

Job

How Do We Know What We Think We Know? Sunday School Lesson #01

I. UNDERSTANDING THE FOUNDATIONAL BASICS (JOB CHAPTER ONE)

A. Job — (Hostile to; the Enemy; Repentant One, or No meaning at all)

1. Patriarchal Period

a) Near the time of Abraham



b) Post Flood and possibly during Shem's lifetime

c) Location unknown but possibly near

- 1) Ancient Aram northeast of the Sea of Galilee
- 2) East of the Sea of Galilee



- d) Cultured civilization
- 1) Job highly refined poetical book
 - 2) Philosophy (science) advanced in his time and well known to the participants and the readers
 - 3) Strong evidence that Abram gave the Egyptians the mathematical knowledge needed to perfect their construction of the Great Pyramid(s) [Ashton, J & Down, D. *Unwrapping the Pharaohs: How Egyptian Archaeology Confirms the Biblical Timeline*. Master Books. 2006. Green Forest, AR. pp. 36-37.]
2. Philosophical Book
- a) Discussion who causes “bad” to happen
 - b) Debates how God works with men
 - c) Does not struggle to understand Satan’s role

- d) Does not discuss belief versus unbelief in God but does discuss man's various views of how to understand the *truth* of God

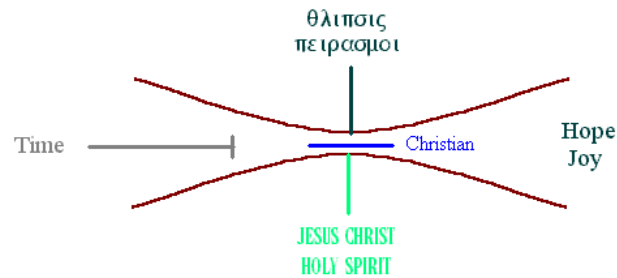
3. This book provides rare glimpse of spiritual reality

- a) We must understand the limitations of man's understanding
 - 1) Metaphysical — That which lies beyond the physical senses and therefore is beyond the realm of science
 - 2) Empirical — That which can be detected via the five senses which is the realm of today's science
 - 3) Man's attempts to measure the metaphysical with machines
- b) We read the "why" of Job's troubles
- c) We discover a relationship between God and Satan not revealed elsewhere
- d) We learn what Job is not shown about "why" the troubles came upon him

B. Job — His family

- 1. Job's Children
 - a) Adult children who were kind to each other
 - b) Children who do not appear to have a relationship directly with God
 - c) Children who appear to do no work
- 2. Job's Wife
 - a) She has only one sentence
 - b) Forgotten is her grief over the loss of her
 - 1) Children
 - 2) Home and lifestyle
 - 3) Health of her husband

C. Hagiazo Process



1. This is the process whereby God develops godliness in His people and is described (Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-4; and 2 Peter 1:5-8)
 - a) These first two belong to the providence of God
 - b) The last is our responsibility
2. Examples of this at work
 - a) Job — Purpose of our study is to understand this process
 - b) Satan asked to sift (grind) Peter as wheat (Luke 22:31-32)
 - 1) Christ told Peter He had prayed for Peter that his faith not fail
 - 2) Peter's strength failed in the denial of Jesus three times
 - 3) Peter left and it took Christ to call him back into the fold
 - c) Paul was given a messenger of Satan in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
 - 1) God allowed this after Paul's glimpse of Heaven
 - 2) Reminded Paul that his flesh was weak
 - 3) By being "weak", he knew he had to rely exclusively on Jesus to accomplish anything in life

3. This process, see illustration, is designed to display our weaknesses to us, most people around us can usually see what we are trying to hide, so that we do not remain in sinful pride
4. I believe that we will not be rewarded for anything we do in our strength but only what the Holy Spirit is able to do through us (1 Corinthians 1:26-29; 7-15; Revelations 4:10-11)

D. Meditations

1. Was Job “saved” or was he simply religious?
2. Did Job’s wife lack faith or was she more honest in her response?
3. Was the death of Job’s children unjust?
4. How do we *know* when God is
 - a) Moving in our lives
 - b) Answering our prayers
5. How often do we mistakenly give praise to God for what Satan has done, or vice versa?