

Job

How Do We Know What We Think We Know?

Sunday School Lesson #04

- I. ELIPHAZ — METAPHYSICAL TRUTH (JOB CHAPTER FOUR AND FIVE)
 - A. Eliphaz (God is fine gold or God is a crushing strength) becomes a mirror showing us Job’s worldview when he was prosperous, when he was insulated (protected by God) from the “troubles” of the world
 1. Job was well known for helping those in need with words and possibly with material possessions; yet, there is a hint of help without compassion
 2. Eliphaz is accusing Job of not following his own advice now that trouble has come to him
 - a) Eliphaz states that trouble has come to him and Job is without endurance; that is, he cannot follow his own advice that he gave so often to others
 - b) He accuses Job of being overwhelmed because of his trouble thereby accusing him of lacking faith in God
 3. Now comes the essence of Job’s worldview which is also the very common in today’s American Christian worldview
 - a) God does not punish the innocent so if trouble came to Job he must be guilty of sinning against God, Job is reaping what he sowed over the years
 - b) Eliphaz believes, as Job must have, that God gives tit for tat to the wicked
 - B. Eliphaz justifies his belief by a metaphysical experience that he credits to God
 1. Eliphaz had a visitation from a spirit that was little more than a whisper, a mist, that made him afraid
 - a) The spirit does not claim to be from God so he, and we, cannot determine the truth of the message, the spirit could just as easily have been from Satan deceiving Eliphaz into believing a lie doubting the mercy and compassion of God
 - b) The spirit’s message says that before God man cannot be
 - 1) Righteous
 - 2) Pure
 - c) The spirit charges that God
 - 1) Does not trust His servants (Who would these be?)

- 2) Finds error with His angels (There is no record of God ever finding fault with an angel but Satan and those who followed him into sin)
2. The moral of the message is that God
 - a) Crushes those men whom He finds unrighteous, impure
 - b) Causes them to perish forever, that there is no hope of salvation or even of wisdom, a knowledge of the truth of God
 - c) Beats mankind to pieces because they are so insignificant that when they die, no one cares
3. This “justification” is a religion of works that leaves no hope for those who are not blessed of God
 - a) Who found favor in God’s sight because of their better morality
 - b) Who live in fear of being found in sin by God without any hope of mercy
- C. Eliphaz says he has power with God to curse evil people, to see them and their children perish; yet, how can this be if God finds fault with His angels and considers man so insignificant that He “beats” them down continually?
 1. The religious always think they are special and outside of God’s judgment because of their own innate goodness
 2. Eliphaz violates the Law of Non-Contradiction since he is of the race of man and has offered no reason why he should have this influence with God (Romans 2:1-3)
 - a) He is standing in judgment of others
 - b) He does not see, and judge, his own sin
 - c) He believes he is escaping God’s judgment but actually he is accruing greater condemnation for himself
 3. He ends this segment by saying that
 - a) Trouble is not random or accidental but from God
 - b) Trouble comes because of sin against God
 - c) Man is responsible for his trouble
 4. Eliphaz’s worldview has no explanation for the “good” that occurs except for the “special” people “loved” of God (which are few and far between according to his belief)
- D. Having laid this foundation, he tells Job
 1. To seek God Who will listen to his cause (Why will God listen to him who lives in bodies of clay?)
 - a) If Job’s cause is just then God will bless him

- b) God only punishes those who are deceitful so don't try to trick Him
 - c) God will have mercy on the needy and the poor, giving them hope
2. What he really thinks the source of Job's trouble is — Job's unconfessed sinfulness
- a) Job is being punished, disciplined, so that God can heal him when he comes to repentance
 - b) Once Job repents then God will bless him
 - 1) Job will once again be without fear (strong in the flesh), protected from the ills of the world
 - 2) His home and possessions will be protected
 - 3) His children and descendants will be numerous
 - 4) He shall die in peace at an old age
3. Eliphaz has searched this out and knows it to be true so he tells Job for his own good how to "fix" the situation
- a) He does not say that he has prayed to God for his "god" (of gold and strength) would not listen to him
 - b) The basis for "his" truth is a vague "spiritual" experience that left him fearful
- E. Are you like Eliphaz?
- 1. How often do you look at history and give explanation for how God worked based solely on your experience?
 - 2. How often do you hand out "godly" advice based on your own understanding just because you *know* what it good for the recipient?
 - 3. Is your worldview inconsistent with Scripture and with itself?
 - 4. Do you really consider how little absolute knowledge you truly have to guide yourself, let alone anyone else?