

AGE OLD QUESTIONS

JOB 14:14 • TV-212A

A television broadcast sermon delivered
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22TH, 1984

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Transcribed, edited and published
JUNE 14TH, 2018

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Job 14:14

“If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.”

I would like for you to open your Bible with me today, to the **Book of Job**. I am going to be bringing a message that I believe will be of special interest to everyone listening to this telecast.

The title of the message is: **“AGE OLD QUESTIONS.”**

I will be reading from the **Book of Job**. I will be reading from **chapter 14, 15, and chapter 9**.

First; turn in your Bible to the **14th chapter of Job** and let’s read several verses from **chapter 14**, first of all, beginning with **verse 1**:

Job writes, “Man that is born of woman is a few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down. He fleeth as a shadow and continueth not.”

Then, in **verse 10**, Job writes this; *“man dieth and wasteth away. Yea, man giveth up the ghost and where is he?”*

In **verse 14**, he asks this question; *“if a man die, shall he live again?”*

Now, it is said by many, that the **Book of Job** is the oldest Book in the Bible, even older than the book of Genesis or the writings of Moses. I do not know and I cannot prove that.

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Many believe that Job lives somewhere between Abraham and Moses. We are not certain of that; that is what we think that he lived between Abraham and Moses.

We do know this; we know that “*Job believed God.*” We know that Job was called by God Himself, “*an upright man, a man who feared God and who shunned evil.*” That is what God said about Job. He said, “*He fears God and he shuns evil.*”

The point that I wish to make in this message (and the book of Job deals with questions); I call them “age old questions,” questions that have always been asked and questions that are being asked now and questions that will always be asked.

They are questions which all of us need to consider carefully, very carefully, because they are questions about life, about death, about the resurrection, about judgment and about eternity.

These five things vitally affect every one of you. There is not a person listening to my voice today that is not vitally affected by these five things. Job asked questions about life, about death, about the resurrection, about judgment and about eternity.

Let me show you that; then I am going to go back and deal with each one of these separately.

First of all: He asks questions about life.

He says, “*Man that is born of woman, (that’s all of us) is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down. What is your life?*”

Job deals with this; “*what is your life?*” He gives us some vital answers to that question, “*what is your life,*” your life on earth is what we are talking about.

Secondly: Job deals with death.

He said “*If you cut a tree down then there is hope that the tree will sprout again, if enough water falls on it and sunshine. It looks like it is dead. The root of the tree is in the ground and the old, dry, ugly, stump is sticking out. It may be, if it rains on that tree and the sun shines on it that it may sprout again.*”

But, he says this; “*Well, what about man? Man dies and wasteth away. Man goes back to the dust. He gives up the ghost. Where is he?*” Where is he? That is a good question.

Thirdly: He deals with the resurrection.

He says, “*If a man die shall he live again?*”

Fourthly: Then he talks about the judgment.

This is a very interesting topic; he says, *“How can man that is born of a woman be clean in the sight of God?”* How can he be accepted by God? How can he be just with God?

He said, *“The moon shineth not. The stars are not pure in God’s sight. How can man who drinks iniquity like the water, how can he be just with God?”*

The only one who can stand in God’s presence is the person *“with clean hands and a pure heart who hath not lifted up his soul to vanity.”* Job asked that question. In that Day of Judgment *“how can a man be just with God?”*

Fifthly: Then, there is eternity.

He says, *“Can you by searching find out God?”* Where is eternity, where is heaven and where is hell? Where are these places? *“Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?”* Not one! *“Who can understand God? He is higher than the heavens, what can you know? It is deeper than hell; what can you find out?”*

So, if you are interested, if these subjects and questions interest you, then listen to this message and listen to it carefully because the answers to these questions are found in the Word of God. That is where we find the answers to these questions.

The answers are not found in the wisdom of men. The answers are not found in the imagination of man. The answers to these questions concerning life, death, the resurrection, judgment, and eternity are only found in the Word of God.

So, let’s carefully go back one at a time and deal with these subjects and these questions, these age, old, questions which Job asked.

First of all: *“What is your life?”*

I am talking about life right now. I am living and alive right now. I am standing before this camera in the studios of Channel 13. I am alive. What is my life? What is my life here on this earth?

Job describes it. Do you know how he describes it? He says, *“Your life is a flower. It is like a flower that blooms for a little while. It appeareth for a time and it will be cut down.”*

Just as sure as I am alive right now; in a short time my life will be gone. That is as certain as God is on His throne. It is as certain as the sun came up this morning and it is as certain as the moon came up tonight. It is certain.

My life is like a flower. Every time you see a flower, you don’t expect that flower to be there for eternity. You know that flower will soon be withered, dead, and gone. So, you looking at me and me looking at you, I know this; you will soon be gone and I will be gone because life is like a flower.

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Then Job said, *“It is like a shadow.”* There is nothing as frail and fleeting as a shadow. *“Our lives are like shadows that are here for a moment but they continue not.”* They are so fleeting and so frail.

Then he said, *“our lives are like a weaver’s shuttle.”* I know that most of you have never seen a weaver’s shuttle but it is an instrument on which they weave cloth, rugs, or other things. The person operates it with his foot and the weaver’s shuttle would go fast as it placed the threads in the proper place to make the cloth.

Life is like that; every year is like that. It just goes, and goes, and goes. It goes faster, and faster, and the years speed by, the weeks, the months, and so-forth. He says, *“This is the way our lives are; they are like the weaver’s shuttle.”* The months and years pass so quickly.

Then James says this about life. He tells us and asks the question; *“what is your life? It is but a vapor.”*

Most of the writers agree what James is describing there. It is like a cloud of breath on a cold morning. You step out the door and you say something and the breath makes a vapor, just a mist in the air, and in a moment it is gone. That’s life, it is so fleeting, it is so frail.

David said this; *“A man’s days shall be three-score and ten (70 years),* and he urges every one of us to *“number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.”* Life is so fleeting and so frail.

Wise is the person, so wise is the person who lives his life in serious consideration of death. I don’t mean that we are to be morbid and always go around talking about death.

Listen, if you were going to take a journey in a week or a month or even a year, a long journey from which you would never return, you would be making your home at the end of this journey.

You would start preparing for it right now. You would start talking about it and thinking about it. You would be saying, “I am not going to live here in Huntington, Ashland, or Ironton, very much longer; I am moving, I am going away. I’m just here for a little while.”

You wouldn’t plant your roots so deeply, would you, if you knew you were going to leave in a short time?

A life lived without God means death without God. It means judgment without God and it means eternity without God. In **Matthew 6:25**, our Lord said this; *“Therefore, I say unto you; take no thought, (no anxious thought), for your life, what you shall eat, what you shall drink, nor yet for your body, what you shall wear.”*

He says, *“Is not the life;”* He doesn’t say, “Is not life,” He says, *“Is not the life more than meat and the body more than raiment, more than clothing? Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and these other things, (food, clothing, and shelter) will be added to you.”*

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“For what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world,” if he has the biggest house in town, and if he has the most popularity, fame, or he has the strongest body or he has the most children, the best job, or the biggest car?

“What shall it profit a man if he has the most influence in the community, if he gained this whole world, (the fashion of which, fadeth away)? What shall it profit him if he gains this whole world and loses his soul?” That is what I am talking about, loses his soul. What is your life?

There are many people listening to me right now who will never hear me preach again. In fact, you may never hear anybody preach again. There are thousands of people who listen to this television program; I am confident of that. It reaches 120 or 140 miles in every direction.

I get mail from Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky. I know that there are thousands of people listening. Out of that vast number of people, somebody is going to leave here this week or next week.

I just know that, perhaps, the preacher. I’m not just preaching to you; I am preaching to myself. *“What is your life,”* but a flower, so frail, but a vapor, but a shadow, but a weaver’s shuttle?

Secondly: The second question that Job deals with is this: Man dies; man gives up the ghost; where is he?

The Scripture says, *“It is appointed unto men once to die.”* That is an appointment that we are going to keep. The young die and the old die; the rich die and the poor die; the learned die and the ignorant dies; the believer dies and the unbeliever dies; everybody dies.

When will you die? I don’t know and you don’t know but God knows. You will die when it pleases the Lord. I am not being harsh at all; I am just saying what the Bible says; *“the Lord killeth and the Lord maketh alive.”* That is what the Word of God declares.

In **Job 14**, He says; *“man’s days are determined.”* They are determined by whom? They are determined by God. *“The number of his months is with Thee. Thou hast appointed his bounds; he cannot pass.”*

So, man dies. *“He wasteth away.”* Where is he? I will divide that into two questions:

Where is his body? You know where his body is. You put it in the ground out at the cemetery. *“Dust thou art; to dust thou shalt return.”*

We had a son killed in Vietnam, 13 or 14 years ago. I know where his body is. It is out at Rose Hill Cemetery where we buried him, where we put dirt on him. That is where his body is. God made man of the earth and man will return to the earth, to the dust and to the ashes.

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It doesn't matter how you deal with the body. You can cremate it; you can scatter the ashes; you can bury it. You can mummify it and you can do with it what you want to do with it.

You can keep it in your living room waiting on it to rise again. You can do with it what you want to but it is going back to the dust; it is going to rot. Where is the body? It goes back to the dust.

Here is the question; this is what Job is asking; he is not asking where man's body is when he dies; he knows. He is asking, "*Where is the man; where is he?*"

I hear people saying, "Well; man has a soul." I beg your pardon! A man has a body and he is a soul because some day if I were to die right now standing before this camera, the eyes would still be there but they would not see.

The ears would be there but they wouldn't hear. The lungs would be there but they wouldn't breath. The heart would be there but it wouldn't beat. Everything is just like it was. What happened? I am gone; the soul is gone. So, you see; I have a body and I am a soul. The soul lives in the body.

So, where is the man? Man dies and you bury his body. "*Where is he?*" That is what Job is asking. The Lord gave some information on that subject, He said to the thief on the cross; "*today shalt thou be with me in Paradise.*"

When that thief died, they took his body off the tree and buried it. Christ didn't say, "Today your body will be with me in Paradise, He said, "*You will be with me in Paradise.*"

Then, He also said this; "*that Lazarus died.*" Do you remember the rich man, Lazarus, the story that Christ gave? Lazarus awoke in Abraham's bosom. He was borne by the angels into Abraham's bosom. That is the place of comfort, the place of blessing.

Then, Paul wrote in **2nd Corinthians 5:1**; "*If our earthly tent,*" (that is what this body is called, a tent, a tabernacle) because it is so frail, it is so easily blown down, and so easily destroyed and frail. Sometimes we wonder how a harp with so many strings can stay in tune for so long.

It is a frail tent. If it be destroyed, "*We have a building,*" as opposed to a tent. Paul said, "*If this tabernacle, (this tent), be destroyed or die; we have (not another tent, not another frail, dwelling place) but a building, a house not made with hands, (human hands) but eternal, made by God, eternal in the heavens.*"

A tent is temporary; a building is permanent. Paul said this; where is he? "*To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.*"

Now, the body sleeps, awaiting the resurrection but the soul does not sleep. The soul goes to the presence of God, which is the believer. The ungodly, I do not know a great deal about that and no one else does.

I do know that the believer goes to be with the Lord; *“to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.”*

Thirdly: Job said, *“Well; if a man dies, (and he does and he will), shall he live again?”* Will the dead rise? Will there be a resurrection?

Where would you go for an answer to that question? Would you go to some learned philosopher or some religionist? No sir! There is just one place to go and that is to the Word of God, to God’s Word.

Job answered his own question in **Job 19:26**; he said, *“though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh I will see the Lord.”* Job believed in a literal resurrection. He said, *“Whom I shall see for myself and not another.”*

Then, David believed in a literal resurrection. David said, *“Thou will not leave my body in the grave.”* All of the writers wrote of the resurrection. Daniel said, *“Those that sleep in the dust shall rise again.”* Isaiah said, *“Thy dead men shall live together. With my dead body shall they rise.”* Hosea wrote; *“He will raise us up and we shall live in His sight.”*

Our Master said, *“This is the will of God that everyone that seeth the Son and believeth on Him may have everlasting life and I will raise him up at the last day.”* Three times in that one section of Scripture, in **John 6**, our Lord says; *“I will raise him up at the last day.”*

Paul said in **1 Corinthians 15**, which is the great chapter on the resurrection; *“If the dead rise not, how say some among you, there be no resurrection? If the dead rise not then is Christ not raised. And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; you are yet in your sins.”*

We are false witnesses of God. Our preaching is vain and the dead in Christ are perished and *“we are of all men most miserable.”* A whole lot rests on the resurrection, doesn’t it?

God’s Word emphatically teaches the resurrection of the dead. To disbelieve the resurrection is to put a question mark on the Word of God Himself. Of course, there is a resurrection to life eternal and there is a resurrection to eternal condemnation.

There is a first and second resurrection that the Bible talks about. Those who know God and who love God are concerned to have a part in that first resurrection. *“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection.”*

Fourthly: In **Job 9:2**; here I am coming to something of vital importance. We talked about this, *“life; what is your life?”* It is frail and it is fleeting. We are here for the moment.

We talked about death. A man is going to die. *“Man dieth; where is he?”* Then; we talked about a resurrection; there is going to be a resurrection.

The scripture says, *“It is appointed unto men once to die and after that Judgment.”* Let me read you several verses:

“We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.” Then, in Revelation, John talked about the dead being brought out of the grave. *“Death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them and the sea gave up the dead which were in them and all the dead small and great I saw stand before God. And the books were opened and men were judged out of those things written in the book according to their works.”*

Now, that is a fearful, fearful, time. That is a fearful thing to even think about, standing before a holy, perfect, absolute, immaculate, righteous God, with a sin which you and I are born, which we have by nature, practice, and everything else.

That led Job to ask this question; *“Well, at the judgment or anywhere else, how can a man be just with God?”* How can anyone come out of that judgment with any hope at all?

One thing, (now listen to me) the Scripture clearly sets forth; learn this and you will learn the Gospel. One thing that the Scripture clearly sets forth plainly, that is the holiness of God. You cannot compromise the holiness of God and the righteousness of God.

Any preaching or any salvation, or any religion or any hope which compromises the character of God, the holiness of God, and the righteousness of God is not of God. You can be sure of that! *“I am the Lord; I change not.”* God is eternally the same. He is perfectly holy and perfectly just.

Another thing that is clear from the Scriptures and from the conscience is the sinfulness of all men and women. That’s just so; *“there is none good, there is none righteous, and there is none that seeketh after God.”*

This is what caused Job and his friends anxiety and caused them to ask this question; *“then, when we stand before the judgment, how can man be just and holy before God?”* God can’t accept us any other way. *“Two can’t walk together except they be agreed.”*

He can’t open heaven to an unholy person. Heaven is a holy place prepared by a holy God for holy people.

Job says, *“What is man that he should be clean and he that is born of a woman that he should be righteous?”* Behold, God puts no trust in His saints; *“yea, the heavens are not clean in His sight. How much more abominable and filthy is man who drinks iniquity like the water.”*

I’m not holding out any hope for me or you or anybody else at the judgment in us; there is no hope. Listen; *“How can man be just with God?”* How can man be justified with God? *“Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?”*

Now, that question is answered through the Gospel by Jesus Christ and that is my message. In **Galatians 4: 4 and 5**, that is why Christ came into the world, to be the Redeemer, to be the Saviour, to be the justifier, to do for us what we can't do, to do before God what must be done.

Listen to this verse in **Galatians 4: 4 and 5**; *“But, when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law. By the disobedience of one we were made sinners. By the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”*

You see; *“He who knew no sin was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”* So, God can be just and holy. He can sit on an immaculate throne and not compromise His holiness, justice, and righteousness, and He can set us free.

Why; because in Christ we have holiness? In Christ we have righteousness. In Christ the law is honored. In Christ justice is satisfied. Do you see what I am saying?

I'm talking about substitution. That is what Christ accomplished, substitution and satisfaction. He took our place.

You see, you need to learn something about the active and passive obedience of Christ. Christ was a representative person. He came to the earth not to do anything for Himself but to do something for those whom He represented.

His active obedience is when He met the law actively and obeyed it. *“He was tempted in all points as we are.”* He was born of a woman just as we are, under the law of the home, under the law of the nation in which He lived.

He was under God's Levitical law of types and shadows. He was under God's moral law. In all of those laws, He never offended God. God said, *“This is my Son in whom I am well pleased.”*

Even Pilate said, *“I find no fault in Him.”* He is perfect. The Centurian said, *“Surely this is a righteous man.”* He was a representative person and His active obedience fulfilled all that God's Law required.

In His passive obedience He gave Himself to those that smite the cheek. He gave Himself to those who pierced His hands. He gave Himself to those who nailed Him to a tree. *“He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,”* not speaking, opening not His mouth.

This is passive obedience. He surrendered to the wrath, condemnation, and judgment of God, which was rightfully ours. When He said, *“it's finished,”* it was all over.

People who believe on Him and who receive Him, when they come before God at judgment, they have no law to answer for, it has been satisfied. They have no judgment against them.

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“Who can lay anything to the charge of God’s elect; it is God that justifieth. Who is He that condemneth? Paul said; Christ died, was buried, rose again, and intercedes for us.”

So, there is the answer to the question; *“how can God be just and justify the ungodly?”* It is done through Christ. *“How can he be clean that is born of a woman?”* It is in Christ. *“How can a man be just in the sight of God?”* It is in Christ.

I have another question here; *“Can you by searching find out God?”* No, but He can be revealed to you by the Spirit and through His Word.