JOB 25-28

REVIEW…

- TESTING

  Satan
  Lord
  to
  - But
  either
  with
- The

  began

  Job
  his
  - Job

  of
  - He

  who

  was
  was
  was
  the
  - And
  judge
  least

  Hebrew

  based

Job…
- TWICE

came before the
– and demanded
TEST Job…
Job did NOT sin –
in his ACTIONS or
his WORDS!
THIRD round…
- Having been

accused of
HIDDEN sin by all
THREE of his
friends…
- Eliphaz

the THIRD and
FINAL round of
ACCUSATIONS –
had no LIMIT to
sins!
was DONE with his
FRIENDS – TIRED
their arguments…
wanted to stand
before the Lord –
could be reasoned
with…
- Because it

plain to see – Job
NOT wicked – he
being refined by
Lord…
God does NOT
the WICKED [at
in this life]!
- REMINDER:

POETRY…
- Hebrew

POETRY does not
attempt to RHYME
words – it is not
on similar
sounds…

- Hebrew POETRY is formed by the COMPARING or CONTRASTING ideas!

Looking for Wisdom… (4 points) READ THE VERSES WITH THE TEACHING

- **1st – Bildad THIRD response – Chapter 25**
  - 1st – Bildad replied… vs. 1
    - The SECOND section of Job – Chapters 3-37 – the Wisdom of Men…
    - Broken up into THREE rounds of debate – between Job and his THREE friends…
    - This is the THIRD and FINAL response of BILDAD…
    - Since Zophar did NOT give a THIRD response – this is the FINAL response of the THREE friends!
  - 2nd – Who can be RIGHTEOUS… vs. 2-6
    - God is POWERFUL… vs. 2-3
      - Dominion and Fear belong to Him - He enforces peace in the heavens…
      - Who is able to count his heavenly army - His light shine on all the earth!
      - Bildad begins his final SHORT speech by emphasizing the POWER of God…
      - God RULES [dominion] and everyone should FEAR Him…
      - Because He has a BIG army – who can number the ANGELS who serve Him!
      - We do NOT know how many ANGELS – but they are INNUMERABLE – **Hebrews 12:22**
    - God is RIGHTEOUS… vs. 4-6
      - How can a man be RIGHTEOUS [צָדַק] before God - can anyone born of a woman be pure…
      - Even the moon does not shine or the stars in His sight…
      - In comparison - people are maggots - we mortals are mere worms!
      - Bildad argues NO one can be RIGHTEOUS – even the moon and stars do not shine before Him!
      - We are just maggots [picture of filth] – we are mere WORMS [תּוֹלָע] …
      - The Hebrew word for WORM [תּוֹלָע] a small worm used to create red dye!
      - An unusual worm - in order to give life - it attached itself to a wooden tree...
      - Dies as it gives birth – stains the wood and its young in a red dye that marks them for life…
      - After its death the red stain - becomes white as snow and falls off the tree!
      - Jesus allowed Himself to be nailed to a tree - stained it with His blood...
      - In order to give us new life - marking us as His children forever!
      - After His death - He took the red stain of our sin - and made it white as snow!
      - **Isaiah 1:18** - "Come now let us reason together... no matter how deep the stain of your sins - I can remove it... Even if you are stained as red as crimson [תּוֹלָע] I can make you as white as wool."
      - There is no other way to be RIGHTEOUS – only through the death of Jesus...
      - On our own we CANNOT be INNOCENT before God - we cannot make ourselves clean...
      - Only Jesus can take away the stain of our sin - washed in the blood of Christ!
- **2nd – God is GREAT – Chapter 26**
  - 1st – Job MOCKS… vs. 1-4
    - The NINTH and FINAL speech - Then Job spoke again…
      - The NINTH and FINAL speech of Job lasts for SIX chapters [we will look at just THREE today]
      - He will begin by comparing the WISDOM of his THREE friends – to the WISDOM of God!
    - Extreme SARCASM…
      - How you have helped the powerless! How you have saved the weak!

- How you have enlightened my stupidity! What wise advice you have offered!
- Where have you gotten all these wise sayings - whose spirit speaks through you!
- Where I grew up SARCASM was our FIRST language – I learned it before ENGLISH…
- But the word SARCASM – comes from the GREEK word meaning to TEAR FLESH!
- We need to be very careful what comes out of our mouth...
- When we use sarcasm - trying to be funny - but instead cutting those we love...
- When we blurt out things in anger - things we wish we had not said...
- You have heard the old saying - if you have nothing good to say - say nothing!
- **James 3:5** – "The tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do…"

2nd – The POWER of God… vs. 5-14

- Incredible EXAMPLES…
  - As Job describes the POWER of God – he will use POETIC examples…
  - But the EXAMPLES he uses are INCREDIBLE – both in accuracy and insight…
  - He had revelations concerning things that were not common knowledge till millennia later!
- Power over DEATH… vs. 5-6
  - The dead tremble [imperfect] - those who live beneath the waters…
  - The dead TREMBLE – continually – meaning they still have EMOTIONS!
  - They FEAR because they KNOW the judgment of the Lord is coming – **Revelation 20:11**
  - The grave [שְׁאוֹל] is naked in His presence - the place of destruction [אֲבַדּוֹן] is uncovered!
  - In the OT there was no distinction between HEAVEN and HELL…
  - It was just the GRAVE [שְׁאוֹל] – but here we are told WHO will also end up there…
  - [אֲבַדּוֹן] – the angel who is the king over the bottomless pit – **Revelation 9:11**
  - It is not just men who FEAR the Lord – so do the fallen ANGELS – satan…
  - Because they know they also will be JUDGED on day – **Matthew 25:41**
- Power over LIFE… vs. 7-13
  - God stretches the northern sky over empty space and hangs the earth on NOTHING…
    - STOP – take a moment to acknowledge this - written 4000 years ago!
    - Contemporaries of the time were teaching the earth sat on the back of a TURTLE!
    - Here Job states what would not be common knowledge for over another 3500 years…
    - The EARTH hangs on NOTHING – it is floating in space!
  - He wraps the rain in his thick clouds - and the clouds do NOT burst with the weight…
    - He covers the face of His throne [heavens] - shrouding it with His clouds!
    - Another remarkable insight – we know WATER is heavy – ONE kilo per liter…
    - We also see how THICK clouds can pour out a LOT of water!
    - One kilometer of CLOUD – can weigh as much as 500k kilos – but it FLOATS…
    - Because God created a RAIN cycle that keeps the earth evenly watered!
  - He created the horizon when He separated the waters - set boundary between day and night…
    - Going back to the creation – when God separated the waters – **Genesis 1:7**
    - On day two God SEPARATED the waters on the earth – water above and water below…
    - The water below no doubt refers to oceans - before there was land…
    - There was a layer of water above the atmosphere - high up in the sky!
  - The foundations of heaven tremble - they shudder at His rebuke…
    - By His power the sea grew calm - by His understanding He crushed the PROUD…
    - His Spirit made the heavens beautiful – pierced His hand – and the serpent fled!

- This seems to be a reference to the Adam and Eve – **Genesis 3:1**
- Where they were DECEIVED by the SERPENT [נָחָשׁ] – reference to satan – **Revelation 12:9**
- Who in PRIDE tried to DESTROY the crowning achievement of the creation – mankind…
- And when sin entered the world – it SHOOK the foundations of what God had built…
- But God pierced [poel] the hand – Jesus on the CROSS – and satan had to FLEE!
- **Genesis 3:15** – "[The seed of the woman] shall bruise your head - you shall bruise His heel."
- In light of the first sin – God gave His plan for salvation…
- One man sinned brought all of us under the curse of sin…
- But through one man - Jesus - God showed Grace and gave forgiveness of sin!

▪ Just a WISPER… vs. 14

- These are just the beginning of all that He does - merely a whisper of His power…
- Who then can comprehend the thunder of his power!
- God has NO limits – NOTHING is impossible for Him – **Luke 1:37**
- If we every have any doubts – like Job – just look at creation…
- All of creation POINT to the POWER of our AMAZING God…
- But as amazing as creation is – it is ONLY a WISPER of what God can do!
- Therefore we NEVER need to doubt – no matter what the challenge…
- God is MORE than able to PROVIDE – HEAL – RESTORE – God has NO limits!

- **2ND – I AM INNOCENT – Chapter 27**
  - 1st – The VOW of Job… vs. 1-7

▪ Job continued speaking - I VOW by the living God who has taken away my rights…

- By the Almighty who has embittered my soul…
- As long as I live - while I have breath from God…
- My lips will speak no evil - and my tongue will speak no lies…
- I will never concede that you are right - I will defend my integrity until I die!
- I will maintain my innocence without wavering - my conscience is clear for as long as I live!
- May my enemy be punished like the wicked - my adversary like those who do evil!

▪ As God Lives…

- [חַי־אֵל] – a common VOW made in the OT often with the phrase - as the LORD lives…
- The idea as just as SURE as GOD is alive – just as sure I will also keep my VOW!
- The VOW of Job to his friends - he will NEVER admit they are right…
- He will defend his INTEGRITY / INNOCENCE for as long as he lives!
- Men will often attempt to reinforce their word by making a VOW…
- I swear by God in heaven that what I am saying is true!
- **Matthew 5:33-37 –** "I say to you do not swear at all… let your yes be yes, and your no, no…"
- We are NOT to take VOWS as believers – it suggests WE will keep our word…
- We are to be men and women of our word - our yes be yes /and out no – no…
- But not because we made a VOW – it is the result of Jesus working through us!

  - 2nd – No hope for the Godless… vs. 8-11

▪ No one to call on… vs. 8-11

- What is the hope of the hypocrite - though he may gain much - if God takes away his life…
- Will God listen to their cry when trouble comes [imperfect] upon them…
- Can they take delight in the Almighty - can they call to God at any time…
- I will teach you about His power - I will not conceal anything concerning the Almighty!

- HYPOCRITE – recall that in the OT the word means to NOT believe in God…
  - What HOPE does that person have – even if he is RICH – when life ends…
  - Will God listen to their cries – the context would be when they are in hell…
  - Can they take DELIGHT in God in Hell – can they call on Him from there!
  - **Mark 8:36** – "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul."
  - God does not just give us one chance – He give us a lifetime of chances!
  - But the moment we DIE our fate is sealed - there are no second chances...
  - Either we have received Jesus and have the hope of eternity with God...
  - Or we have rejected the Gospel - and have sentenced ourselves to eternity in hell!
  - **Hebrews 9:27** - "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment..."

- 3rd – The reward of the WICKED… vs. 12-23
  - What you already KNOW… vs. 12
    - You have seen all this - yet you say all these useless things to me!
    - Job will reiterate what has ALREADY been told to him by the THREE friends…
    - He is NOT debating the FATE of the WICKED – he AGREES with them…
    - What he finds USELESS – is their baseless accusation that HE is WICKED!
  - The CHILDREN of the WICKED… vs. 13-15
    - This is what the wicked will receive from God - this is their inheritance from the Almighty…
    - If they have many children - the children will die in war or starve to death…
    - Those who survive will die of a plague - and not even their widows will mourn them!
    - A recent STUDY in Phycology today – children of RICH parents are more distressed…
    - Disturbingly high rates of substance use / depression / anxiety / cheating / and stealing!
    - We ASSUME that the best things PARENTS can give to their KIDS is MONEY…
    - But it turns out more MONEY – seems to just lead to MORE problems!
    - The BEST thing PARENTS can give to their KIDS is just JESUS!
  - The WEALTH of the WICKED… vs. 16-19
    - Evil people may have piles of money and may store away mounds of clothing…
    - But the righteous will wear that clothing - and the innocent will divide that money…
    - The wicked build houses as fragile as a spider web - as flimsy as a shelter made of branches…
    - The wicked go to bed rich but wake to find that all their wealth is gone!
    - You might be familiar with BITCOIN – if you bought one in 2015 it cost P10k…
    - If you sold that same BITCOIN last month – it was worth P2.5m!
    - But as of today – it has lost more than ½ of its VALUE – money comes money goes!
    - Money is NOT something we should put our trust in…
    - Money can disappear as quickly as it comes – only the Lord is an unchanging ROCK!
    - **Proverbs 11:28** – "Trust in your money and down you go! But the godly flourish like leaves in spring."
  - The END of the WICKED… vs. 20-23
    - Terror overwhelms them like a flood - and they are blown away in the storms of the night…
    - The east wind carries them away and they are gone - it sweeps them away…
    - It whirls down on them without mercy - they struggle to flee from its power…
    - But everyone jeers at them and mocks them!
    - The bottom line – the WICKED will be judged in the end…
    - Their lives will be swept away – and NO ONE will be able to save them from the Lord!
    - This is almost exactly what the THREE friend of Job had been saying all along…

- Job AGREED – but they lacked WISDOM – to SEE this is NOT what happened to Job!

- **4TH – LOOKING FOR WISDOM – Chapter 28**
  - 1st – Mining for treasure… vs. 1-11
    - People know where to mine silver and how to refine gold…
    - They know where to dig iron from the earth and how to smelt copper from rock…
    - They know how to shine light in the darkness and explore the farthest regions of the earth…
    - They sink a mine shaft into the earth far from where anyone lives…
    - They descend on ropes - swinging back and forth…
    - Food is grown on the earth above - but down below - the earth is melted as by fire…
    - Here the rocks contain precious lapis lazuli - and the dust contains gold…
    - These are treasures no bird of prey can see - no falcon can observe…
    - No wild animal has walked upon these treasures - no lion has ever set his paw there…
    - People know how to tear apart flinty rocks and overturn the roots of mountains…
    - They cut tunnels in the rocks and uncover precious stones…
    - They dam up the trickling streams and bring to light the hidden treasures!
    - Job breaks out into a POETIC illustration of the effort men take to MINE treasure…
    - They will DIG mine shafts – shine light into DARK caves – create DAMS…
    - All because they KNOW that is the ONLY place to find hidden TREASURE!
    - Times have NOT changed – we still go to incredible lengths to MINE treasure…
    - The Mponeng gold mine in South Africa extends FOUR kilometers underground…
    - They remove an average of 5000+ tons of rock EVERY day in search of GOLD!
  - 2nd – Mining for WISDOM… vs. 12-22
    - WISDOM cannot be found on earth… vs. 12-13
      - But do people know where to find wisdom - where can they find understanding…
      - No one knows where to find it - for it is not found among the living…
      - It is not here - says the ocean – nor is it here – says the sea!
      - Here is the CONTRAST – people KNOW where to find TREASURE…
      - And they are willing to go to EXTRAORDINARY lengths to UNCOVER it…
      - But where can we find WISDOM – no one KNOWS – it is NOT found among the LIVING!
      - I lot of people today think they can SEARCH for WISDOM…
      - One of the greatest inventions of the past 20 years has been Google search…
      - Interesting side note – Google is named after the numerical notation GOOGOL…
      - 10^100 – that is 10 with 100 zeroes after it – more than the atoms in the universe!
      - The idea being if we have ANY question we can ask Google and get an answer!

- But KNOWLEDGE and WISDOM are NOT the same – WISDOM comes with experience!
- KNOWLEDGE says fire is hot – WISDOM says it is a good idea NOT to touch it!

- WISDOM cannot be bought… vs. 14-19
  - It cannot be bought with gold - it cannot be purchased with silver…
  - It is worth more than all the gold of Ophir - greater than precious onyx or lapis lazuli…
  - Wisdom is more valuable than gold and crystal…
  - It cannot be purchased with jewels mounted in fine gold…
  - Coral and jasper are worthless in trying to get it - the price of wisdom is far above rubies…
  - Precious peridot from Ethiopia cannot be exchanged for it - worth more than the purest gold!
  - The common convention today is – if you want to be WISE then PAY to go to college…
  - Yet more often than not today – universities are turning out fools!
  - Because they are not teaching the Bible / about the consequences of sin...
  - Instead the students are told there is no right or wrong - it is all relative...
  - There is no sin - as long as you think it is ok - it is good!
  - **Judges 21:25** - "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
  - Do not mistake knowledge for wisdom – universities might give LOTS of knowledge…
  - But the knowledge of men – if we listen – can blind us to our need for Jesus…
  - That is not wisdom – that is foolishness – because it keeps us from God!
- People do not know where to find WISDOM… vs. 20-22
  - But do people know where to find wisdom - where can they find understanding…
  - It is hidden from the eyes of all humanity – sharp eyed birds in the sky cannot discover it…
  - Destruction and Death say – We have heard only rumors of where wisdom can be found!
  - If WISDOM cannot be FOUND – on google and the internet…
  - And WISDOM cannot be BOUGHT – by getting a good education from a university…
  - Then where can we find WISDOM – even DEATH does not seem to KNOW!

- 3rd - The Fear of the Lord… vs. 23-26
  - Source of WISDOM…
    - God alone understands the way to wisdom - He knows where it can be found…
    - For he looks throughout the whole earth - and sees everything under the heavens…
    - He decided how hard the winds should blow and how much rain should fall…
    - He made the laws for the rain and laid out a path for the lightning…
    - Then He saw wisdom and evaluated it - He set it in place and examined it thoroughly…
    - [אֱלֹהִים] – THIRD and final time this is used by Job - KNOWS where to FIND WISDOM…
    - God has WISDOM – because He SEES everything – He KNOWS more than google!
    - God has WISDOM – because He CREATED everything…
    - Not only does He KNOW how hard the wind should blow – how much rain should fall…
    - He is the ONE who created the LAWS that guide ALL WEATHER around the world!
  - What does the Lord says…
    - And this is what He says to all humanity - the fear of the Lord is true wisdom…
    - To forsake evil is real understanding!
    - FEAR the Lord [אֲדֹנָי] – this is the ONLY time this title is used in the book of Job…
    - There are several names used in the Old Testament for God…
    - [אֵל] – translated God – is the name god [most common word for God in Job]
    - [אֱלֹהִים] - Elohim [the plural of El] – God – 2606x in OT – refers to His NATURE…
    - [יְהוָה] - YHVH – LORD – 6,519x in OT - refers to His CHARACTER…
    - [אֲדֹנָי] - Adonai – Lord – used over 434x in OT - refers to His AUTHORITY!

- Much of the world today scoffs at the Bible – because they do not fear the Lord…
- They do not fear the judgment seat – they do not fear the Lake of fire…
- Yet God is the Lord – He is the one in AUTHORITY – He will be the one to JUDGE…
- And there are only two kinds of people when it comes to the Lord...
- Wise sinners who FEARED Him and saw their need for Jesus - and those who did not…
- For those who reject Jesus - all that waits them is certain and terrifying judgment!
- **Psalm 111:10** – "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom…"