

# **The Book Of Job**

**A Story of the Grace Of**  
**God**

- Job is the story of a man who by all accounts has it all together in his life. He is blameless before God and man. He is wealthy. He has a great family. Everything is going Job's way and then all of sudden everything in Job's life is subjected to the harsh reality of a spiritual war he cannot see and physical and emotional suffering that brings him to the brink of a total breakdown.
- It is in the midst of this story that Job comes to a new understanding of who God is and experiences His grace and mercy.

- Job's story is unique to him. Suffering is as vast and complicated as there are people in this world that will, not when, experience tragedy and loss.
- Nobody suffers in general. Each person suffers in some particular way.
- The suffering that Job endures is not the end that the Lord has intended for Job, nor for each person that endures suffering in this world.
- James let's his reader's know that the lesson of Job is, "... the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful."

- The word for “purpose” in the original Greek text is “telos” which means, “the culmination of a series of events that results in the closure or purpose of something or someone”.
- When we look at the Book of Job and eventually into our own lives we can see a series of events that God, by His grace, culminates in a closer relationship with Him.
- “ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ”-Romans 8:28



# The End The Lord Intends

- The ultimate purpose of the creation is to display and glorify the greatness of the glory of the grace of God.
- “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth...For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.” -Titus 2:11;John 1:14-16

- The promise of Scripture is that no matter what may happen in our lives, no matter how dire the situation may seem, the believer will by the grace of God rebound to a place of victory.
- Many of the Psalms associate affliction and the rebounding of the believer into the love and grace of God.
- “ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...”.-**Psalm 23:6**

- The Sovereign God doesn't intend for a person undergoing affliction to maintain a stoic response while suffering.
- Pain and suffering disrupt a sense of calm in our lives and it is supposed to make us feel a sense of need or dependence.
- It is the disruption that should cause a person to seek out and wrestle with the deeper issues of life.
- "Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word."-**Psalm 119:67**

# Tests Of Faith

- All believers will sooner or later be brought to a **crisis of faith** which will exhaust every human resource available to him.
- It is this crisis that teaches us to truly trust upon the Lord.
- If we base our lives upon God's Word, we will be able to stand in the midst of the test. **If we rely upon what we see or what we understand, we will falter and move deeper into the abyss of darkness created by our own lack of trust.**

- “Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life.”-**Psalm 119:49-50**
- “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God (I will praise His word), in God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?”-**Psalm 56:3-4**

# Different Views Of Suffering

## The View Of Principled Suffering

Reason for Suffering

Bad behaviors

Response to Suffering

Good behaviors

Result of Good behaviors

Eternal happiness or Karma

Suffering in this view is a wake-up call to do good. Good ends suffering!

## The View Of Noble Suffering

Reason for Suffering

Desires or wants

Response to Suffering

Detach from Desires

Result of detachment

Enlightenment, Self-Transcendence

Suffering in this view regard people and things as hindrances to enlightenment

## The View Of Dutiful Suffering

Reason for Suffering

Will of god or the gods

Response to Suffering

Duty to Submit and Endure

Result of Submission

Eternal Glory

Suffering in this view is useful for glorification in battle or the struggle against evil

## The View Of Dualistic Suffering

Reason for Suffering

Conflict between good and evil

Response to Suffering

Choose good, avoid evil

Result of Choosing Good

Good wins

Suffering in this view is for the purification of evil

## The View Of Secular Suffering

Reason for Suffering

Random Accidents

Response to Suffering

Identify source, fix and avoid in the future

Result of Fixing

A Better world

Suffering in this view is a hindrance to our lifestyle.

## The View Of Biblical Suffering

Reason for Suffering

The Fall

Response to Suffering

Believe in Jesus

Result of Believing in Jesus

A deeper and mature character molded in the image of Jesus.

Suffering in this view empties a person of pride and reveals a need and dependence for God



## **A God Who Suffers**

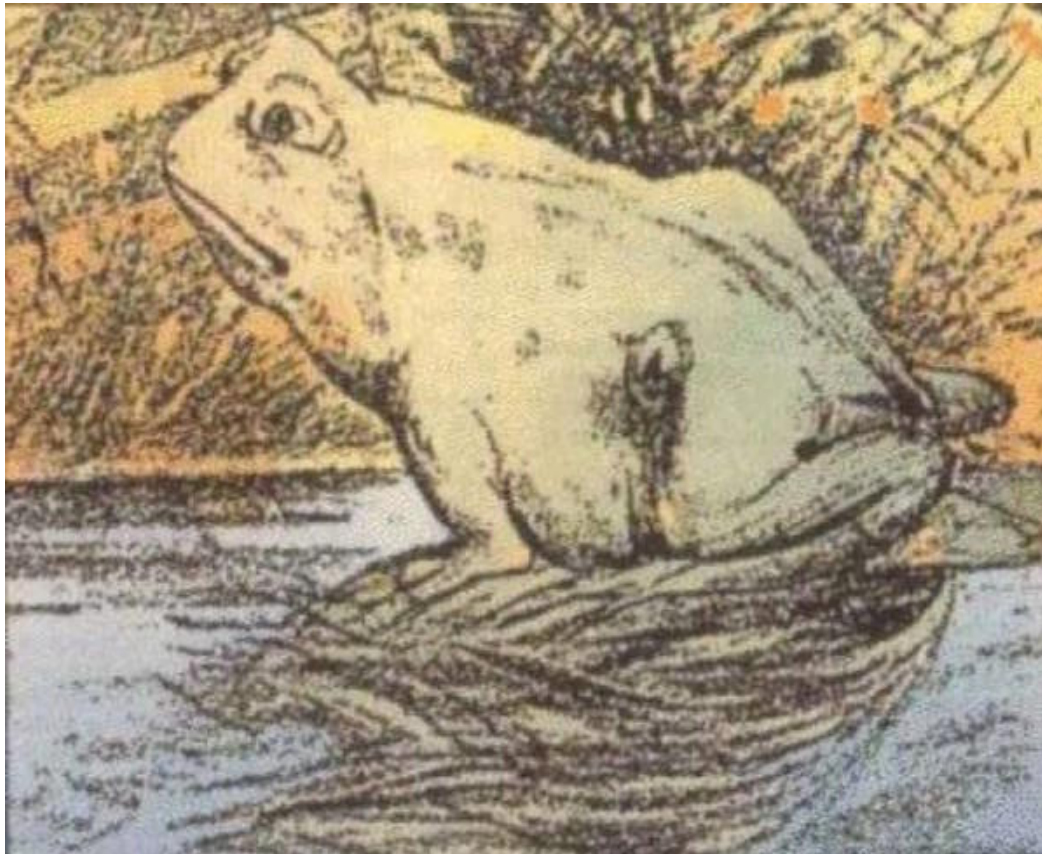
- The Biblical view of God is that He knew from before time began He was going to come in the form of His Son to die and suffer for the redemption of the world (2 Timothy 1:8-10).
- Suffering has been built into the universe for the divine purpose of demonstrating God's love through His Son suffering and dying for man.

- “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”-**Romans 8:18-25**

# What Do You See?



# What Do You See?



# The Fruit Of Suffering

- The fruit of suffering, though painful, results in a greater understanding of who God is.
- “I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you...”.-**Job 42:5**
- “This limited secondhand knowledge had led him to some false conclusions. Now, after more revelation, he saw God more clearly. He had greater spiritual insight (v. 5). This greater understanding of God enabled Job to understand himself better. He saw both God and himself more realistically.”-Constable

- “Job’s previous knowledge of God had been based on the experience and traditions of other people...From his second-hand knowledge he had reasoned erroneously and foolishly...”-Barton
- “Job implies also that, besides this literal *seeing*, he now saw spiritually what he had indistinctly taken on hearsay before God’s infinite wisdom. He “now” proves this; he had seen in a *literal* sense before, at the beginning of God’s speech, but he had not seen *spiritually* till “now” at its close.”-Jamieson, Fausett, and Brown
- “But as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him’”-**1 Corinthians 2:9**

- God is producing within us His ideas and thoughts.
- After a time of painful suffering, hopefully we begin to understand, and trust in God's goodness.
- If we understood everything that happens then we probably would not resent it. But we cannot see nor comprehend the big answers.
- God is not cruel or unjust. We simply cannot see or know the whole story.
- We can trust God to do the right thing every time.
- Trust is the glue that holds together the relationship of God's goodness to the believer while enduring an affliction.
- "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."-**Proverbs 3:5**

# Crisis Moments In Life Produce Moments of Faith In The Lord

- I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD.”-Psalm 27:13
- A personal relationship with the Lord builds confidence to face life.
- Those who trust in the Lord with all their heart have confidence to face the trials of life.
- A personal relationship with the Lord results in our fears fading in light of who He is.
- When problems in life abound we don't need to have more faith we need to seek God for who He is.



- “Wait in faith on the LORD; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!”-Psalm 27:14
- “....who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”-Romans 4:18-21

# **Characters In The Book Of Job**

- Job
- God
- Satan
- Job's wife.
- Job's three friends: Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar
- Elihu

# **The Man Job**

- The title of the book derives its name from the main character Job.
- Job's name means "Persecuted" or "assailed".
- Some people have tried to prove that Job was not a real man but a mere figure in the imagination of a poetic writer.

- If it is simply a work of man's imagination it would stand alongside all of man's greatest works.
- "Upon this simple plot an unknown writer of superlative genius has erected a monumental work. The most persistent questions of the relationship of men to God have been given powerful theological treatment in verse whose majesty and emotion are unsurpassed in any literature, ancient or modern."- Anderson

# Scriptural View of Job

- According to Scripture Job was a real and righteous man.
- “The book opens by introducing Job as blameless and upright. He is blessed with family and possessions. His life embodies faith in God both for himself and on behalf of his family”-ESV Study Notes
- “...even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness, declares the Lord GOD.”-Ezekiel 14:14

- According to James, Job is considered to be a man to be revered for his patience and perseverance.
- “Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.”-

**James 5:11**

# The Date And Time

- The date when Job was written is not known exactly.
- The writing of Job is so ancient that in some places in the text Hebrew scholars don't know the exact meaning of some of the words but the general meaning is clear.
- “The disgust expressed in Job's remark that ‘*ryr hlmwt* (mallow) is tasteless (Job 6:6) can be appreciated, even though we still do not know what that substance is.” (Andersen)

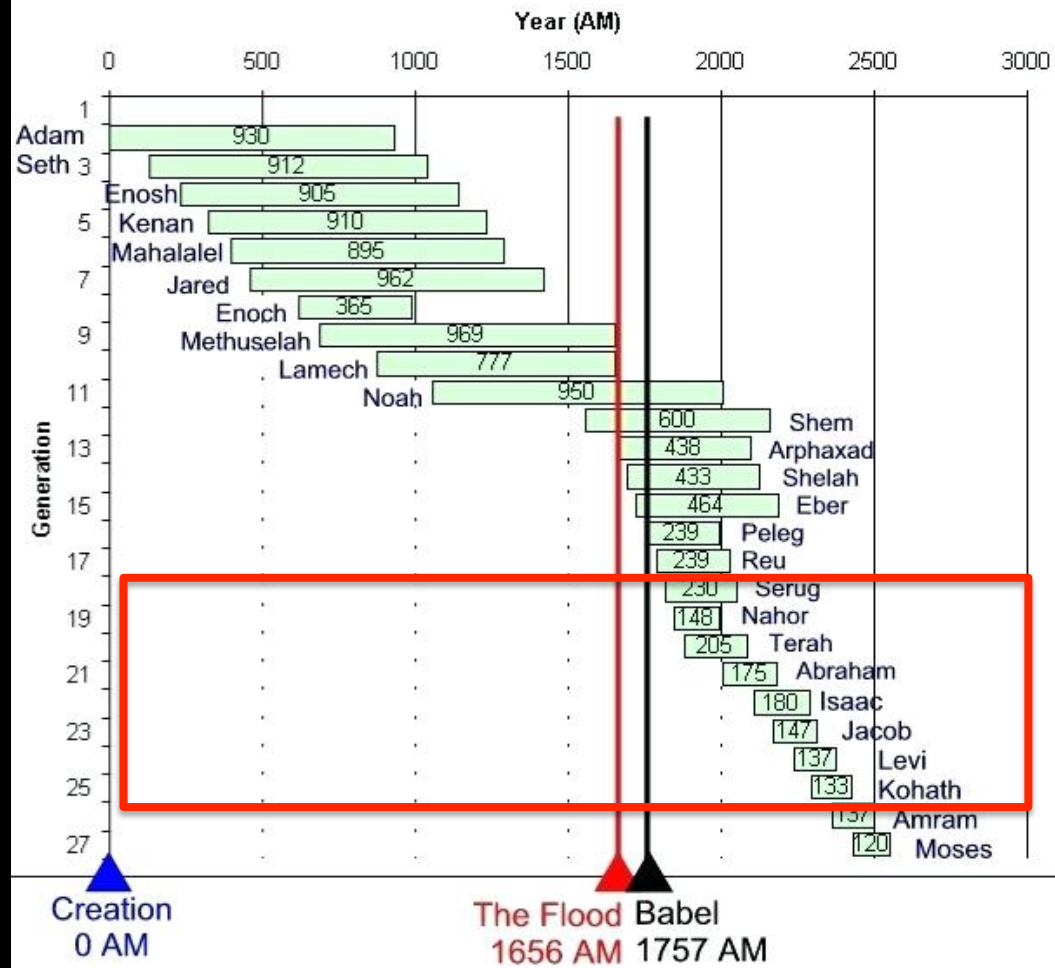
- “Ancient it is beyond all dispute. It probably belongs to the period covered by the book of Genesis; and possibly, to the time of Abraham. Its lesson, therefore, is the oldest lesson we could have; and it takes us back to the first lesson taught in the Bible itself.”-Bullinger
- “It is fascinating to think that as we open this text we may be faced with the earliest of all written accounts of a human being’s relationship with Yahweh, the one true God.”-Mason



- There have been many views concerning the date of Job but internal Scriptural evidence seems to point to the time of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob around 2100 B.C..
- **Job's Age**: “And after this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, four generations.”- **Job 42:16**
- Job was at least 70 years old at the time his trial ended.

- “And Job lived after affliction a hundred and seventy years: and all the years he lived were two hundred and forty: and Job saw his sons and his sons' sons, the fourth generation.”-(**LXX version of Job 42:16**)
- Therefore these two versions of Job put him somewhere between 210-240 years old which gives evidence to the time of the Patriarchs.

# Ages of Patriarchs (Masoretic)



- **Job's Lineage**: “The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puvah, **Yob**, and Shimron.”-**Genesis 46:13**
- If Job is the son mentioned here it puts him during the time of Joseph being sold into Egypt by his brothers.

2500 B.C.

2000-1701 B.C.

1700-1300 B.C.

## Age of the Patriarchs

Noah Dies  
2108 B.C.

Abraham  
2166 B.C.\*

Isaac  
2066 B.C.\*

Jacob  
2006 B.C.\*

Joseph  
1918 B.C.\*

Moses  
1526 B.C.\*

Joshua  
1466 B.C.\*

Job

Israel in  
Egypt-1866 B.C.

Conquered  
Promise  
Land-1406  
B.C.

Jacob's  
Name  
Changed to  
Israel

Joseph was 17  
years old when  
sold into  
slavery-1901 B.C.  
Genesis 37:2

Exodus/  
Wilderness-  
1446 B.C.

\*Approximate Date of Birth

- **Names and Places**: “Names of people and places in the book were also common in the patriarchal age (e.g., Sheba, Tema, Eliphaz, Uz, Job). Genesis, the Mari documents, and the Egyptian Execration texts, all of which refer to life in the Near East at this time, also refer to these names.”-Constable
- **Priestly Practice**: Job practiced as the priest for his children. As the People of the Middle East formed into nations the priestly activities became a practice isolated to the tribe of Levi after the Law was given through Moses.

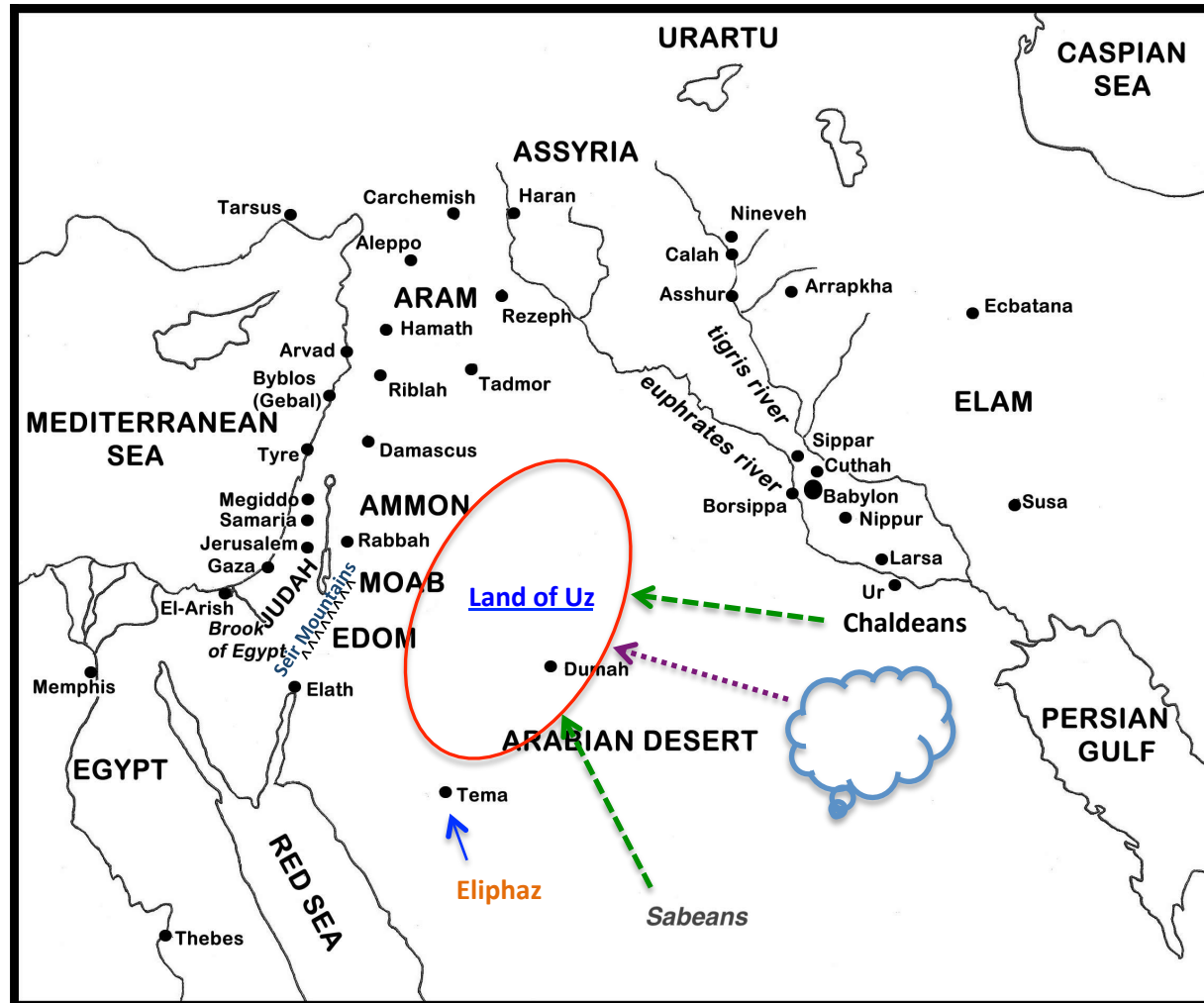
- “And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually.”-**Job 1:5**

# The Land Of Uz

- The opening sentence of the book states that Job lived in the land of Uz (Job 1:1). Today no country is known by that name, so we have to rely on ancient writings to determine the location.
- “Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, you who dwell in the land of Uz...”-**Lamentations 4:21**



- The Land of Uz may have been named after one of the following individuals:
  - A. The son of Aram, grandson of Shem (Genesis 10:23, 1 Chronicles 1:17).
  - B. The eldest son of Nahor, Abraham's brother. His brothers were Buz, Kemuel the father of Aram, Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel the father of Rebekah (Genesis 22:21) .
  - C. A descendant of the Horite Seir (Genesis 36:28).



# **Characters In The Book Of Job**

- Job
- God
- Satan
- Job's wife.
- Job's three friends: Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar
- Elihu

# God

- Revelation always begins with God the foundation of all truth. Man never creates the truth but receives the truth as revealed by God.
- God has given us the Bible in order to reveal Himself.
- “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me...”-John 5:39
- The Scriptures will give us a clear understanding of who God is.

# Man's Reasoning Is Flawed

- At the Fall mankind began to think and reason outside of God's intended design.
- The result of thinking from our own fallen intelligence will result in a blinded logic.
- "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."-**Proverbs 14:12**
- "Then Job answered the LORD and said: "You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' **Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.**"-**Job 42:1,3**
- "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."-**Colossians 2:8**

# Enlightened Through Jesus

- “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”-2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Revelation always begins with God the foundation of all truth. Man never creates the truth but receives the truth as revealed by God.

# **God Is Sovereign**

- The evil and suffering we experience and witness in this world is not the ultimate end, God is.
- Although Satan believes himself to be in control, he is not, God is.
- The reality is that God is in control and has been from the beginning and will always be in charge.
- Satan is a created being and his authority is given to him and will ultimately be taken away.
- Satan is not in charge of anything including hell.

- When people communicate the sovereignty of God they are not simply saying that God has the right and power to rule the universe, which He has, but He also directs all things according to His will and for His wise and holy purpose.
- What does the Scriptures say about God's sovereignty?



- “ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,” -**Acts 17:24-27**
- God does not need anything from man to sustain His existence
- God is the sustainer and creator of all things
- God has predetermined when people would live and where they would live for the purpose of seeking and finding Him.

- “all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”-**Daniel 4:35**
- “I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,”-**Isaiah 46:9-10**

- “Our God is in the heavens; He does all that He pleases.”-**Psalms 115:3**
- “The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.”-**Proverbs 16:9**
- “The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.”-**Proverbs 16:33**

# God's Character

- God is a merciful, gracious, and compassionate God. Who loves man and provides righteousness for him even when man is at his worst.
- “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”-**Romans 5:6-8**

# Psalm 103

- "Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:  
Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,  
Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you  
with loving kindness and tender mercies...The LORD is  
merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in  
mercy. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor  
punished us according to our iniquities...As far as the east is  
from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions  
from us. As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities  
those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers  
that we are dust."

- “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”-**Deuteronomy 32:4**
- “Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”-**Genesis 18:25**

# God's Sovereign Purpose

- “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” -**Romans 8:28**
- Everything in the universe is moving towards a redemptive purpose both in the lives of each person and in the world for the displaying of the greatness and glory of the grace of God.



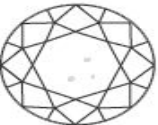




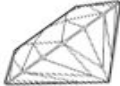





- “The LORD of hosts has sworn: ‘As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand,”-**Isaiah 14:24**
- “For the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?”-**Isaiah 14:27**
- “In him we have obtained an inheritance, a having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ”-**Ephesians 1:11**



- “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”-**Colossians 1:15-17**
- “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”-**Galatians 4:4-5**
- “Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.”-**Proverbs 19:21**

# God Is One

- “Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’”-**Mark 12:29-30** (quoting Deuteronomy 6:4-5)
- When the Bible says that, “the Lord is one” it means that God is perfect and flawless in both His essence and His ways.
- God will not be fair today and unfair tomorrow or good today and evil tomorrow.
- God is Who He is in the most complete and pure way possible always and forever.

Clarity & Color chart, value diamonds described by viewing with naked eye only												
IF	Vvs1	Vvs2	Vs1	Vs2	SI1	SI2	SI3	I1	I2	I3		
												
No flaws Perfect diamond (Rare & very very very expensive)	Nearly Perfect almost no visible flaws under 10x & none visible (Extremely expensive & rare)	Visible crystals under 10x magnification & possible to see if you know location (Very expensive, near rare)	Possible visible crystal inclusions to visible crystal inclusions to eye without magnification (Best buy value)	Visible natural crystal characteristic inclusions without magnification (Great value)								
     												
D E F	G H I J	K L M	N O P Q R	S T U V X Y Z								
colorless	near colorless	taint yellow	very light yellow	light yellow								

- A diamond is a good illustration for God being flawless. When experts say a diamond is without flaws they mean it contains no variation in grain, no combination of colors, and it contains no cracks-it is one thing only.

- “To have a correct understanding of [God’s] attributes it is necessary that we see them all as one. We think of them separately but they cannot be separated. ‘All attributes assigned to God cannot differ in reality, by reason of the perfect simplicity of God, although we divers ways use of God divers words ,’ says Nicholas of Cusa. ‘Whence, although we attribute to God sight, hearing, taste, smell, touch, sense, reason and intellect, and so forth, according to the divers significations of each word, yet in him sight is not other than hearing, or tasting, or smelling, or touching, or feeling, or understanding. And so all theology is said to be [E]stablished in a circle, because any one of his attributes is affirmed of another.’”-Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy

# God's Relationship To The Good And Bad

- Job's question to his wife, "Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" (**Job 2:9**)
- The Hebrew word evil is "Ra" and means, "evil, distress, misery, injury, calamity"
- It is basically a word that speaks of everything bad that can happen in this universe.
- Something which is 'bad, or evil' can be completely separated from something that is sinful.

- When children are punished they feel that the punishment is 'bad'; however, its intended purpose by the parent is to be for their good in order to develop character, proper work habits, protect their safety or their security.
- When God brings evil (bad) He is not being wicked and He is obviously not being sinful for the 'law giver' cannot violate His own laws.
- God uses the evil things that happen in this present world for the purpose of accomplishing His divine and perfect will.

- “Then came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and ate bread with him in his house. And they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him. And each of them gave him a piece of money and a ring of gold.”-**Job 42:11**

- “I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things.”- **Isaiah 45:7**
- “Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?”-**Lamentations 3:37-38**
- “Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it?”- **Amos 3:6**
- “In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other...”-**Ecclesiastes 7:14**



- “The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.”-**Proverbs 16:4**
- “As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”-**John 9:1-3**

# Joseph's Story

- “So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. ”-**Genesis 45:4-8**
- “But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ”-**Genesis 50:19-20**

## **Man Still Is Responsible**

- God did not make the brothers of Joseph jealous. They were prompted by their own sinful nature.
- They were free to choose to act in obedience to God or act in disobedience and follow the path of their sinful jealousy.
- God used the evil actions of the brothers to accomplish His divine purpose in protecting Israel.

- “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.-Acts 2:22-23 (NASB)
- Although God predetermined and foreknew that Jesus would die on a cross the people who put Him to death were guilty and responsible for their actions requiring forgiveness by God.

- Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

# **Man's Free Will**

- According to Scripture man is free to choose his own path.
- God, in His love, created man to be free and to act and to live outside of His divine plan or purpose if man so chooses to do so.
- God desires every man to choose Him but doesn't get what He wants (2 Peter 3:9)

- “I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God...”.-  
**Deuteronomy 30:19-20**
- “Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD...”.-**Proverbs 1:29**
- “Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways...”-**Proverbs 3:31**
- Scripture makes in plain to see that man has the ability to choose to live outside of God’s divine plan.

# Two Ways To Live

Independent of God

We live under our leadership and kingdom. We reason and act outside of the protection of God building false systems of living. Results ultimately in the demise of man and culture as he sinks deeper into life without God

Dependent upon God

We live under the leadership and protection of God and trust Him and His word. This leads to life and righteousness



## Job's Trial

```
graph TD; A[Job's Trial] --> B[Trust God and depend on Him]; A --> C[Curse God and live independent of God]
```

Trust God and  
depend on Him

Curse God and live  
independent of God

- “ Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”-**Jeremiah 17:5-8**
- Note three things:
  - 1 The cursed man cannot see when good comes.
  - 2 The blessed man and cursed man both endure heat and drought.
  - 3 The difference is in the outcome: The cursed man is shrub and the blessed man is a vibrant tree not fearing or anxious about the heat and the drought.

# **The Believer Is Strengthened**

- Job, like believers today, are held up by God during the difficult times.
- God refuses to be reduced to our lucky charm and make all things disappear with a twinkling of His eye.
- God is up to better things in our life and in Job's life.

## Five Promises Of God During Suffering

- “fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”-**Isaiah 41:10**

1. I am with you
2. I am your God
3. I will strengthen you
4. I will help you
5. I will uphold you

- “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ” —**John 15:1-2**
- The promise that is given here by Jesus is that as we are growing in a dependent relationship with God He is removing the decaying and diseased branches out of our life and replacing it with a healthy and fruitful pattern for living.
- The word for “takes away” is “airo” and means “to elevate, lift up, to raise up, or to uphold”.



# **Complete Surrender**

- Job had to walk by faith into an uncertain future trusting in a God that didn't make sense to him at the moment.
- The future is in God's hands and sometimes what we see is an easier path to walk than to surrender in faith to something we don't see.
- The way of faith means that we put our total trust in God's Word with complete surrender to what He has promised.
- Many changes will come to us and the world around us as we walk in the path of faith but what never changes is God and His Word.



# Faith Trusts In God

- Faith is the opposite of walking by our own understanding.
- Faith is perpetual dependence upon the Lord. A moment-by-moment reliance of our trust in God and Him alone.
- A person can be a believer without ever trusting in the Lord.
- In Hebrew there is not a word for “faith” the closest word for faith that they have is “emunah” which is active trust in the goodness of Lord which then expresses itself in loyalty to His will.

# **Characters In The Book Of Job**

- Job
- God
- Satan
- Job's wife.
- Job's three friends: Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar
- Elihu

## The Theme of The Book of Job

A How is a man just before the Lord?-Job 9:1-3

B What is the role of suffering in revealing the purpose of the Lord?

**Chapters 1-2**

**Chapters 3-31**

**Chapters  
32-37**

**Chapters  
38-41**

**Chapter 42**

Job's Test  
Historical

Job's Three  
Friends

Elihu  
Speaks

God  
Speaks

Job  
Restored  
Historical

Dialogue and Speeches

- “Thus says the LORD: ‘Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”-**Jeremiah 9:23-24**

# Satan

- “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. The LORD said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”-**Job 1:6-7**

	<u>Hebrew</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Greek</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Dragon	Tanniyn Isaiah 27:1	Dragon, serpent, sea monster	<i>Drakon</i> Rev. 12:3,4,7	Dragon
Serpent	<i>Nachash</i> Gen 3:1,2,14	Snake, Fleeing Serpent	<i>Ophis</i> 2 Cor.11:3, Rev. 20:2	Snake
Devil	<i>Shed</i> De. 32:17	Demon	<i>Diabolos</i> Matthew 4:8 1 Peter 5:8	Slandorous
Satan	<i>Satan</i> Job 1:6,7,8	Adversary	<i>Satanas</i> I Tim 5:15	Adversary
Lucifer	<i>Helel</i> Isaiah 14:12	Star of the Morning; Sun of Dawn		

# The Origin Of Satan

- Satan or Lucifer is a angelic being created by God.
- “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”-**Genesis 1:31**
- Lucifer in the beginning was a good angel.
- He was part of the hierarchy of angelic cherubim.
- “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.”-**Ezekiel 28:12-15**

# Satan's Rule

- Satan and his angels presently rule the earth's atmospheric heavens and freely have access to the kings and the kingdoms upon the earth.
- Satan does anything he can under the authority of God to “steal, kill and destroy”.
- “...you once walked according to the course of this world, according **to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience....**”-Ephesians 2:2



- “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”-**Ephesians 6:12**
- Satan reigns in the area called “the domains of darkness” and he is working in the lives of people who are not believers, i.e. “sons of disobedience”.
- Satan is the author of deception and uses that deception to blind unbelievers from receiving the truth of the gospel message (2 Corinthians 4).

- “And He [Jesus] said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”-**Luke 10:18**
- “.....the ruler of this world is judged.”-**John 16:11**
- “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”-**John 12:31**
- **The reason Satan is thrown to earth is to be made a spectacle of before man to the glory of God.**

“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; **I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you.** “You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and **I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you.** All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror, and shall be no more forever.” -**Ezekiel 28:17-19**

# Eating Dust

- God's judgment on Satan is that he will always know defeat.
- He will always reach for victory but never achieve it.
- In his most victorious moment he will be defeated.
- His head will ultimately be crushed by the Promised Seed: Jesus
- "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet...". –Romans 16:20

# Satan is An Accuser

- In the Book of Job Satan comes before God accusing Him of being too gracious to Job.
- Satan accuses Job of following God for what He provides.
- “Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.”-**Job 1:9-10**

- “Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”-**Revelation 12:10-11** (NKJV)

# Overcoming Accusations

- Overcame: The Greek word here is "*Nikao*" which means to conquer, to carry off the victory. The believer has victory over Satan our accuser because of the work of Christ on the cross. Satan has no power because Christ has paid for all of our sins. There are three key ways the believer is an overcomer.
- The Blood of the Lamb: The first key is understanding our position in Heaven. Christ is our "Passover" lamb, His blood has paid for our sins, Satan's power is removed because of the blood of Christ.

- Word of their testimony: The word of our testimony is in the Son, Who has given us life and His conquering work in their life.
- “And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.”-**1 John 5:11**
- They Not Love their lives: The victorious believer chooses death in this world and life with Christ because their focus is upon eternity and not the corruption of this world.
- “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”-**Galatians 2:20**



- “Satan wants to use suffering to tear us down, but God can use suffering to build us up and equip us to serve him better. However, keep in mind that suffering does not automatically equip the saint. Sad to say, some Christians have gone through trials and have come out of the fiery furnace burned and bitter instead of purified and perfected. It is only when we depend on the grace of “the God of all grace” that the furnace does its equipping work.”- Wiersbe

# **Characters In The Book Of Job**

- Job
- God
- Satan
- Job's wife.
- Job's three friends: Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar
- Elihu

# Double Suffering

- "Sufferers attract fixers the way road kills attract vultures."-Peterson
- Double suffering is common in the business of suffering.
- The first issue is the problem itself that causes the suffering and secondly there are the people who care about you and enhance the suffering by focusing solely on the problem itself with a thousand suggestions on how to fix the problem.
- "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?"-**Job 38:2**

- “And there was a woman who had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse.”-Mark 5:25-26
- This story sounds like a contemporary issue.
- The woman had sought doctors, which caused more suffering, and to top it off she had spent all she had trying to fix the problem which only got worse.
- The woman was sick and other people only made it worse.

## Job's Wife

- “Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.”-**Job 2:9**
- The mood of the passage seems to indicate a bitterness in Job's wife.
- Job's wife may have come to her own conclusion that God was not being fair with Job.
- He had lived a godly life but God had afflicted rather than rewarded him for having integrity.

- Job's wife looked at her husband's suffering from a temporal view point.
- She reasoned that Job's suffering would end if he would simply curse God.
- Satan declared if God brought affliction to Job's life Job would curse God to His face.-**Job 1:5**
- Job's wife tempts him to curse God in order to end his suffering.

# Seeing The Invisible

- “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”-**2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

# Job's Three Friends

- “We must not quote the sentiments, either of Job or his friends, as though they were necessarily Bible-truth. We have the true, and truly inspired, record of what these men said: but it does not follow that what they said was necessarily either true or inspired.”-Bullinger
- We know that, “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”-**Romans 15:4** (NKJV)



- In the study of Job it becomes evident that the reasoning of his three friends is flawed.
- They reason from the particular to the general.
- Their arguments were based upon what they had seen and experienced and reasoned inaccurately from their personal experience to universal truth.
- J.I. Packer stated, "...a half-truth masquerading as the whole truth becomes a complete untruth."

- The Lord wasn't happy with the guidance that was given to Job: "Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?" -Job 38:1-2
- They were old but they were not wise: "It is not the old who are wise, nor the aged who understand what is right." -Job 32:9
- Finally God makes it perfectly clear that Job's friends do not speak for Him.
- "My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right..." -Job 42:7&8

# Two Foundations Of Faith



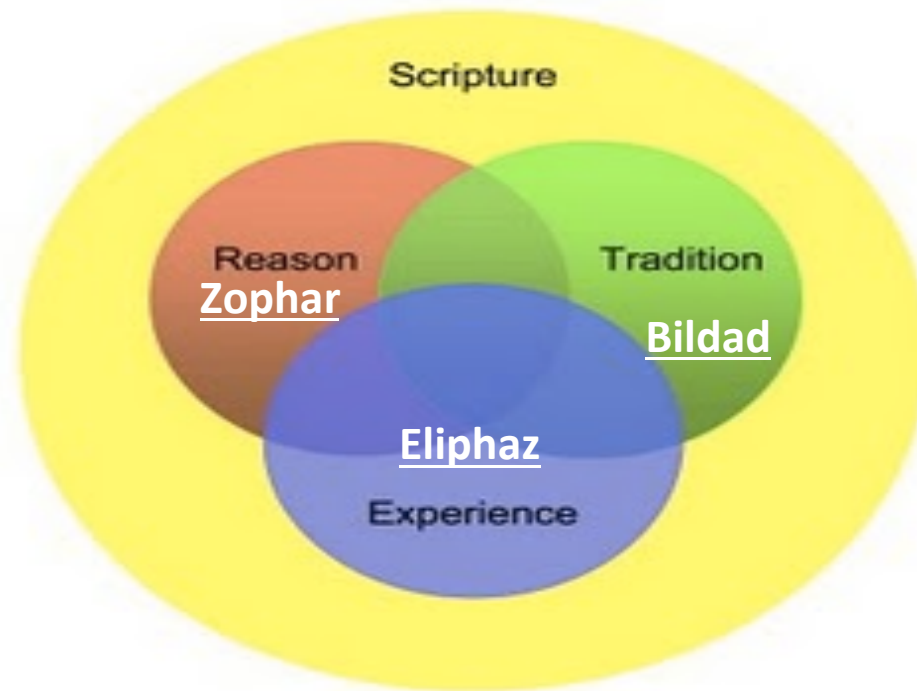
Deceived

or



Steadfast

# Unilateral Strength Of Scripture



**"Try everything by the written Word, and let all bow down before it. You are in danger every hour if you depart ever so little from Scripture."-John Wesley, 1758**

# Eliphaz

- Eliphaz bases his argument upon his own personal experience.
- “Remember: who that was innocent ever perished? Or where were the upright cut off? As I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same. By the breath of God they perish, and by the blast of his anger they are consumed.”-**Job 4:7-9**
- Eliphaz explains to Job that he had a religious experience in a vision, “ A spirit glided past my face; the hair of my flesh stood up. It stood still, but I could not discern its appearance. A form was before my eyes; there was silence, then I heard a voice: ‘Can mortal man be in the right before God? Can a man be pure before his Maker?’”-**Job 4:16-17**
- In the view of Eliphaz: Experience gives evidence that the righteous don’t suffer, Job is suffering because he did something wrong, and I have the authority because a spirit being told me so.

# Bildad

- Bildad bases his argument upon the false logic of the tradition of man. He reasons from the experience of one to the experience of the many.
- “For inquire, please, of bygone ages, and consider what the fathers have searched out. For we are but of yesterday and know nothing, for our days on earth are a shadow. Will they not teach you and tell you and utter words out of their understanding?”-**Job 8:8-10**
- “Behold, God will not reject a blameless man, nor take the hand of evildoers.”-**Job 8:20**
- Based upon the traditional view, Job must be guilty of a serious sin and he has brought this suffering upon himself by his sinful behavior.

# Zophar

- Zophar bases his arguments upon the false logic that righteous people do something to deserve and God's favor.
- He is the most bold of all of Job's friends. He doesn't appeal to experience, nor the past, but upon what man must do to be righteous. Human merit!
- "For you say, 'My doctrine is pure...' Know then that God exacts of you less than your guilt deserves... If you prepare your heart, you will stretch out your hands toward him. If iniquity is in your hand, put it far away, and let not injustice dwell in your tents. Surely then you will lift up your face without blemish; you will be secure and will not fear."-**Job 11:4,6,13-15**
- Zophar reasons that Job is not righteous because righteous people do not suffer. It is God's will that only the wicked suffer. God is giving Job what he deserves.

# Elihu

- Elihu enters the story and he points out three things:
  1. Job's friends had not answered him correctly but had successfully condemned him.
  2. Elihu points out that Job had been justifying himself before the Lord.
  3. Elihu speaks for God and defends God's actions and character in dealing with man.



- “Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, burned with anger. He burned with anger at Job because he justified himself rather than God. He burned with anger also at Job’s three friends because they had found no answer, although they had declared Job to be in the wrong. ”
- Elihu does not attribute Job’s suffering to anything that Job himself did, but suffering is for revealing the good purpose of the Lord.
- Elihu says, “He delivers the afflicted by their affliction and opens their ear by adversity.”-**Job 36:15**
- Elihu’s words and ministry prepare Job for his encounter with the Lord.

- “Then Job answered the LORD and said: “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me. I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”-Job 42:1-6
- This is the end intended by the Lord, Who turns all the hardship and suffering of Job, into a moment of grace, compassion, and mercy.
- “You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.”-James 5:11

# The Theme Of Job

- The theme of Job is twofold:
  1. How is man just before the Lord?
  2. What is the role of suffering in revealing the purpose of the Lord?
- “Then Job answered and said: “Truly I know that it is so: But how can a man be in the right before God? If one wished to contend with him, one could not answer him once in a thousand times.”-**Job 9:1-3**

# **How Can Man Be Right With God**

- Job proclaims his innocence throughout the discourse between his friends who attempt to connect Job's suffering with sin.
- Job adamantly rejects his friend's advice and questions the justice of God's treatment of him.
- In chapters 27-31, Job defends his righteousness in terms of his religious merit or rather his good works.

- Job points to his former **success** as an example of God's presence on his life.-**Chapter 29**
- Job expresses his disappointment with the **sudden collapse** of his successful empire.-**Chapter 30**
- Job proclaims his **innocence** before God-**Chapter 31**
- Eventually an encounter with God results in Job confessing his sin in humble submission.

## **Job's Confession**

- “In the course of the first of these chapters it will be noted that (in ch. 29.) Job refers to himself no less than forty times ! while the references to Jehovah are no more than five! It is all self. Self-occupation overshadows all. In ch. 29. it is the " I " of his prosperity ; in ch. 30. it is the " I " of his troubles ; in ch. 31. it is the " I " of his self-righteousness. Self is justified and God is condemned.”