Job 22-24

Review…

- TESTING
  - Satan
  - Lord
  - to
  - But
  - either
  - with
- The
  - began
  - Job
  - called
  - is
  - – but
  - Job
  - Hebrew
  - based

Job…
- TWICE

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

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

a second round of
ACCUSATIONS –
was WICKED…
- Bildad

Job WICKED – that
why he has been
JUDGED…
- Zophar

added – the
WICKED might
prosper for a time
their END was
sure…
countered – his
complaint was
against God –
because He let the
WICKED prosper!

- 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!

WHERE IS GOD… (3 POINTS) READ THE VERSES WITH THE TEACHING

- **1st – ELIPHAZ THIRD RESPONSE – Chapter 22**
  - 1st – Job was WICKED… vs. 1-5
    - Then Eliphaz the Temanite 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…
      - After each FRIEND gives their OPINION – Job will respond and defend himself…
      - This THIRD response of Eliphaz - begins the FINAL round of the DEBATES!
    - No limit to SIN… vs. 2-5
      - Can a person do anything to help God - can even a wise person be helpful to Him…
      - Is it any advantage to the Almighty if you are righteous…
      - Would it be any gain to Him if you were perfect…
      - Is it because of your fear of Him that He corrects you and brings judgment against you…
      - No – it is because of your wickedness! There is no limit to your sins!
      - Job through his first SEVEN speeches – continually insisted he was RIGHTEOUS…
      - Eliphaz counters – so the JUDGMENT of God – was the result of the RIGHTEOUSNESS of Job!
      - That did not make ANY sense – NO – God JUDGED Job because he was WICKED…
      - Based on how SEVERE the JUDGEMENT had been - WEALTH – CHILDREN – HEALTH…
      - There must be no LIMIT to just how much SIN was in his life!
  - 2nd – The SINS of Job… vs. 6-18
    - Examples of SIN… 6-10
      - For example - you must have lent money to your friend and demanded clothing as security…
      - You must have refused water for the thirsty and food for the hungry…
      - You probably think the land belongs to the powerful and only the privileged have a right to it!
      - You must have sent widows away empty handed - and crushed the hopes of orphans!
      - That is why you are surrounded by traps and tremble [piel] from sudden fears…
      - That is why you cannot see in the darkness - and waves of water cover you!
      - The reason why Job SUFFERED – and could not see the TRUTH – was his assumed SINS!
      - Eliphaz manages to produce a horrifying list – he presumed Job to be GUILTY of…
      - It is a list – that if TRUE – would be worthy of JUDGEMENT – **Matthew 25:45-46**
      - But it was NOT true – Eliphaz ASSUMED Job MUST have done this to deserve his JUDGMENT!
      - We need to be VERY careful not to ASSUME things about others…
      - When we hear part of a STORY – do not FILL in the blanks with a best guess…
      - Assumptions are like bombs – one mistake and they can blow up on us!
      - If we are not careful - we can end up doing and saying things we will regret!
    - Blindness from SIN… vs. 12-14
      - God is so great - higher than the heavens - higher than the farthest stars…
      - But you ALWAYS reply [prefect] – that is why God cannot see what I am doing!
      - How can He judge through the thick darkness - for thick clouds swirl about Him…
      - He cannot see us - He is way up there walking on the vault of heaven.
      - There are likely many people who do believe this – God is GREAT – but God is FAR…
      - No doubt God is too busy with BIGGER problems – than to see what I am doing!
      - **Hebrews 4:13** – "There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

- Nothing is HIDDEN from the Lord – and one day we will have to answer for EVERYTHING…
- Unless we come to Jesus – who paid the price for our sin for us – **II Corinthians 5:21**

▪ Evil paths… vs. 15-18

- Will you continue on the OLD paths where evil people have walked…
- They were snatched away in the prime of life - the foundations swept away by a FLOOD…
- For they said to God - leave us alone - what can the Almighty do to us…
- Yet He was the one who filled their homes with good things…
- So I will have nothing to do with the counsel of the WICKED!
- Eliphaz connects the PATH he ASSUMED Job was on – to the days of NOAH…
- A time when the earth was filled with wickedness – **Genesis 6:5**
- When men wanted NOTHING to do with the Lord – eating / drinking – **Luke 17:27**
- Till the day came when God sent the FLOOD and swept them all away!
- The point - God does NOT leave us alone – He will JUDGE sin…
- God was willing to wipe out all life – with the exception of one BOAT – because of SIN!
- The evidence of the FLOOD – the JUDGEMENT of God is all around – fossils / oceans…
- Our world is a one giant testimony to the JUDGEMENT of God!
- Yet ironically men have tried to use that same evidence to disprove God…
- Say that fossils are proof of EVOLUTION – rather than the JUDGMENT of our creator!
- Because they think God cannot see – they want God to leave them alone…
- So they choose to use the evidence of JUDGEMENT – as an excuse to FORGET about God!
- **II Peter 3:5-6** - "For this they willfully forget… the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water."

○ 3rd – The hope of the Righteous… vs. 19-30

▪ The Joy of the Righteous… vs. 19-20

- Righteous will be happy to see the wicked destroyed - the innocent will laugh in contempt…
- They will say - see how our enemies have been destroyed – consumed in the fire!
- This is FAR from the TRUTH – the heart of God breaks for every LOST sinner – **II Peter 3:9**
- God loves us so much He sent Jesus to die for us – **John 3:16**
- We who have been SAVED – should also then have a heart for those who are still LOST!

▪ Submit to God… vs. 21-25

- Submit [imperative] to God - and you will have peace - then things will go well for you…
- Listen [imperative] to His LAW [תּוֹרָה] - and store His WORDS in your heart…
- If you return to the Almighty - you will be restored - so clean up your life…
- If you give up your lust for money and throw your precious gold into the river…
- The Almighty himself will be your treasure - He will be your precious silver!
- The ASSUMPTION here – is Job loved MONEY – so he threw away GOD…
- If Job instead would LOVE the WORD [תּוֹרָה] – he would throw away his MONEY…
- He would CLEAN up his life – and God would become his TREASURE!
- **Matthew 6:24** - "No one can serve two masters..."
- We all have to make a CHOICE – we cannot serve two masters…
- Trying to love this world – MONEY - is in essence rejecting Jesus...
- Ultimately the only reason someone rejects Jesus Christ...
- Is because there is something else that they LOVE more than God in their life!
- **James 4:4** – "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

▪ Restored to God… vs. 26-30

- Then you will take delight in the Almighty and look up to God…
- You will pray to Him - and He will hear you - and you will fulfill your vows to Him…
- You will succeed in whatever you choose to do - light will shine on the road ahead of you…
- If people are in trouble and you say - help them - God will save them…
- Even sinners will be rescued - they will be rescued because your hands are pure!
- The conclusion of Eliphaz final argument – he will NOT speak again…
- REPENT – not just so the Lord would hear him again – give him success again…
- But so that the life of Job would become a blessing to others!
- Which while all TRUE – was based on the false ASSUMPTION – of SIN in the life of Job!
- **Job 42:7** – "The LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right."

- **2ND - BITTER COMPLAINT – Chapter 23**
  - 1st – The EIGHTH speech… vs. 1-2
    - Then Job spoke again:
    - My complaint today is still a bitter one – but I my hand is HEAVY from all my groaning!
    - Job was DONE arguing with his FRIENDS – he was BITTER because of what had gone through…
    - But he was TIRED [heavy] of all the back and forth arguments!
  - 2nd – Where is God… vs. 3-9
    - Day in court… vs. 3-5
      - If only I knew where to find God - I would go to His court…
      - I would lay out my case - and present my arguments…
      - I would REALLY [cohortative] know His reply - and REALLY understand what He says to me!
      - The FRIENDS of Job had a LOT of ideas about God…
      - But just because MEN say something is TRUE about the Lord – does not mean that it is…
      - The best way to KNOW what God says – is to ask GOD!
      - You have no idea what is in my heart - I do not know what is in yours...
      - The only one who knows for sure what is in your heart - is you!
      - In the same way - no one knows the heart of God - except for the Spirit of God!
      - **I Corinthians 2:11** – "No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God."
      - There is no way we could understand the mystery of Gospel on our own...
      - There is no way we could envision the incredible riches God has planned for us...
      - But the Holy Spirit can - and He then opens up our understanding - so we can too!
      - He is our teacher - He is the one who reveals the 'deep things' of God to us!
      - **John 14:26 -** "The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."
    - Reasonable judge… vs. 6-7
      - Would He use His great power to argue with me – NO - He would give me a fair hearing…
      - Honest people can reason with Him - so I would be forever acquitted by my judge!
      - The not so subtle jab – is that the FRIENDS of Job were NOT reasonable…
      - Better to God to God with whom we can REASON together…
      - Because the FRIENDS of Job had no SOLUTIONS – Job was confident the Lord did!
      - **Isaiah 1:18** - "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can remove it. I can make you as clean as freshly fallen snow."

- Nowhere to be found… vs. 8-9
  - I go east - but he is not there - I go west - but I cannot find Him…
  - I do not see Him in the north - for He is hidden - I look to the south - but He is concealed!
  - Job was RIGHT – God has all the ANSWERS – He could be REASONED with…
  - The problem was – Job did NOT know where to FIND the Lord…
  - Because he was looking for God in a PLACE – rather than in his WORD!
  - People go to incredible lengths to try and FIND God…
  - They will hike up to HIGH mountains – or on pilgrimages to FAR away locations…
  - Philip demanded Jesus show the disciples the Father – **John 14:8**
  - As if God was in a PLACE – but Jesus replied – if you have seen me you have seen the Father!
  - God CANNOT be found in a place – He is already everywhere – **Psalm 139:7**
  - The ONLY way to find God – to KNOW God – is through Jesus and His Word!

- 3rd – Refining fire… vs. 10-17
  - Purified by God… vs. 10-12
    - But He knows where I am going - and when He tests me - I will come out as pure as gold…
    - For I have stayed on Gods paths - I have followed His ways and not turned aside…
    - I have not departed from His commands - but have treasured His words more than daily food!
    - Job was starting to understand – this was a TRIAL meant to PURIFY him!
    - But it is NOT just Job – we also are going to face TRIALS to PURIFY us!
    - **I Peter 4:12** – "Beloved [loved of God] do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you."
    - We are NOT to treat TRIALS like a STRANGER in our home!
    - The inference is that we should be welcoming TRAILS as though they were an old friend!
    - Too often when things in life fall apart – we react with surprise and astonishment…
    - As though something rare had happened – and we are caught off guard!
    - Maybe other people have hardships – but we never thought it would happen to us!
    - The truth is we should expect TRIALS – welcome them like an old friend…
    - Because Jesus uses fiery TRIALS to draw out the impurities from our life…
    - We want God to use us – we want to draw closer to the Lord…
    - But often we will find that before God a work through us – He first does one in us!
    - A work of purifying us – by taking out sin that lies deep within us!
    - It is through in the TRIALS – when we SUFFER – that we see who we really are…
    - There are things that come out of us in those moments we never knew were there!
    - Through the FIRE Jesus is able to draw those impurities!
  - Sovereignty of God… vs. 13-17
    - But He is ONE [אֶחָד]- who can change His mind - whatever He wants [piel] He does…
    - He will do to me whatever He has planned - He controls my destiny...
    - No wonder I am so terrified in His presence - when I think of it - terror grips me…
    - God has made me weak of heart - the Almighty has terrified me…
    - Darkness is all around me – thick - impenetrable darkness is everywhere!
    - God is SOVEREIGN – He is ABSOLUTE control of EVERYTHING – **Isaiah 46:10**
    - And if God was ONLY sovereign – like Job – He would be a terrifying Lord!
    - God in His SOVEREIGNTY might want to make an example out of me – who could argue…
    - If God wanted to send us to HELL – because of our SIN – who could dispute Him!
    - But God is NOT just SOVEREIGN – He is also LOVE – **I John 4:8**
    - And it is the LOVE of God that directs His choices – not to SMITE us – but to DIE to SAVE us!

- **3rd – Waiting in vain – Chapter 24**
  - 1st – No judgment… vs. 1
    - Since times are not hidden from the Almighty - why do those who know Him see not His Day!
    - Job comes back to this KEY argument – God does NOT punish the WICKED…
    - Nothing [times] is HIDDEN from the Almighty – so He knows what the WICKED have done…
    - Yet they do NOT see THE Day – referring to the Judgement of God!
  - 2nd – Examples of wickedness… vs. 2-18
    - The EVIL steal… vs. 2
      - Evil people steal land by moving the boundary markers…
      - They steal livestock and put them in their own pastures!
      - Boundary markers were used to mark off property lines…
      - Moving them would in effect – STEAL – property from your neighbor – **Deuteronomy 19:14**
      - God considers this the same as stealing - shifting a fence line / planting a tree...
      - Rebranding livestock – MARKING them as though they belong in your pasture!
      - It does not matter how we try and do it - we are taking what does not belong to us!
      - People do it because of greed - they want what belongs to their neighbor...
      - But in fact they do not end up with more - they end up under the curse of God!
    - The EVIL oppresses the poor… vs. 3-12
      - They take the orphans donkey and demand the widows ox as security for a loan… vs. 3
      - The WICKED take advantage of those who are the most VULNERABLE…
      - The OX would have been the only way for them to WORK and PAY back the loan…
      - So if you took the OX as SECURITY – you were essentially STEALING the OX!
      - We are not to take ADVANTAGE of WIDOWS and ORPHANS – we HELP them - **James 1:27**
      - The poor are pushed off the path - the needy must hide together for safety… vs. 4-8
      - Like wild donkeys in the wilderness - the poor must spend all their time looking for food…
      - Searching even in the desert for food for their children!
      - They harvest a field they do not own - and they glean in the vineyards of the WICKED…
      - All night they lie naked in the cold - without clothing or covering…
      - Soaked by mountain showers - and they huddle against the rocks for want of a home!
      - The poor WORK in the fields of the WICKED – making MONEY for those who are EVIL…
      - Yet they have NOTHING to eat for themselves – they barely can feed their children…
      - They have NOTHING to wear – they shiver in the cold and night unable to keep warm…
      - They have NOWHERE to live – they cower against a rock to shelter from the rain!
      - The wicked snatch a widows baby from her - taking him as security for a loan… vs. 9-12
      - The poor must go about naked - without any clothing…
      - They harvest food for others while they themselves are starving!
      - They press out olive oil without being allowed to taste it…
      - And they tread in the winepress as they suffer from thirst!
      - A powerful picture – those who are starving – harvest food for those who have everything…
      - And those who have it all – even take what little the poor have left – a baby from a widow!
      - In India – you are born into a CASTE – presumably because of your PAST life – reincarnation…
      - If you are born into a LOW caste – then you are destined to a life of MISERY…
      - If you are born into a HIGH caste – then you will have more than you ever need…
      - And you do NOT care about those beneath you – they get what they DESERVE!

- The world is WICKED – and does not care about others – they just think about themselves…
- Because without Jesus – people do NOT care about what happens to others!
- But that should NOT be the same with us – we are to be marked by LOVE – **John 13:35**
- We are to LOVE each other – because God first LOVED us – **I John 4:7**
- We are to LOVE strangers – because God also LOVES them too – **Hebrews 13:2**
- We are even to LOVE our enemies – because God LOVES everyone – **Matthew 5:44**

▪ The EVIL sin… vs. 13-17

- The groans of the dying rise from the city - and the wounded cry for help…
- Yet God ignores their moaning!
- Wicked rebel against the light - they refuse to acknowledge its ways - stay in its paths…
- The murderer rises in the early dawn to kill the poor and needy - at night he is a thief…
- The adulterer waits for the twilight – saying no one will see me then…
- He hides his face so no one will know him!
- Thieves break into houses at night and sleep in the daytime – they do not know the light…
- The black night is their morning - they ally themselves with the terrors of the darkness!
- Job points out it is not just a lack of COMPASSION for others…
- The WICKED have no limits – they commit MURDER / ADULTERY / STEAL…
- And YET – God does NOTHING to them – they do not face any CONSEQUENCES!

○ 3rd – God is watching… vs. 18-25

▪ The fate of the EVIL… vs. 18-21

- They *SHOULD* disappear like foam down a river - everything they own cursed…
- Then others would be afraid to enter their vineyards [follow in their steps] …
- The grave *SHOULD* consume them - just as drought and heat consume snow…
- Their own mothers *SHOULD* forget them - maggots find them sweet to eat…
- No one *SHOULD* remember them – the WICKED broken like a tree in the storm…
- Because they cheated the woman with no son - refused to help the needy widow!
- Job reasons God SHOULD judge the WICKED now – so NO ONE follows their example…
- If there are NO consequences – then people will think it is OK to be WICKED!
- But God does JUDGE – He is NOT mocked – **Galatians 6:7 / Numbers 32:22**
- Yet God JUDGES in HIS time – that might be today – or it might be in eternity…
- Always working in the lives of EVERYONE – trying to draw as MANY as He can to Him…
- Because ONLY the Lord SEES the whole picture!

▪ The end of the EVIL… vs. 22-25

- God in his power drags away the rich - they may rise high but they have no assurance of life…
- They may be allowed to live in security - but God is always watching them…
- And though they are great now - in a moment they will be gone like all others…
- Can anyone claim otherwise - who can prove me wrong!
- Job recognizes that no matter how RICH you may be in this life…
- Even if God does not JUDGE someone for their WICKED life – lets them live in SECURITY…
- Everyone eventually meets the same END – meaning there will ultimately be a JUDGEMENT!
- **Hebrews 4:13** – "All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."
- People may try and hide their sin – do our best to keep others from knowing…
- No matter who they think does or does not know – God always knows…
- God knows every word – every thought – every action – of every moment in our lives!
- **Matthew 12:36** – "I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment."