders the deep issues of this life

“What makes pathetic man so special in your eyes, Lord.
Why do you love me?
Why do bad things happen to good people?
Why is life so hard...and so surprising?
When will you let me die so I can be put out of my misery?”

Where is Job directing his questions? To the Lord.
Be open and honest with the Lord.
He already knows what you are feeling and thinking.
Talk with your Father honestly.
Be open...and receive openly.

Ps 8:4-9

Lam 3:22-25

So...why **IS** God mindful of us?
Who are we? Specks of dust
Where are we? On a speck of dust in a place God holds in the span of His hand

In the expanse of the universe, how significant are we?
Significant enough that God would die for us

How awesome and wonderful is that?
The Creator of all too big to measure and too small to see...loves you and me...
to the point of horrible death!

v20-21 Job is feeling like a target in God's shooting range

“I am a sinner, Lord. So why keep me around?
Why don't you please just let me die?”
Job needs Ps 32:1-2

Who are you that God should be mindful of you?
You are his beloved...He has His heart set on you!

If you can identify with Job tonight, try identifying with God instead

We do not know the purposes of God
We cannot see the end of the story
We know God loves us

So do not try to understand your circumstances...
don't be a why-ner

Look at Him Who is looking at you with Divine longing
And trust Him!
Rest in Him

Job Chapter 8

v1-3 Job has accused Eliphaz of being a wind bag...now the 2nd merciless friend fires back

“You blow-hard! When will you shut up?
Where do you get off proclaiming yourself righteous and innocent?”

Do you get the sense Bildad was offended by Job’s words?
He does not understand God’s grace...nor does he know what is happening “above the scenes”

“God is just, God is fair!”

Absolutely true...but like Eliphaz, Bildad has a corrupted view of God’s justice
i.e. since God is just...and since you are suffering...you must be evil
faulty logic (have they never suffered?) and a wrong concept of God

v4 “Your children were wicked and God dealt with them justly!”

Ouch! What a terrible thing to say to a father?!

v5-6 Not an inference that God sleeps (Ps 121:4) but that He is unresponsive to the wicked
another disciple of “Health and Wealth” theology

v7-10 “You know I’m right. Just check out history.
It was true for our fathers and their fathers etc.
Your claims are contrary to all the historical evidence.”

Obviously Bildad has a jaded perspective on history
(Gen 6:8, Gen 15:6)
that of a “saved by works” man, not a man of faith.

v11-15 “This is obvious to everyone but you.
You are wicked and guilty because God has cast you away.
You are a hypocrite and God is dealing with your pride.”

More words of condemnation

v16-22 “You are a worker of iniquity.”
Sounds like Matt 7:21-23

“You are not perfect, you have been cast away.
He has forsaken you because you are evil.
Your physical condition is a reflection of your spiritual condition”

Bildad has not noticed that it rains on the wicked and the good alike...
an obvious display of God’s grace.

Has Bildad not noticed blatantly evil people who are prospering?
He is ignoring all observable evidence

Who is full of pride?
Unspoken: “I am not being cast away...I am perfect.”

Spiritual pride is the ugliest of all

Job Chapter 9

v2 “I know that a right relationship with God is the most important thing for every man.
I know I fall short of His glory.”

Job understood Is 64:6 long before Isaiah wrote it

THE question to be answered by every man: How can a holy, perfect, infinite, and just
God hang out with corrupt, finite, wicked man?

- By grace – giving us something we do not deserve
- By doing for us what we could not do for ourselves

Note: a right relationship with God does not mean we will not have problems!
We are not immune from life...but we have God’s promise that He will see us
thru every problem

v3 “How can I plead my case before God? I could not stand under His cross-examination!”

of his own strength, intelligence, and capabilities, man can say nothing boastful to God
when he stands before the Throne

v4 man’s wisdom is foolishness, man’s strength is weakness.
Man could never perform at the acceptable level of God – perfection

“Woe unto the man who strives with his Maker.”
Fighting God is a guaranteed loser

v5-10 what man could stand before the all-powerful God?

God created every star, placed it precisely in the universe where He wanted it, and then
named it...a name He alone knows

Why? To proclaim His power and glory and majesty.

What has man ever done to even remotely rival this?

v11 God is Spirit...unseen with eyes of the flesh
To know His presence, you must have spiritual life and looking with eyes of faith

v12 the clay does not question or direct the Potter

v13 if God was like Allah, an angry God, He would be alone the God of AI&J is love
(1 John 4:8)...and is merciful

v14-15 “Who am I to interrogate the Almighty?
How could I possibly reason with the Source of all knowledge and wisdom to get Him
to change His mind?
The Creator does according to His will...not mine or yours.
We choose and He judges our choices according to His standards.
All I can do is cry out to him in broken humility.”

v16-18 Job’s physical condition is worsening
“I don’t deserve this! I am innocent!”

God is not impulsive or irrational.
All things fit into His plan because He knows everything, including all of our choices.

Does God fill me with bitterness?
No, I fill myself with bitterness with my self-centered choices.

v19-20 Amen!

To say Amen, I must have God’s perspective of my heart...not man’s perspective

v21-22 Nothing is happenstance.
There are no coincidences.
The sovereign God has a plan that makes a beautiful mosaic out of our choices.
Bad things happen to good people and to bad people.
The plan is too marvelous to me so I must look to the heart of the Planner for the
comfort I need.

v23 God does not take glee in affliction of the righteous...
He uses it to refine us, purify us, conform us

Nor does he take glee in the choices of the rebellious,
He does not rejoice in the death of the wicked.
Natural man breaks His heart.

v24-27 “If I am wicked, why do I try so hard to do the right thing?”

v28-31 “I fall short of your standard, Lord.
So you have judged me. What is the point of carrying on?
I can never cleanse myself.”

Amen. He rightfully feels the conclusion of Rom 1-3...but
has lost sight of Rom 4:3...while not being able to see “above the scenes.”
All that is left for Job to do is trust the Lord.

v32-33 God is not a created being...He is the Creator.
I could never perform at His level. I am nothing.
He does not have a body of clay.
I therefore could never reach out and touch Him...
the gap is too great for me to bridge.
Nor can I find another man to stand in the gap for me, touching me and touching God.

Therefore, this is why Is 7:14 and Is 9:6 and John 1:14
God took the form of man.
Jesus uniquely is able to touch both man and God, thereby able to reconcile the
unbridgeable gulf.

Because of what Jesus has done, I can approach God the
Father without fear and speak with Him!

Is 59:16

v34-35 God does not negotiate with clay.

“I am terrified!”

Job Chapter 10

v1 Job turns his complaint again to God as he pours out his soul

“I’ll just keep my agony to myself.”

Is that what God wants us to do?

No (1 Peter 5:7, Matt 11:28-30)

v2-3 “Show me my transgression for which I am being punished.”

v4-8 Job is very confused and hurting.

“You can see into my heart. You know my motives.

I know that I cannot escape Your presence.

You have fearfully and wonderfully made me.

Why have You done this to me?”

Does my suffering please You?”

His trust is shaken, his understanding incomplete.

Time to just hang on.

v9-13 so he falls back on what he does know

v14 James 2:10

Job needs Divine help...as does every man.

v15 “Do You love me?
Do You hate me?
I cannot make sense of all this.”

Anyone experienced Job’s confusion?

kicking, screaming, complaining, he is crying out for answers

For reasons he does not know, Job has been stripped of everything

- possessions
- family
- health
- friends

all he has is...EVERYTHING he needs

He has the Lord!

He has been taken to a place where all he can do is trust in the Lord
and that is a secure place of comfort and peace, regardless of circumstances

v16-18 his wandering eyes...from God to himself

“What did I do to deserve this?
Why did You make me?
I just want to die.”

v19-22 Job wants comfort, God wants character.

The fires of affliction are used to refine and purify a corrupt heart to make us more
useful.

Consider Elijah in 1 K 17-18.

We cannot be like Elijah in 1 K 18 unless we first are like Elijah in 1 K 17.

The Book of Job brings us tremendous comfort...

We think we have it bad until we consider Job!

Job Chapter 11

v1 the 3rd “friend” unloads with both barrels

v2 “You are all talk! How can we just sit here and listen to your boasting and babbling?
Admit it! You are a filthy sinner! That is why you are suffering.”

Guilt or innocence are not determined by word count...but usually the more you talk the
more guilty you sound...like you are trying to bury something with volume
spoken

talking too much...e.g. the magazine salesman this afternoon, selling his tale of woe and
his personal agenda rather than serving customers with products to meet their
needs

v3 “Should we listen to your lies and keep quiet...or should we speak up and call you on
your foolishness?”
some friend, huh?

the world should not sit weakly aside with Saddam Hussein.
We MUST learn from the errors leading up to Hitler’s reign of terror

v4 “You say your doctrines is pure...just like you are before God!”

Zophar, like the other two, is judging Job based on partial information...
he does not know the whole story
which is precisely why we are not to judge people

v5 “Ay! I would dearly love to hear God respond to such utter nonsense.”

But God did speak! He boasted of Job to Satan!
And He will speak again...to Job...and these 3 friends!

v6 “You have not received half of what you deserve!
Be thankful for Lam 3:22-23.”

This is true of every man! Be merciful, Lord!

v7-9 we cannot intellectually find God...our intellects are so finite
we can know god only when He reveals Himself to us

Ps 139:1-12

Rom 8:26-27

Is 40:12-14

v10-11 “Who could stand against God and stop His purposes?”

Zophar thinks Job is trying to

“You are hiding sin in your life, Job. And God knows it!

He know you better than you know yourself.”

v12 vain: “foolish, stupid”

v13-15 Is 1:18

“You shall revere God if you confess and repent, and then walk in His ways.

1 John 1:9

v16-20 God can forgive and forget...can we?

With forgiveness, the Light chases away the darkness

There is no hope apart from the forgiveness of sins

there is no escape for the wicked

there is no peace for the wicked

what Zophar says in v7-20 is pretty much right on...but his foundation of a faulty
theology brings the whole house down

Job Chapter 12

v2 dripping with sarcasm

v3 “Do you think you have a lock on the wisdom market?
Who DOESN’T know these things?”

Is it not enjoyable to talk with someone who has all the answers...
someone you can’t tell anything because they already know everything?!

It is easy to have all the answers when you don’t have any problems
Then we are full of advise and cliches and trite sayings

v4 “You will mock a man God has called blameless, a man after God’s heart?”

v5-6 Job starts showing the inconsistency of his friends’ argument

Job has noticed that

- the rain falls on the wicked and the just alike
- the wicked prosper in this life

v7-9 all creation proclaims that the Lord’s hand is on all life
God rules...the Creation shouts of its Creator
Rom 1:18-20

v10 Our lives are dependent upon God...He holds our breath in His hands
Dan 5:23

Lungs and hearts are involuntary muscles –

- Not attached to the skeleton
- Not controlled by the brain

God controls our hearts and lungs!

Wisely, God does not trust us with the very muscles upon which our lives depends

v11 “hearing buds” in the ears as “taste buds” in the mouth

- v12-13 no one lives long enough to accumulate anywhere near the wisdom and understanding of God...the oldest man is still a fool in comparison to God
- v14 no man can un-do anything God has done...no man can do what God does not want done
Rev 3:7
- v15 He controls the weather
- no rain during Elijah's "silence" for 3½ years
 - sand storms in Iraq (God's sovereignty and grace?)
- v16 the man who thinks he can deceive God is himself massively deceived
- v17 1 Cor 1:19-20, 25
- v18 for example
- Daniel's 3 buddies (Dan 3)
 - Peter (Acts 12:1-12)
 - Paul (Acts 16)
- v20 like Ahithophel after he betrayed David
- v21 God HATES pride
Prov 16:18, Prov 29:23, Matt 23:12
- v22 God is the Revealer of all truth and the
Exposer of all secrets
- v23 God sets up kings and kingdoms (time and boundaries) and brings them down...
He is in complete control every moment
Dan 2, 7, 8
- v24-25 written about 400 years before Exodus happened

v25 John 1:4-5, 9-11
John 3:19-21

Job Chapter 13

v1-2 just as he started out in Ch 12:1-2

v3 Oops! Job is getting brazen in his rebuke to Zophar

v4 “You are character assassins...doctors of death...blind surgeons!”

v4-5 very good advise for very bad advisors.

“You would be wiser to just be quiet. Better to keep your mouth shut and let people think you are a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.”

“Listen to sound doctrine!”

v7 “You dare to speak for God? Well, you misrepresent Him!”

watch out, “Moses”!

v8 “Are you “battering up” God at my expense?
Are you trying to make yourselves look good at my expense?”

v9 “Do you think you can manipulate God?
Do you think He is fooled by your act...as you are?”

v10 1 Tim 5:21...because favoritism misrepresents God

v11 “Stop and think about what you said (Ch 11:7-20).
Does not His majesty frighten you?”

v12 “Your words are as useful as wood, hay, and stubble is before the judgment seat of Christ.”

v14-15 like I said before...I don't want the patience of Job...

I want the faith of Job!

After all he has suffered, Job has not cursed God, nor has his faith wavered

God is TOTALLY trustworthy...even with the life He has given you.

Do you trust the Lord totally and unconditionally with

- Your life
- Spouse
- Children
- Loved ones
- Stuff

v16 “I cannot save myself...I have no power over my circumstances.
God will save me...He has absolute power over my circumstances.
Those who trust Him will be in His presence...no sinners (unbelievers) will.”

v17 “Listen carefully and think it thru before speaking again.”

v19 “Show me my error and I will be quiet!”

Job maintains his innocence in the face of these waves of condemnation
his doctrine is completely opposed to the doctrine of his friends

v20 turning to the Lord...he's done talking to his accusers

v21 “Relieve my suffering. Let my fear of You be reverent and not frightful.”

v22 “Talk to me, Lord! Can we work this thing out?”

v23 1 John 1:6, 8, 10

“Show me my sin, teach how to walk obediently.”

v24 Job really does not understand either...God is not angry with Him.

Our circumstances are not a reflection of God's mood or His attitude toward us.

v25 "I am nothing. What sport can I be to You?"

God does not play with us like a cat plays with a mouse

v26 "Was it something I did as a child that you are now calling in my debt?"

27-28 "I waste away before your eyes. Why?"

Job Chapter 14

- v1 Amen! Such is this probationary life ever since Gen 3
 but remember...1 Cor 10:13
- v2 life is as enduring as a morning mist...like winter rye grass in an Arizona summer
- v4 only God can
 Is 1:18, 1 John 1:9
- v5-6 Ps 90:12
 Ps 39:4-5
 Heb 9:27
- “So give me a break until my appointed days are up...there can’t be many left.”
- v7-9 John 15:1-8
- v10-12 they physical body is not resurrected...we get a new one!
 2 Cor 5:1
 1 Cor 15:51
- v14 yes...by faith in Jesus, the promised Messiah, the Seed of the Woman
 John 11:25-27
 1 Thes 4:12-17
- v16 the all-powerful, sovereign God numbers our
- days
 - steps
 - hairs on our head
- v19 how did Job know about the slow work of erosion?
 Sometimes it is not slow, but catastrophic...like in the Flood when God poured
 out His wrath on a wicked world

v22 death is not a time for God's kids to mourn, but to celebrate with Him
(Ps 116:15, 2 Cor 5:8)

the absence of hope is a tragedy...life apart from Jesus Christ is dark and hopeless
PTL He revealed Himself to us that we may know Him!

With Jesus, I can face this life and all its difficulties

Job Chapter 15

v1 Round 2 begins...with the same “batting order”

there was no victor in the 1st round – no one convinced the other of anything...
even though Job destroyed their arguments by citing the abundance of

- wicked who were prospering
- righteous who were suffering

v2 “You are a wise man? You are full of nothing but hot air!”

v3 “You babble on and on more like a drunk than you ponder thoughtfully and deeply like a
real wise man.
You speak...but say nothing.”

v4 “You are absolutely fearless before the all-powerful God!
You should bite your tongue!”

v5-6 “We need not argue with you...you condemn yourself with your own words.”

v7-9 Now Eliphaz gets ugly and personal in his attacks

“Are you older than the hills...where you present when God created the heaven and
earth?
Has God given you more wisdom than the rest of us?”

A: Yes! Prov 1:7

v10 “Men much older than you...or your father for that matter...agree with us.”

Thoughts:

- Agreement does not make theology true
- Age and wisdom do not always correlate
Ex. Of all the old men before the Flood, only Noah got on the Ark!

v11 “Are you ungrateful for the compassion and restraint God has shown you while He listens
to your outrageous statements?”

v12-13 “Where do you get off with that attitude and all those words?
Your arrogance is annoying.”

Followed up with a false accusation
Job NEVER turned against God

Job was crying out to understand “Why” because he did not understand God
Who does? Is 55:8-9

What do we know?

- God is good
- God loves us
- God is in complete control
- God has a plan...that teaches me of His faithfulness and my unfaithfulness
- A complaint against my circumstances is a complaint against God’s plan for my life

v14 Rom 3:10, 23...but
Rom 4:3

Job is not saying he is sinless. He is saying that his calamities are not due to sin in his life.

v15 all creation groans awaiting the One Who is righteous

v16 Jer 17:9
Rom 6:8

the human condition is a stench

v17-19 “Let’s try this again, Job. Pay attention this time while I share a truth as old as creation.”

v20 False! The wicked prosper in this wicked environment.
But this is as good as it gets for them

v21-23 true...every man has a God-given conscience
but willful disobedience results in a seared conscience

true...creation witnesses of God's power and majesty
i.e. no man is here alone...there is a Power greater than he in the universe
but blind men cannot see. Dead men cannot discern spiritual truth.

v24 trouble makes no distinction between men...we all get some!

v25 Eph 2:1-3

v27 fatness: the wealthy pushing against God

v29 True.
Num 32:23
Heb 9:27

v30-35 True, this is the destiny of the lost

Deception abounds
so be warned! Wake up!
Get right with God before it is too late!

Job Chapter 16

- v2 There is no comfort in condemnation
 Jesus promised to send a Comforter, not condemnation
- v3 “Are you talking just to hear yourself talk?
 Where did you get the courage to open your foul mouth?”
- v4-5 “If our roles were reversed, would you be comforted with these words?
 Would you be blessed or cursed?
 You would be cursed, as I am.
 So I would not speak them to you.
 Instead, I would speak words to edify and encourage you...
 or I would not speak at all but weep with you.
 I would help you bear your burden with meekness.”
- v6 “You are of absolutely no help to me. I am going it alone.”
- v7-8 “In fact, you have succeeded only in making me feel worse, to increasing my unbearable
 burden.”
- v9 “You comfort me like a hungry lion comforts a lamb.”
- v10-16 Job is casting foreshadows of Christ’s Passion
 we read of these same things about Jesus
- v11 “My God has not comforted me – He has sent you to me!”
- v12-13 “I am a target on God’s Archery range.”
- v14-16 “I feel like I have been run over by a Mack truck...and it stopped to back up!”

v17 “But NOT for my sin...I am innocent.”

Again, Job maintains his innocents in the face of an onslaught of condemnation
Once again, Job does not curse God

Again, Job is casting foreshadows

v18 “Don’t cover my life, just as You did not cover Abel’s life.”

v19-21 Rom 8:26-27, 34
Heb 7:25-27

Rom 4:3, Job was called righteous...by faith

“As God as my witness (Rom 1:9) I weep in humility while my friends mock me.”

More foreshadows

“If I could only sit and speak with God “over a cup of coffee.””
We can! Jesus, our Mediator, is our witness in heaven

A bright burst of hope and victory!

v22 “But soon enough. I will die soon.”

Job Chapter 17

v1-4 “They just don’t know you like I know you, Lord.

We have a loving relationship.
They have a legal relationship with You.

I know your grace.
They do not.

You have revealed yourself to me.
In their pride, they are still blind.”

v:5 empty, deceiving, manipulative words are better off not being spoken

v7 “Help me, Lord. My deep sorrow has caused me to lose perspective...
everything is blurred.”
My strength is as deep as the Salt River in Phoenix.”

2 Cor 12:9-10

v8-9 “I am a pitiful example for all men for reasons I do not understand.”

v10 turning back to his “friends”,
“Will you repent of your folly?”

v11-14 “My situation is hopeless.”

Were that true, God could not be God because then something would be bigger than Him
But that is NOT true

v12 Light and darkness cannot co-mingle

v13-14 Job knew of resurrection

v15-16 Job needs a change of perspective...his is one of hopelessness

with God's touch to refocus his perspective, Job could say even in the midst of horrific circumstances,

“Yet Lord I know You are in control.

I know You are doing something too marvelous to understand right now.

So I trust You.”

As we read, we hear Job vacillate.

- When his eyes are on God, his faith shines thru.
- When his eyes are on himself and his problems, he knows only desperate hopelessness....a most dangerous place

Job Chapter 18

- v1 Round 2 with Bildad
- v2-3 a man of few words, Bildad thinks Job is monopolizing the “discussion”...
and none to gently!
“Give us a chance to talk, man!”
- No doubt thinking to himself,
“You think we are vile?
Have you looked in the mirror recently?
We won’t see you on the cover of GQ Magazine any time soon!”
- v4 “You rant and rave like a mad man.
Do you think these antics will move heaven and earth?
Do you think we will be convinced by your theatrics and your volume, like you were
some kind of teenager?”
- v5-6 “Know one is fooled, no one is buying your ‘snow job.’
As sure as the sun rises in the east, your wickedness will be judged.”
- Bildad etc have algebraic thinking:
A. Job has calamity
B. The wicked have calamity
C. Job is wicked
Faulty thinking because they cannot see “above the scenes”
- v7 “Soon and very soon you are going to get shut down.”

v8-11 “Your own theology has laid a trap for you...and you have walked right into it.”

Bildad presents a series of traps that will ensnare Job

“The wicked are always trapped in the end...sometimes in traps they have set for others!”

Note: he is also accusing Job of being malicious!

Our “theology”...our view and understanding of God...

does “pave our way” in this life...

therefore,

- sound doctrine is essential
- read the Word of God without the distorting lens of pre-conceived ideas and the traditions of men

v13-16 “Your theology is a trap and will deliver you only to terror, judgment, and death.”

v17-19 “This renowned man will very soon be forgotten forever.

Darkness and death will completely consume you and your family.”

v20-21 “All who know you will behold in terror what has happened to you.

But...such is the lot of the wicked. (And deservedly so!)

Job’s friends condemn him, concluding the calamities in his life are the result of his sin against God.

But they do not know God.

They are self-righteous and shall be judged accordingly.

Job Chapter 19

v1-2 Job responds...

Job as been afflicted emotionally and physically.

But has not cursed God.

Yet Satan never quits...he continues his assault upon Job in the spiritual realm

v3 These 10 times? This is the fifth attack by the 3 friends.

Have the other 5 not been recorded?

Or is their "comfort" so agonizing that Job is given over to exaggeration...
or to jabbing back?

Heavy are the weight of the words of his "friends" on the soul of a man...
but Matt 11:28-30

Job scolds his friends for their "support"

v4 "My problems are my problems.

They are not your problems, none of your concern.

I am accountable for my choices...but not to you.

You are not accountable for my choices...so why do you berate me so?"

v5-6 "Besides, who are you to condemn me?

Who died and left you King of kings?

You are not qualified to judge me.

It is God who has done this to me. I am innocent!"

He is my judge.""

Rom 8:34

v7 "I have asked to speak with my Judge...but He is silent.

(As you should be!)"

v8 "I was free...now I am caged by destruction and sorrow."

- v9 “I was blessed...now I am cursed.
I was on top of the world...now I bear the weight of the world.”
- v10 “I had walls of defense on every side...He has pulled them down, leaving me utterly
vulnerable (to wolves like you).”

“My hope has been ripped away...trunk, roots and all.”
- v11 “I was His friend, I thought.
Now He treats me like an enemy.”

Note: How did God treat His enemies?
He died for them on the Cross!
- v12 “I am under siege. “
(a spiritual truth...but God is near!)
- v13-14 “I had many relatives, kinsmen, close friends, and acquaintances.
Now I have none. (You guys are none of these)”

All are “fair weather” friends!
- v15-17 “In my own household I am nothing, a nobody, a stranger in my own home...
forsaken by my own wife.
She blames me for the loss of our children.”

Death of a child usually ends in divorce...another death

Note: my breath is strange to my wife, too!
- v18 “Even the neighborhood kids are afraid of me now.
Even they revile me!”

v19 “All of my secret friends detest me and want nothing to do with me.”

Job is utterly alone.

His emotional and physical misery is compounded by abject loneliness and rejection

He has nobody...except God, Who has neither left him nor forsaken him.

Men are unfaithful...God is absolutely faithful

v20 “I am wasting away, consumed with affliction.”

v21-22 Job cries out for

- sympathy
- compassion
- mercy
- a comforting touch.

A Christian friend gives these to those who are afflicted

Job feels forsaken by God and by every person he knows
And he does not know why

Job reaches the lowest point a man can get to...totally forsaken by God and man

v23-24 they are! Why?

To comfort us in our times of affliction...that we would know that God is

- near
- in control of all circumstances...those we can see and those
“above the scenes”

v25-27 Job 9:32-33

From the deepest depths of defeat and despair and fear...
comes the most triumphant cry of victory faith!

another wild vacillation by Job – from the depths of despair to the heights of praise and
worship

Faith triumphs over the most desperate circumstances...
because our eyes are moved off of the circumstances and onto the God Who is
bigger than the sum total of all circumstances

rather than the “poor me” of self-pity that only makes us poorer...say “Praise Him” of
worship that lifts us above our circumstances

comforting truths of God

- we have a Redeemer...a Mediator (theme of the message in Kino yesterday)
- He lives!
- He stands at the end of the day
- The resurrection of the just
- We shall see our Redeemer as He is (1 John 3:2)
- He has victory over death (Rev 1:17-18)
- God loves me

v28 “Shame on you! Your testimony against me should be praises for me...
for I have the root of truth in me!
Both God and time are on my side.”

Be careful how you judge others
Matt 7:1-5

v29 Heb 4:12
Eph 6:17
Rev 19:11-16

every unbeliever should be afraid of contending with a holy, just, and all-powerful God

Job Chapter 20

As we come to the end of Round 2, it feels as if Job's conversation with the 3 Stooges has no end...

v1-3 Zophar blurts out, "I can't stand it any more!
If I don't speak I will burst!"

He is really mad at Job!

v4-5 "Do you not know a universal truth...?
You are a wicked man and a hypocrite!"

What he says is true...but is it always true in this material world?
No, not until we enter the spiritual realm

v6-7 "No matter how big and powerful, prosperous and glorious, you were in this life, the
wicked man dies."

Yet the wicked do not have a monopoly on death
Physical death is not a choice...but spiritual death is

v8-9 "The wicked man's life is like a dream...until he wakes up into reality.
In fact, his life is a bad dream for those who know him...until he finally dies."

Zophar has hateful, vindictive words for his "friend"!

v10-11 "All that which he stole will be returned to its rightful owners when he is finally
consumed by his sin."

v12-13 "He has a sweet-tooth for the things the world has to offer...and is destroyed by the
sweetened poison he so voraciously ingested."
Your sweet sounding words of innocence are rotten to the core!"

However, ALL men, including the 3 Stooges, are poisoned by sin.
Rom 3:10, 23

Poison Control comes with faith in God's Mediator

- v14-15 no amount of money can save a man's soul on the day it is demanded of him by God
 Matt 6:24
 Luke 12:15
 Parable of the rich man and his barns
- v16 Satan's lies are intoxicating...but ultimately toxic
 and every man has been bitten by that old serpent the Devil
- v17 the wicked shall not see the kingdom of God
 1 Cor 6:9-11
 Eph 5:5
- v18-19 "He cannot take his stuff with him...it will return to its rightful owners.
 He's calling Job a thief!
- v20 of what eternal value are material possessions and wealth?
 the reward of material wealth is deceiving
 "The ease he knew will be gone forever.
 Forever he will know anxiety and torment."
- v21 "There will be nothing left for the other vultures."
- v22 when we depend on ourselves, we get what we can do
 (which of us is bigger than our circumstances?)
 When we depend on prayer, we get what God can do
 (Who is bigger than the sum total of all circumstances of all men)
 Self-sufficiency is self-destruction

v23 “When he says, ‘Peace and safety’, then comes sudden destruction.”

Zophar is not trying to comfort Job...he is trying to terrify him!

God is longsuffering and merciful...the 3 Stooges do not have a right concept of God...they do not know Him

v24-29 the glittering sword is the sharp, two-edged sword of the Spirit, the Word of God...which reveals the thoughts, motives, and actions of men

the fire not blown is a supernatural, eternal fire of God’s judgment

there is no such thing as a secret sin.

The Holy Spirit gives a word of knowledge

- Monica this past Sunday when Dan and Monica walked in
- Chuck when he did not see much of Josh after his trip to Utah for Hayley’s prom

Luke 12:3 Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

Zophar describes the destiny of the wicked...at the time of judgment

The 3 Stooges’ error is in assuming this is Judgment Day for Job

Job Chapter 21

- v1-3 “Listen up, Stooges.
Let me interrupt your comedy routine in order to pass on some serious truth.
Then you can resume your mocking.”
- v4-6 “Are you listening?
I do not understand the ways of God...I do not understand why He allowed these things
to happen to me.

But let me tell you the truth.
And bite your silly tongue.”
- v7 “Yes. Just look around, you clowns!”
- v8 “The wicked are prospering!
They live long, powerful lives!
They make fortunes...win lotteries...get calls from Ed McMahon!...
They enjoy their fortunes and enrich many succeeding generations.”
- This is the crux of the debate...the issue not understood
- Why do the wicked prosper?
 - Why do the righteous suffer?
- v9 “Reality #1: This life is as good as it gets for the wicked.
They may have “very good” lives this side of eternity.
But this is the only reward they will know for eternity.”
- Reality #2: Everybody suffers.
The righteous do not have immunity from life.”
- v10 “Clearly, they are blessed...by a longsuffering, merciful, gracious, loving God.
They are wiser with worldly wealth than are the righteous.
But the righteous are wiser with spiritual wealth...”

v11 “Their children are born with silver spoons in their mouths.
They grow up without a care in the world...
They have the world by the tail. Or so they think.”

Note: Is that true?
Why do they have alarms on their cars and houses?

v12 “Life is grand for the wicked!”

v13 “But physical life comes to an abrupt end.”

v14 “Who needs God? I am a self-made man!
I pulled myself by my bootstraps. (a physical impossibility!)
With endless hard work. look at what I have accomplished
I am proud of my strength and determination and cleverness!”

v15 in about 400 years we will hear Pharoah say this
Ex 5:2

v16 “I have never said such a crazy, idiotic thing, Stooges!”
Consider Psalm 73

v17-19 Gal 6:7-8

a picture of the Lord’s threshing floor

v20 this is a universal truth

v21 your beautiful house will bring you no pleasure from the grave!
Nothing in this world will.

The tragedy is the misconception that the grave is the end of the road.
It is not! Hell is a reality!

v22 no cracked clay pot is the counselor of the Potter

v23 physical life is fragile:

- car accidents
- diseases
- victims of crime
- heart attacks and strokes.

No man knows Heb 9:27 but God does...and He does not tell us!

v24-26 “Some lives are prosperous and healthy.
Yet those people still die, sometimes in their prime, thinking they will have a long life.
Blinded, they say “Later” to God.

Other lives are destitute and ravaged by illness and disease.
Or they waste away with Alshheimers.
But they die too.”

Death is the great equalizer

v27 “I am not fooled...nor amused...by your philosophy and your tag-team routine.”

v28-30 “You are confused. This is not the day of destruction.
Judgment Day is yet future.

And circumstances do not always speak of a person’s spiritual condition.
Not all circumstances are consequences.

But God walks every step with the righteous and brings them through all the
circumstances.

We have hope!

And the wicked walk alone...hopeless.

The ultimate destiny of the wicked is certain.”

v31 “The Mediator will be silent on that day.
‘It is finished’ will not apply to them.
He did not redeem corrupt goods.”

v32 death will become permanent – death is separation
permanent death is separation from God
started in Gen 3

v34 there is comfort in the truth of God's revealed Word

there is no comfort in

- religion
- philosophy
- traditions of men
- blindness
- being a Stooge

life is hard being a Stooge

Job Chapter 22

Final Round with the 3 Stooges...

v2 “What man is useful to God?
What does any man have to offer God?”

Eliphaz sees God as an all-powerful...remote...God
He is NOT near...He is distant
He does not have...nor desire...a close relationship with man...
for man has nothing to offer Him

True...we do not add anything to an all-powerful God
False...God is not distant...He lives in us...His Temple

v3 “Does it please God that you are righteous?
Is He better off because you are perfect?”

not the 3 stooges way...by works (Is 64:6)
but it does please the Lord Job's way...
by faith (Col 1:3-5, 9-14)...
and when we obey (Col 3:20, 1 Sam 15:22-23)

man can offer only his heart...faith and trust
and that is what the Lord wants!

It is true we add nothing to God, but He sovereignly chooses to use man to accomplish
His purposes
we serve the Lord...He allows us to be His instruments
then He rewards us for our faithfulness in letting Him work thru us!
He has chosen...me! And you!
But He does not need us

If I or you fail, God never fails
His purposes WILL be accomplished...we will miss out on the blessing/reward

so...Eliphaz gives job a half-truth
half-truths are lethal! Satan is chock-full of them.

v4 “Does He rebuke you because you fear Him?
Why does He judge you if you love Him?”

the Father chastens the son He loves

v5 “Of course not! He judges you because you hate Him and sin against Him!
Your sin is beyond measure, Job.
He judges you because you deserve His judgment!”

v6-9 What!?! Vicious accusations of

- taking advantage of the weaker and oppressing the poor
- taking the clothes of the poor for collateral...and not returning them, leaving them uncovered on a cold night
- not giving water to the thirsty in that dry and thirsty land
- not caring for the needy out of his abundance
- using strong arm tactics in order to lie in the lap of luxury

What horrible things to say!
ala “Have you stopped beating your wife yet?”

v10-11 “This is why all these things have happened to you!
You are opposed to God...and paying for it!”

“fatherless and widow” appears about 17 times in Scripture

God is the God of the fatherless and widow...the weak and vulnerable and defenseless

Matt 25:33-40

Prov 25:21-22

James 2:14-16

v13-14 “Do you think God cannot see your sin?
Even though you are so insignificant in this universe, do you think God is not watching you?”

v15-17 “Have you not learned from the (pre-flood) wicked men that lived before us?!
The wicked die untimely deaths because of their sin.”

Had they not ever seen an old wicked man?

v18 a contradiction by the 3 stooges: the wicked prospered!

v19-20 justice-loving men rejoiced to see the destruction of the wicked...while God mourns

v21 “Stop fighting with God.
Make peace with Him and your life will get immediately better.”

True...but false...in the ways of the world

v22 Ps 119:9-11...even though the Law of Moses was about 400 years in the future
Every man has a God-given sense of right and wrong

v23 “Repent!”

James 4:6-10

v24-26 Ps 37:3-9, 39-40

3 stooges: by works
Job: by faith

v27-28 “Serve the Lord and all your problems will go away!”
to this day...name it and claim it!

Wrong! God never promised us worldly prosperity
Harkens back to 2 Tim 14-26 study on Sunday

But the faithful can tap into the power of God Who walks with them in times of distress.

The faithful have hope and help.
The “worker” is alone and hopeless.

v29 “God does not hear you because you are a horrible sinner.”

v30 Wrong!

Salvation is an individual event, faith is personal.

Job Chapter 23

v2-3 “Lord, please show yourself. Come quickly!
Take me home, away from this place and these people.”

v4 actually, I don't think so. Job is just all wound up.

v5 “He would teach me and I would learn.
He would give me the understanding I lack.”

...happens when we

- keep His Word in our hearts
- trust in the Lord with all our heart
- lean not on our own understanding

v6 “Does He use His power against me?
No way! He is for me!”
Rom 8:31

v7 the righteous: The Mediator

dispute with him: “He will plead on my behalf and I will be justified.”

v8-9 “I search everywhere for Him but I just cannot see Him.
Yet.
But I know He is always there because I can see His fingerprints and footprints
everywhere.”

what incredible truth and comfort!...by faith in him who has demonstrated His
faithfulness and trustworthiness

v10 “He directs my steps. When this refining fire is over, I will be as pure gold.”
Mal 3:2-3

In Job’s vacillation from despair to triumphal faith, another brilliant flash of faith!
Job sees and understands that God refines our character by allowing circumstances into
our lives.

The heat of that refining fire is used to take the garbage out of our hearts and to purify us

v11 “I have walked in His ways.
He has made my steps as sure as a mountain goat’s on a ridge.”

v12 “I have been obedient, not rebellious.
Ps 1
His word is my food – the Bread of Life and meat.”
Matt 4:3-4 and Deut 8:3
John 4:31-34

v13 Num 23:19
1 Sam 15:29

God is sovereign...His will will be done

Can I change God’s mind thru prayer?

No...prayer starts in the heart of God...
and is used to accomplish HIS purposes on earth...
not our purposes in heaven

Would you serve/honor/revere a God whose mind you could change?

v14 Phil 2:13

v15 “He is an awesome God!
He loves me...but without my Mediator, I could not stand before Him.”

v16 soft: timid, of no strength

v17 “He has not slain me. Ch 13:15

Job Chapter 24

v1-11 the all-knowing, all-seeing All-mighty in fact sees those who break the Law of God...
seemingly with impunity

a vivid picture of oppression and poverty - no wonder God hates it!

v5-8 the poor

v9-11 the oppressor

- steals corn
- steals property
- wander like marauders
- live of the lives of others

v12 their judgment is delayed, it is not immediate.
But their judgment is certain!

v13-17 How man loves the darkness!

John 1:4-5

John 3:19-21

John 8:12

because judgment is not immediate, they
(in their instant gratification orientation of the flesh)
think God cannot see or does not care or even approves!

v18-21 the philosophy of the 3 stooges

v19 snowflakes don't stand a chance in Phoenix in July; as much a chance as do unbelievers
before God
(Rev 20:11-15)

v22-23 God is all-seeing. He is the Master Bookkeeper.

v24 Universal truth:
Exalt yourself and God will humble you,
Humble yourself and God will exalt you

v25 “Prove me wrong!”

Job Chapter 25

v1-3 Bildad, a man of few words, evokes Job's longest response...almost a filibuster!

“God has

- supreme authority
- all power
- presence in all places”

v4 Rom 3:10, 23
no other result is possible

v5-6 The moon is the brightest light at night...but very dim compared to God
not even the stars are pure in God's sight...
how much dimmer is this dirt clod called man?

The Creator is perfect, the creation no longer is, cursed by the Creator because of the sin
of the creature.

Man is the cause of all his problems.
And the whole creation groans as a result (Rom 8:22).

Job has been steadfastly proclaiming his innocence.
What Bildad is saying to Job, in a veiled way, is “Liar, Liar, pants on fire.”

Job Chapter 26

v1 with obvious irritation

v2-3 “Well, aren’t you the clever one!
It is absolutely wonderful how your counsel strengthens the weak and enlightens the unlearned!
Please, Bildad! How can you offer strength or wisdom when you have neither?”

v4 “So tell me...where did you get that nice little speech?
Who did you plagerize?”

Job does not think Bildad is capable of having an original, rational thought

Nonetheless, Job agrees...God does have

- supreme authority
- all power
- presence in all places”

v5-6 is this a link back to Eliphaz’ reference to the pre-Flood wicked?

Perhaps...but could also be a reference to Sheol
the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)

there is no hiding from God, even in hell

v7 the earth is in an orbit, held there by gravitational force between objects of great mass...long before Sir Isaac Newton

how did Job know that?

v8 with a not-to-distant lesson about the Flood, Job refers to the hydration cycle of evaporation and condensation...

the awesome mystery of a fragile cloud holding water, which is so heavier
how long can you carry around two 5-gallon jugs of water?

and how did he know that long before it was “discovered” by enlightened scientists?

- v9 fallen man cannot see the Almighty God, like Adam could before the fall
- v10 He keeps the oceans and the seas and the lakes in their assigned places...
and the sun, moon, and stars in their orbits
- v11 a poetic description of thunder
- v12 the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men
- v13 written before Gen 1
God hung every star in its assigned place...and defeated the prince of the power of the
air...thousands of years in the future to Job
- v14 “These things barely scratch the surface of the majesty of God.”
the Infinite Creator has revealed but a very finite part about Himself to very finite
man...any more and He would fry our brains
“I have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.”
John 16:12

Job Chapter 27

v1 parable = “poem, discourse”

v2-4 “Even though God has allowed all those calamities in my life and has devastated me while I am yet alive...”

Job never cursed God.

- Not initially.
- Not as afflictions multiplied.
- Not as afflictions lingered and lingered.
- Not ever.

v5-6 “I will never agree with you 3 Stooges.
I maintain my innocence...not sinlessness.”

Job steadfastly maintains his innocence and his acceptability to God Almighty

“I know that I know what I know.
Your diatribes will not alter God’s Truth.”

Job knows that man can be cleansed only by God...and most certainly not be the advice of these guys!

Job also knows that God does not want His children feeling guilty...but to KNOW that they are forgiven and cleansed...
when they confess and repent from their sin

v7-8 “Lord, reveal their error. And set the record straight.”

hypocrite: fool

Luke 12:16-21 the rich fool and his barns
Matt 16:24-26

hence, we must have a sense of urgency about our relationship with Him.

v9-10 no. the fool is self-centered, not God-centered;
he is self-indulgent, not self-denying

if we refuse to hear God's warning, He will not hear our complaint

1 Sam 8:10-22 Israel's desire for a king
Is 1:1-20 the foundation of Isaiah

v11 "I will not steal the speech of another.
I will not plagiarize.
I will plainly speak God's plain Truth."

v12 "Not just me but you 3 also have witnessed God's Truth.
So why do you insist on arguing a nonsensical philosophy?
Why do you believe a lie and argue so vehemently for it?"

v13-23 Job's lesson...a study about God's Truth:

this is the reward of the wicked:

- his family will also bear his consequences – violence and poverty
- utter destruction...and their widows are not in the least bit surprised
- his accumulated wealth will vanish from his money-grubbing hands and return to the innocent and the just...who live by faith

James 5:1-6

- he will never enjoy his stuff
- all his hard work will, in the end, amount to nothing
- he dies...and stays dead (no eternal life)
- he is overwhelmed by sheer, unending terror when the REAL storm starts
- his reward will never end (there is no such place like Purgatory)
- other men will mock the mocker and get the last laugh

Ps 73 in the sanctuary of God we get the true perspective

Job Chapter 28

Job's lesson continues

v1-2 some things are mined...some things need to be refined

v3-4 only God knows what lies below the surface

- of the earth
- of man's stony heart

v5 a seed is buried...it dies...and bursts forth with new life

v6-8 there is so much about the place we live...earth...that we do not know.
Places we have not seen and no creature has been

V9-10 the majesty of the Grand Canyon...carved by Flood run-off

v11 all we know came by the revelation of God

the explosion of scientific discoveries have been made dominantly by Jews and
born-again Christians
(e.g. Sir Isaac Newton)

v12 where can man go to mine wisdom?

Where is the Mother Lode of god's Wisdom?

In the word of God...the revelation of God to man

Wisdom cannot be found and mined like ore, it cannot be valued like things of the earth

v13 no number is big enough for wisdom's price tag...

Wal-Mart does not carry wisdom and neither does Nordstroms

there is no wisdom in the world (1 Cor 1)

v15-19 no created thing even approaches the value of wisdom
no precious stone is that precious
wisdom cannot be bought...it can only be received
wisdom is for the asking!

Note: from reading Psalms and Proverbs, it is clear both David and Solomon had an excellent working knowledge of the Book of Job

v20-21 so where can I find this most valuable of all things?
Prov 1:7 in the Word of God
Col 2:1-3 in Jesus Christ

v22 “We don’t have it. We heard about it...
but we mocked it...”

v23-27 do you want God’s wisdom? Ask God to give it to you
James 1:5

v28 wisdom: the fear of the Lord (Scripture)

understanding wisdom (applying it): fleeing from evil

if a person is living in sin...they don’t have the fear of the
Lord in their heart...they don’t have enough sense to flee the evil

when you analyze that position, the folly is glaringly evident

solution: live a Godly life in Jesus Christ

life is as simple as that! All that is required is

- surrender
- faith...the faith of Job

our most precious possession...is the wisdom of God

Job Chapter 29

Job dreamily remembers his wonderful life before Job 1
And we should remember God's appraisal of Job then, too
Job 1:8

Thus, Job is searching for "Why do bad things happen to good people?
Why do wicked people prosper?"

It is important to have the right perspective
Ps 73:1-17

v2-3 he longs for how life used to be...when God was his hedge of protection and His light led him.

Ps 119:105

v4-7 he longs for the days gone by, days when

1. his house was God's house
God's presence was evident and his house a house of refuge
Ps 119:33-38
2. God was with him
Here Job's perspective is out of whack...
Rom 8:31 was, is, and always will be true, regardless of circumstances
3. His children played at his feet and gathered around his table
Undoubtedly, Job thought of his children often...Job 1:5
4. He was prosperous and at ease
Butter and rivers of olive oil were items of luxury
5. He was an honored and respected civic leader
A judge and prominent businessman

v8-11 he was honored and respected by men of all ages...not just his own generation

it was as if he were EF Hutton...when Job spoke, everyone listened

v12-13 Why was he like EF Hutton? Because he was

- a champion of the poor and the defenseless (fatherless, widow)
- a comforter of the hurting and the dying
- a man after God's heart

v14-17 his lifestyle was

- Matt 16:24
- Matt 5:5-8
- 2 Cor 5:7
- James 1:22

he

- LIVED his faith...he did what Jesus would do
- Put feet to his faith...and hands, eyes, ears, etc
- Was not a respecter of persons...all men, regardless of their station or condition, were important and he treated all fairly
- Made right things that were wrong

v18-20 what he thought his future held:

“I’ll just kick back and enjoy me retirement.
My life is established and blessed.”

v21-22 he was the “go to” man...

the one who could be counted on to have the answer to every problem...
the man complete in wisdom...
his was always the last word

Prov 15:33

v23 in the wasteland of human problems, his counsel was like fresh rainfall
(wisdom is more precious than rubies)

1 K 3:3-13

later, Solomon would write Prov 8:11

given Job 28:18, consider the impact of Job on David and Solomon!

v24 his opinion on every issue carried great weight

v25 honored, respected...blessed...his life was very good...

Job Chapter 30

moving forward in time, Job laments bitterly the calamities that struck him

v1-10 “Now I am mocked and ridiculed and abhorred by children whose fathers weren’t decent enough to hang out with my dogs, worthless men who behaved like animals.
Their kids mock me!”

these were nomadic men that lived off the land...and other men’s crops and livestock they were uncivilized outcasts that roamed the country raiding honorable people men as low as you can get...and their kids look down at Job!

v11-15 “God has afflicted me and as a result, my honor and respect has vanished like a mist. Everything was going my way, now nothing is.
Everything is going against me.”

v16-17 “I’ve wasted away to skin and bones.”

v18 “Disease is my outer-wear.”

His oozing sores caked in the sun...and...

v19-22 life became very hard...like that of a paper kite in a tornado.

But what Job says in his despair is not true.

What is true?

- He is self-centered in his misery...not God-centered in his trial
- Ps 119:71, 75, 78

v23 Heb 9:27
yet his eye is still on a comforting truth...the resurrection!

v25 “I had empathy for others in the midst of their troubles?
Where is all the empathy for me in mine?

i.e. “It’s not fair!”

v26 “My life was turned upside down...the wheels got kicked off.”

v27 “All I knew was anguish. I could find no comfort.”

v28-31 a mournful man in the truest Middle Eastern sense of mourning

Job Chapter 31

having laid the ground-work of a wonderful life turned upside down, Job again re-asserts his innocence...for the final time

he makes a 12-point argument

v1-3 1. "I was a faithful husband. What inheritance is there for an adulterer?"

Job understood God's definition of adultery
Matt 5:27-29

v4-6 2. "God ordered my steps...I have followed after wisdom, not folly."

Prov 16:9
Prov 1:10-19
Prov 6:16-19
Ps 37:23

v7-8 3. "I have not...because I cannot...deceive the all-knowing God."

v9-12 4. "If I had been unfaithful or oppressive in covetousness, let my wife be another man's wife.
I would deserve no wife."

v13-15 5. If I mistreated my servants, how much more so would God justly treat this servant!
For God is not a respecter of persons."

Job knows all men are created equal in the eyes of the Creator

Ps 139:14

v16-23 6. "If I oppressed, abused, neglected, or took advantage of anyone, may God break my arms off!"

- v24-25 7. “If I worshipped mammon instead of the One, True, and Living God
(Matt 6:24)
or if I were covetous (Ex 20:17), I should be condemned.”
- v26-28 8. “If I worshipped the creation instead of the Creator (Rom 1:25), I deserve
judgment.”
- v29-30 9. “If I hated my enemies, rejoiced in their misfortune, or cursed them that cursed me,
then I should be cursed.”
- v31-32 10. “If I was not hospitable, I should be turned out myself.
If I did not provide for the needy, I should not be provided for in my need.”
- v33-34 11. “If I tried to cover my sin like Adam did, my sin would be revealed just as his was
by the all-seeing God.”
- v35-36 caught up in his argument, Job just lets rip with a cry.
“My walk speaks for my heart. Why does no one hear?”
- v37-40 12. “If I am lying, if I stole someone’s land, may that land produce nothing but thorns
and weeds when I cultivate it!”

31:5-40 18 “If I have”s of Job detailing sins of man and 5 “then”s

1. lied
2. deceive
3. wandered from Him
4. lust/covetousness
5. adultery
6. justice denied
7. uncaring of the poor
8. ignore the widow
9. indifference to the needy
10. self-centered stewardship
11. abuse of power
12. self-sufficiency
13. idolatry
14. materialism
15. worship creation vs. Creator
16. not loved the enemy
17. neglect of dependants
18. mistreating the land

v40 Job is finished.

Elihu (Ch 32-37) and
God Himself (Ch 38-41) are next.

Job Chapter 32

v1 Job...a man God called blameless...was horribly afflicted
his 3 friends came to comfort him and tried to understand why these things happened
all they could come up with was...sin in Job's life
as the "debate" ensued, they came to turn against Job and his insistence upon being
righteous before God

Job got the last word in and said, "That is all I have to say."
Ch 31:40

Now, only silence from the 3 stooges...they give up trying to convince Job of his
sinfulness
no doubt thinking to themselves, "You just can't argue with a drunk!"

theologically, however, they are the drunk and Job is sober

v2-5 a new character! Where did this guy come from?
Note: he is a Buzite, the son of Abraham's nephew

He has been a spectator of this "debate"...listening intently
the peanut gallery can no longer keep quiet.
He has been as respectful as he could be for as long as he could.

Sensing the discussion would end and Job would walk away thinking he had won unless
he spoke up

Elihu is angry with

- Job – for thinking himself blameless throughout these calamities
- The 3 stooges – for not being able to shut Job up
(they brought no evidence of true guilt)

He whole-heartedly agrees with the 3 stooges, but from a different perspective

- Stooges: calamities due to past sin
- Elihu: calamities due to present sin (pride)

v6-7 Elihu addresses the stooges

“The elders, with far more experience than me, should speak first.
With greater experience should come greater wisdom.”

Not true. Wisdom is not found in time or experience but in the Word of God.

v8 understanding and wisdom come from God...regardless of age
Is 11:2

we know everything we know by the revelation of the all-knowing God.

Elihu is insinuating that what he is about to say is by the inspiration of God

v9 Amen!
Ps 14:1

Only godly men are wise and only obedient men have understanding
(the application of wisdom).

Carl Sagan was an utter fool. So was Voltaire.
The list is almost endless, tragically.

v10-11 What is Elihu saying to the stooges?

“You are great...fools. You are old...imbeciles.
I’ve waited patiently while you wrestled with this old fool.
Now it’s my turn!”

v12-13 “You failed. Job’s afflictions are definitely a result of sin in his life...we all know that.
But you were unable to convince or convict him.”

v14 “Job has not addressed me but it is my turn to speak.
He will hear my argument!
Mine is not yours re-worded, mine is a fresh argument.”

His argument: calamities are not always the judgment of God upon a sinner...
sometimes God uses calamity to bring a sinner to repentance

a Half-truth

- God does use calamity and pain that way...but
- He is also assuming Job is a guilt sinner being dealt with by a holy and just God

v15 now the stooges are stunned silent by this young whippersnapper

v16 he gave them a chance to speak up...they didn't.
He has pre-empted Zophar's 3rd Round speech...but they don't object.

v17-18 Elihu is full of words and a distressed spirit

he is driven to speak, as was Paul
“The love of Christ constraineth me.”

v19-20 “My argument has been fermenting...the wineskin is about to burst!
I gotta get this off my chest.”

v21-22 “I will honor God. I will flatter (insincere praise) none of you, thereby dishonoring God.”

Prov 26:28

Job Chapter 33

v1-3 now he turns to Job.

“Hear me. I am on a roll, now...I am all wound up!”
and he thinks Job is arrogant and proud!

v4 This was a fact every man knew.
There was not a theory of origins until Darwin came along.

v5 “If you can...”

He is directly challenging Job.
In his arrogance he does not think Job can answer him.

v6-7 “I’m the least of your worries, Job.
I am not your worst nightmare...God is!”

v8-11 “You have been steadfastly asserting:
1. you are without sin
2. you are innocent
3. there is no iniquity in you
4. God is your enemy

v12 “You are wrong on the first 3 counts but dead right on the last one!”

v13 “Who do you think you are speaking to and of God as you do?!
He doesn’t owe you anything, including answers.
He is the Potter and you are the clay.”

v14-15 the spiritually undiscerned are deaf to the small still voice of God and blind to God's fingerprints

God speaks to us in circumstances...but we do not hear Him
He works in our lives...and we are clueless

- Interrupting us in order to protect us
- To keep us out of danger with His perfect timing

v16-17 only God can

- open the ears of the deaf
- open the eyes of the blind
- open the mouth of the mute
- soften the heart of man
- humble the proud

v18-22 God afflicts the proud in order to break the fever of pride...to correct his perspectives and his priorities

2 Tim 3:16-17

God takes man to the very end of himself

v23 messenger: angel, apostle
interpreter: prophet

v23-28 the Mediator

1. helps us to see our unworthiness and God's grace
2. restores life and fellowship with God by removing sin
3. redeems us

v24 the gracious God gives wicked men warnings: Repent!

v25-26 if prideful man surrenders and submits by faith, he is restored, made new (2 Cor 5:17)

but Elihu stops short of saved by grace thru faith, maintaining his salvation by works theology

v27-30 “If you will confess your sin, God will deliver you from the pit.”

submission and obedience...the price of perfection and entrance into the kingdom of God

v32-33 apparently Job starts to respond...but is cut off from doing so by this young man eager to have his turn in the debate.

Elihu seems to reconsider his rashness and gives them a chance to comment...

“If you can...”

but Job does not respond to Elihu...God Himself will speak next

Job Chapter 34

v2-4 Elihu is eager to give his elders (Job + 3 friends) some wisdom and knowledge

he insults them, calling them

- “wise men”
- those “that have knowledge”

“Come on, class. Let’s think and analyze. I’ll help you with this problem you cannot figure out.”

Warning...an interesting truth:

foods are bitter and sweet...and so are our words!

v5-6 **the problem:**

Job’s relentless assertion of innocence and righteousness before God

v7-9 **the immediate assessment:**

“Job is accusing God of maliciousness!
He speaks rubbish!
He is unaffected by your scorning!
He is foul-mouthed in his irreverence and impiety!
His walk is a filthy stench.”

v10-30 Starting with another insult...”men of understanding”...

Elihu launches into a discourse on the sovereignty of God...

but fails to address the issue Job is raising:

Why do bad things happen to good people?

Instead, he seems to be offering:

Since God is sovereign, all that happens to man must be fair and just

he overlooks the effects of corruption

- satan
- fallen nature
- creation

that results in “Life is not fair.”

the analysis:

1. God is NOT malicious or wicked (**v10-12**)

It is profane to even consider the thought!

Right on!

2. His judgments are consummately fair (**v10-12**)

Man reaps what he sows...

...but that does not explain the circumstances in a man's life here in this corrupted, fallen environment...

God is just and holy...but the world is not!

Right on!

3. This earth is but a dust speck in His dominion (**v13**)

"He has the absolute right to do according to His pleasure...to rebel against Him is pure folly!"

Right on!

4. He could stop all hearts and lungs at any time to make more dust!

He controls the involuntary muscles of His forgetful and rebellious creatures...
we are dependent upon Him for sustained life

(**v14-15**, Dan 5:23, Eccl 12:7)

Right on!

5. He alone is the worthy and just King of kings and Lord of lords! (**v17-18**)

It is ludicrous to accuse the lawgiver of being unlawful...it is insane to accuse the holy and just and perfect God of that!

Right on!

6. He is THE CREATOR...for heavens sakes!

He is so far above every man that we are all “the same height” to Him! (v19)

He sees us all the same...and condemns our classifying our selves for separate

treatment

Lev 19:15

James 2:1-9

Right on!

7. Death, which cannot touch Him, is the great equalizer of mortal men...
death knows no favorites (v20)

Death is just an instant away for mortal man

Right on!

8. He is the all-knowing, all-seeing, all-powerful God (v21-22)

every step is observed...

Ps 139:2-3

no detail in a man's life goes unnoticed by God...

there is no hiding from God...ask Jonah!

Darkness does not work!

Right on!

9. He knows how fragile we are
(v23, Ps 103:8-14, 1 Cor 10:13)

Right on!

10. The all-knowing, holy, just Judge will set all things right...quickly (v24-27)

calamity does strike quickly...no one knows that better than Job...that does not
mean calamity is the judgment of God

but when judgment does come, all things hidden will be revealed by the all-seeing

God

Luke 12:1-3

Right on!

11. He is the loving God who cares for those who seek Him
and He is the Defender of the weak and oppressed and the poor
(v28)

Right on!

12. No man can do what He can do...no man can undo what He does (v29)

Right on!

13. He is not the author of confusion but of order...the Light to guide our path (v30)

that does not mean wicked men will not reign...

Right on!

v31-34 **proper conclusion** for man:

- “I’m sorry.
- I was wrong, You are right. Always.
- I have learned my lesson, a very important lesson, and will change my ways.
- Thy will be done, not mine.
- The Father chastises the son He loves.
- I heed the advise of men filled with Your wisdom.”

Right on!

v35-37 **conclusion regarding Job:**

- devoid of understanding and wisdom
- wicked and blasphemous...deserving of God’s judgment

WRONG!

The presumption of guilt based on a false assumption

Job Chapter 35

v2-3 “What kind of whacko thinking is this Job?”

v4 “Let me tell you...and your foolish buddies!”

v5-7 “Among men, you were mighty.
But, oh speck of dust, you offer nothing to the God of the universe!
You cannot ‘touch’ Him, you cannot change Him.
Your insignificance boggles the mind.”

v8-9 “You most certainly can harm other men with your wickedness and oppression.
Your good deeds will benefit men.”

v10-12 **the false assumption:**

“All you have or do is a stench unto the holy God.
Your pride has blinded you to the facts of
Ch 34:10-30.”

Is 64:6 is true...but God declared Job as blameless!
Gen 15:6

v13 “How can you even expect God to respond to such folly?”

v14 **incorrect conclusion:**

“But He does hear and He does see.
And He will judge your folly!”

v15-16 “He has, in fact given you a taste of His judgment of your pride...
that you would humble yourself before Him.
Yet you do not but instead multiply your pride.”

All his facts were correct...but a false assumption led to an incorrect conclusion

Job Chapter 36

v1-2 to Job, Elihu says, “Suffer me a little...or a lot!”

Job and his 3 friends are suffering a lot under the prideful barrage of youth
Here we do see the patience of Job...to endure this suffering

Speak on God’s behalf:

God needs no man to speak on His behalf...

He needs no man to defend Him!

v3-4 “I have a Friend in high places!

I am connected!

I am God’s mouthpiece. I have a word from God for you.”

A. Let me scratch my ear! Good thing they lived in tents with large openings for doors!
And he is busting Job’s chops for being prideful?!

Spiritual pride is the ugliest form of pride because it paints a filthy heart with
“holy colors”

only Jesus could say what Elihu just did

B. Watch out! What usually comes after a statement like that is condemnation...
not from the Lord

v5 God is strength and wisdom...and available to every man

v6 preserveth: “to revive”
Titus 3:5

wicked: how does Elihu define this term?

Semantics is the problem in breaking thru to Mormons and JW’s and Catholics

- Wicked in performance (works)?
- Wicked since unbelieving (faith)?

Giveth right to the poor:

gives a favorable verdict to the lowly

The basis of this statement from Elihu is God’s justice

Therein lies the irreconcilable difference in theology between Job and the 3 stooges and the whippersnapper –

- the nature of God
- how He deals with man
(by His justice or by His grace)

post Gen 6:8 and contemporary with Gen 15:6, Job understands faith and grace

v7 Q: How is one righteous?

Hab 2:4 is not in Elihu's theology

He is correctly honed in humility...but in a works-based theology it is a false humility

Elihu is not humble, he is haughty...self-righteous

v8-10 if: "lo" i.e. "behold"

"God afflicts the proud...to reveal to them their sin/pride.

Once He has chastised the sinner and gotten their attention, He calls them to repent."

True, God uses affliction to correct a wayward child

Elihu's in-sin-u-ation is this is where Job is...at a spiritual "fork in the road"

v11 if spiritual prosperity...true

if material prosperity...false doctrine

"Name it and Claim it" is heresy, making Elihu (and the 3 stooges before him) heretics

truth: 2 Tim 3:12

John 15:18-21

Phil 4:11-13

if "Name it and Claim it" were true,

John 16:33

1 John 5:4-5

and the promises of Jesus in Rev 2-3

would be false and we would not need to overcome

no, material prosperity is NOT a sign of righteousness

v12 false doctrine: bad things happen to both the bad and the good...
good things happen to both the bad and the good
Matt 5:45

v11-12 notice that man has a choice to make...

- to obey the sovereign God
or

- to disobey

every one of us make hundreds of these free will decisions every day

v13-15 himself confused, Elihu is now confusing me!

1. they cry not: what man is strong enough and tough enough to not cry when touched by God? None!

The Holy Spirit always moves man to tears when He touches.

No, all men cry; the direction of the cry is the issue.

2. They die in youth: Hypocrites die young (“boyhood”) and go to hell?
Is there no such things as an old hypocrite?

Is Job, the target of this diatribe, not an old man?

If this were true, then God would not be merciful and compassionate

Ps 103:8-12

3. He delivereth the poor: Yet God is merciful and compassionate!
Double talk!

v16-17 “God would have rescued you and blessed you, but you chose wickedness.
Therefore you are in the vice grip of God’s justice.”

v18 “Repent Job! Before it’s too late!”

a great ransom cannot deliver thee:

- the “unpardonable sin” is unbelief...of which Job is most certainly not guilty
- over time, unbelief leads to “setting the concrete” i.e. like Pharaoh, you can say “No” to God...until you cannot say “Yes” because God has set your choice

v19 what riches does Job have?
Whose are ALL riches?
Ps 24:1
1 Sam 2:7)

So...what can we give God?
Or...what can we do to God?

v20-21 darkness (including death) does not “work”
Ps 139:7-12

cut off: there is no worse place in the universe than being
cut off from God...having God set your “No” choice

v22-23 Who can teach the all-knowing, all-powerful God anything?
God cannot lie...God cannot learn!
Who supervises God?
Who can correct God?

v24-26 know him not: false theology and false doctrine...Islam-like

we can know God because God has revealed Himself to us!
1. in creation (Rom 1:17-20)
2. in His Word
3. in Jesus Christ, the Word become flesh

v27-28 consider the wonder and majesty and power of God...in water

- the expanse of the oceans (2/3 of the earth's surface)
- a single drop of water
- mist
- evaporation
- clouds
- light drizzle
- rain
- "toad choking" downpour
- hail
- snow
- ice
- absolutely necessary for life...
- ...yet one of the most corrosive substances on earth (yeah for dish soakers!)

v30-31 light...noise: lightning and thunder

nothing quite like the awesome forces of nature to make us feel small and helpless!

bottom of the sea: the depth of the oceans was unknown and terrifying!

God withholds and God provides...from

- The sky (rain)
- The oceans
- The light (plants)

v32 covereth: overwhelms

another wonder of water – tiny drops in the clouds "put out the fire" of the sun!
as the "nothingness" of clouds come between man and the sun

v33 the thunder announces the rain...as do the livestock with the smell of rain

[SMELL OF RAIN doc]

Job Chapter 37

v1 Amen!

v2-5 “Listen to God more attentively than you did to EF Hutton!”

per Elihu, God’s voice is a roar and a thunder heard over the entire earth...
but God says His voice is a small, still voice
PTL! He knows our frame, that we are but dust.
When we blow on dust...

v5-13 Is 55:8-11

v7 God’s fingerprints are everywhere...even in the 4 seasons...
and by them we can know His heart

v8 wild beasts hibernate in the winter

v10-13 beautiful poetry painting a beautiful picture in our minds!

the 3 forms of water

1. liquid
2. gas
3. solid

God is in complete control of the water cycle everywhere on earth...
water serves His purposes!

- Unseasonable rain during the harvest to chastise
- Seasonable rain when crops are planted and growing to bless

v14 “Stop. Listen. Think.”

v15-18 “Consider Who you are fighting! Get a grip on yourself, man!”

v19 sarcasm – “We are not worthy, we do not know what to say to God like you say you do.”

v20 swallowed up: blown away

v21 as the Lord cleanses the earth with rain and then sweeps the skies to reveal blue
 skies...the Holy Spirit cleanses us
 Titus 3:5

v23 PTL! He knows our frame!

We are taken to the end of ourselves, but we can never get to the end of God!
We will never understand the Infinite God...we will be awed for all eternity!

v24 Rom 1:18-32
 1 Cor 1:25-29

Elihu seeming ends mid-steam of a thought, quite abruptly.
 He was not done pontificating when...a whirlwind appears...

Elihu never addressed the central issue:
 Why do bad things happen to good people?

Because he rejects or does not understand:

- The goodness of Job
- Consequences of one man's evil choice on an innocent, good man
- God allowing and using Satan's evil in order to do a good work
- "normal life" in a corrupted environment is not fair
- the grace of God...which changes everything

the theology of the 3 stooges and the whippersnapper is unrealistic and irrational

- works-based
- unsupported by observing every day life – god and bad things happen to good and bad people

by faith, Job understood

- God's grace
- God judgment of man is based on our response to His grace...
 not based on our performance
- God is Love...not God is Law

Job Chapter 38

Ch 38-41 God speaks to Job
Over 80 questions to

- make absolutely sure Job knows Who he is dealing with
- help Job get things back into perspective

Ch 38-39 God speaks...responding to the challenges from Job
(Ch 38:1-3)...quizzing Job about

- the earth (Ch 38:4-7)
- the oceans (Ch 38:8-11)
- the sun (Ch 38:12-15)
- power and dominion (Ch 38:16 – 39:30)

v1-3 out of the storm Elihu saw coming, the Lord breaks His silence

“Who is the man that obscures My counsel with his fountain of words...
but devoid of knowledge...as a storm darkens the blue sky?”

a question like the one posed to Adam...an opportunity for Job to “come clean”?
No...notice to be still and know He is God

“Who are you to dare challenge me?
Do you really want to call Me your enemy?
You have had so many questions and have so forcefully demanded answers from Me.
To help you regain some lost perspective, let Me ask you some questions!
Perhaps My questions will shed some much needed light on your heart.”

What follows is God’s response to a “Why-ner”.

Whenever you are “why-ning” to the Lord, read these chapters in Job slowly and thoughtfully...and remember God’s attitude about “why-ning”, complaining, murmuring

v4-7 The earth

1st topic: creation of the world

“Tell me what you understand (this shouldn’t take long!)
Job, where were you when I created the universe?
Where is your name in Gen 1:1?”

the earth does not rest on the back of a giant turtle, it is in orbit, held in place by
gravitational forces.

God Himself is the earth’s foundation and Sustainer

Heb 1:10, Heb 1:3
Col 1:16-17

God alone knows the dimensions of the earth (H, W, L, D) and its placement in the
universe

God alone knows where He started, where the cornerstone is

God “snapped a line” when He made the earth, a precise and perfect work that caused the
angels to erupt in worship of His

- Power
- Majesty
- Dominion
- Glory...

...that is being called into question by this debate by these “why-ning” finite men

v8-11 the oceans

“Who

- gave birth to the oceans
- made a place for them on the earth
- established their boundaries
- and keeps them in their boundaries, regardless of how violent they get?

Note: without mountains, there is enough water in the oceans to cover the earth
with thousands of feet of water

Gen 1:2, 6-10
Ps 33:7

Note: Is 57:20-21

v12-15 the sun

“Who commands the sun to rise...move across the sky...and set...every day, right on time?

Who chases away the darkness? (physical and spiritual)

Who created all the beautiful landscapes...and magnifies them with the placements of the sun?

Who is more powerful than all the forces of nature?”

v16-38 power and dominion...over

the seas (38:16)

- “When was the last time you took a stroll on the ocean floor?
- Do you even know the depth of the oceans?
- And what is beneath the ocean floor?”

Death and hell (38:17) (Job had desired death...)

- “What happens when a man dies?
(physically and spiritually)
- What happens after a man dies?
(physically and spiritually)
- Where is the portal of death and hell?”
(David would later write Ps 23:4)

The earth (38:18)

- “Have you measured the entire surface of the earth...2/3 of which is covered by oceans?”
(not possible in Job’s day...but recently knowledge has increased)
- When you are done, measure the universe also.”

Light and darkness (38:19-20)

- “Where do light and darkness abide?
- Where does light go when darkness comes and where does darkness go when light comes?
- Who keeps light and darkness on schedule?
- Where does darkness go when you ‘flip the switch’?
- Where does it come from when you ‘flip it off’?”

Time (38:21)

- “Are you as old...or older than...time?
- Where were you before “In the beginning”?”

Snow and hail (38:22-23)

- “Where is the storehouse of snow? Where is the treasury of hail?
- Who is the storekeeper?
- Do you know how many snowflakes and hail stones there are?
- How do you explain the snowflakes...the most delicate of things
breath-taking geometric designs
no two are alike!
- Talk to me about My reservation for the hail.
Rev 8:7, 11:19, 16:21

Light (38:24a)

- “How is light divided?”
light thru a prism yields the rainbow...
- Do you even have any idea what I am talking about?”

The weather (38:24b-30)

- “Do you control the weather patterns on earth?
- Do you plot the courses of the rivers and streams and then keep them full?
- Are lightning and thunder unleashed at your command?
- Why are there both deserts and rain forests?
- Who waters the wilderness and the forests?
Ps 147:8

Note: the all-knowing God knows

- how many rain drops fell on the earth...and precisely where...during the 40 days and 40 nights of rain during the Flood
- how many have fallen...and precisely where...since
- how many are yet to fall...and precisely where
- After it rains, ‘life happens.’ Are you doing that?
- Does the rain serve your purposes?
- How many drops of dew are there?
- Do you lay the dew down as you please?
- How is ice formed?
- Where does frost come from...and go?
Ps 147:16-18
- How is it man can walk on water...when the water is as hard as stone?

The stars (38:31-33)

- “Do you plot the courses of
Pleiades (spring and summer sky),
Orion (winter sky),
Arcturus (autumn sky, of particular interest to mariners),
and all the other constellations?
- Do you rule over heaven and earth?”
Ps 148:3-6

More weather (38:34-38)

- “Do you rule in the sky, commanding the rain to fall?
- Are lightning bolts at your beckon call?
- Speaking of storms, explain the human heart to Me.
- Are you the one who moves the clouds around?
- How does dry dust become a dirt clod?

Job Chapter 39

The creatures (39:1-30)

- “Do you provide meals for the strongest, most ferocious beast on earth?”
- Do you feed the cruel and worthless raven?
Ps 147:9
- Do you cause conception and the multiplication of life?
- Can you tame the untamed...can you make a wild donkey into a willing beast of burden?

Consider the miracle of Luke 19

Consider the stubbornness of a “Missouri mule”

Consider the meaning of “stiff-necked”

- Can you make a wild ox (large, fierce animal, now extinct, a little smaller than an elephant...with a very nasty disposition) a domesticated helper?
- How does the ostrich survive its utter foolishness of not caring for its young and leaving them exposed to every danger?
- How can a bird be taller and faster than a man on horseback?
Yet timid enough to try to hide by sticking its head in the sand...
- What makes a horse so beautiful...so strong...so fearless...so eager for battle?
- Do you set the migratory routes of the birds? How do they know...
- Did you make the ‘eagle eye’?
- Why does a bird live on death?”

“Do you feel small, and powerless yet, Job?
How is your perspective shaping up?”

Amos 5:8

Job Chapter 40

v1-2 “Speak, man!”

v3-5 Job is suddenly very short on words...

“I will justify myself no more.

I am going to stop before I get what I deserve.”

no man can justify himself before God.

Job is going to stop trying...but neither does he confess to his misguided ranting
and raving toward God

Every proud spirit will be emphatically humbled

v6 yet God speaks again from the storm...

v7 ...demanding more from Job than silence.

God wants confession...so the Lord continues...

v8 “Will you continue to try and make yourself look good by trying to make Me look bad?
Will you continue to blame Me for these calamities”

v9-14 “Do you have my strength...power...majesty...glory...beauty?
Can you humble the proud?

If so to both of those questions, I will acknowledge you can save yourself.
If not, you desperately need My help.

So let’s look at the first question – Do you have my power and majesty?
To do that we will consider just two more creatures.

- My greatest land creature
- My greatest sea creature.”

v15-24 behemoth: the greatest land creature

- elephant?
- Hippo?
- Rhino?
- Brontosaurus?
- Wholly mammoth?
- Some other extinct animal?

“what it is” is not important.

“Who” is important...God Almighty

Job Chapter 41

- v1 leviathan: the greatest sea creature
- Whale?
 - Crocodile?
 - another dinosaur?
 - a fire-breathing dragon ala Beowolf?

again, “What” is not the point, “Who” is the point

- v2 “Can you put a nose ring on this beast and lead it around captive...like I can?”

- v22 a dragon?
- Myths are usually based in fact
 knights of the round table...Chinese
 - A description of Satan...”that great dragon.”

- v34 in Ch 40-41 we clearly see God’s power and majesty and supreme control over creation
in Ch 42 we will see His
- holiness
 - compassion
 - mercy
 - love
 - forgiveness
 - grace
 - faithfulness

Job Chapter 42

v1-2 “O God, You are all-powerful and all-knowing!”

He not only hears every word and sees every action, He knows every thought!
Our thought life is also to be governed by God...
 motives for our words and our actions count

v3 Job “plays back” God’s question in Ch 38:2...and then answers it

“I am that pathetic man.
I played the fool.
I talked volumes about things of which I understood nothing.
I was talking when I should have been listening.
I confess my foolishness...I am guilty.
Dear God, I am ashamed and embarrassed.”

v4 “Please, God, hear me. I know I do not deserve Your consideration.”

A humble confession, not a bombastic complaint.

v5 “I see so much more clearly now.
The Light has gone on.
I can see Your glory like I never have before.”

The machine-gun questioning by the Lord had its intended impact...
 God’s Word went forth and it did not come back void

v6 “I loath myself. I am grieved by my behavior.”
Sounds like Paul in Rom 7

Keyword: repent

Job has “seen the light” and as a result, confessed and repented
His response is proper, what God wanted to hear from Job

God’s forgiveness is now possible

1 John 1:9

denial of self and repentance are required to walk with God

v7 with Job’s repentance, God turns His attention to the
3 Stooges (not to Elihu!)

- Stooges: calamities are God’s judgment of sin
- Elihu: calamities are corrective of pride

Eliphaz is the “designated driver” because he is the eldest

“You three have misrepresented Me and I will not tolerate it.”
God hates that!

These 3...and Moses...should serve as object lessons for the
“Name it and claim it” false teachers

James 3:1

v8 God’s call to all involved: humility

- the Stooges: “Job was right, you were wrong.
He was in fact innocent.
Submit to his intercession on your behalf”
- Job: “Pray for your enemies.”

Job is acting in the role of a priest...before the Law was given to Moses

The calamities in Job’s life were not the result o his sin but because of “something much
bigger than Job” but that involved God proving him

Why do bad things happen to good people?

1. Punishment and judgment of sin
2. Correction for our benefit

Ps 119:71

Requires “proving”...for which God gives us comfort (2 Cor 1:3-4)

v9 everybody’s response: humble obedience

v10 God restores Job, giving him

- a new beginning
- twice what he originally had

a picture of Philemon, Job is forgiven so he forgives

Matt 5:5

mercy is given to the merciful

the Lord blesses those who

- are merciful and forgiving...
- accept His ways and reject Satan’s ways...
- bless Him and curse Satan

v11 Job never in this entire ordeal cursed God...but he did lose perspective

He received correction, confessed and repented.

He was forgiving and merciful.

And was restored by a merciful, forgiving, gracious, faithful God

v12 23,000 animals

how much do 12 people need?!

Eph 3:20

1 Cor 2:7-9

Job got a double blessing from the Lord

v13 same as before the calamities

v14 Why are the daughters named, but the sons are not, contrary to cultural thinking of that day?

Jemimah = “dove”

Keziah = cassia (Ps 45:8) = “to scrape, to strip off, to segregate”, “aromatic plant”

Keren-happuch = “horn of antimony, eye paint”

antimony is a silvery white metalloid, is brittle, was used in medicine
(eye salve, eye medicine?)

Dove + to segregate + eye salve = a mission statement for
the Holy Spirit?

v16 we do not know how old Job was before the calamities befell him...
but if the double blessing also applied to his life, he was 70 years old...

v17 ...and he lived a total of 210 years...in keeping with his contemporaries

he lived a full (joyful, content, dependent, blessed) life...the center of which was the
Lord God Almighty

consider not the patience of Job but the faith of Job...and the God Who Alone is worthy
of that faith