



The Book of Job Lesson 9 4Q 2016 Intimations of Hope

SABBATH

Read memory text, “He also shall be my salvation, for a hypocrite could not come before Him.” Job 13:16

What does the memory text mean? Is it to be taken literally? Do we read this and say, “Well the Bible said it, so I believe it!” Or do we think about it?

Is this verse a statement of cosmic reality—eternal truth, or is it a statement that merely reveals Job’s understanding and Job’s perspective, i.e. the way Job was thinking?

Have intelligent beings who were hypocrites come before God?

- How many hypocrites came before Jesus and Jesus Himself identified them as hypocrites? Is Jesus God? So at least in that setting we know hypocrites can come before God.
- What about in heaven, the eternal glory of God? Can hypocrites come before God in heaven?
- Did Lucifer in heaven, at some point become a hypocrite, claiming he wanted the good of others but in reality was sewing rebellion?
- Did Satan come before God in heaven after walking around on the earth? Did Satan continue to make claims that he wanted a better way than God?

Is every passage of Scripture a revelation of eternal truth, or are there many passages of Scripture that are merely the record of what a person was thinking, their ideas, their struggles, their beliefs?

If this is so, what does it mean for how we understand Scripture? Should we take the approach that Scripture should be followed blindly; or that Scripture should be read, understood for what it was intended, and inquire if any principle applies to us today, but NOT simply quote a text and follow it blindly?

Example:

Now about virgins: **I have no command from the Lord**, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord’s mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶ Because of the present crisis, **I think** that it is good for you to remain as you are. ²⁷ Are you married? Do not seek a divorce. Are you unmarried? Do not look for a wife. ²⁸ But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this. ²⁹ What I mean, brothers, **is that the time is short**. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; ³⁰ those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; ³¹ those who use the things



of the world, as if not engrossed in them. **For this world in its present form is passing away.**
1Cor 7:25-31

Is this passage a directive from God?

Paul himself says that it is not, that it is merely Paul's perspective or judgment on the issue. Was Paul correct? Was time short? Was the world about to end? Was it wise counsel for all Christians who were single to stay single and not have Christian families? What would have happened? Is this passage then, merely reflecting what Paul thought was happening?

If Paul was incorrect on this topic, does that mean Paul was not inspired by God? No, it does not mean that! It means that Paul was a finite human being, who received inspired insights into *some issues*, but did not receive inspired insight into others. Thus, he could be wrong on certain topics—just as Peter was wrong about who he associated with and Paul had to confront and correct him—but this didn't mean Peter was not inspired by God.

What about others who have been gifted with the gift of prophecy, could they also be wrong on certain topics or perspectives? Could they write things with good motives and good intentions, but actually not be accurate in their own understanding of what is happening?

Does this make anyone uncomfortable? Why? When we are young we experience a sense of security and safety when we trust someone else to take care of the problems, to tell us the answers. Children feel safe when a parent, grandparent, teacher, some authority figure gives them the answers they seek.

Sadly, however, some people never grow up and learn to think for themselves, instead they continue to look for some authority to tell them the answer without thinking. They often defer to church authority, pastor, priest, committee, Biblical Research Institute, Catechism, Fundamental Beliefs or Creeds. These are the ones who use Scripture and other writings as proof texts and often as spiritual clubs, thoughtlessly taking passages and using them as blunt instruments to smash others into submission to their way of thinking. Sadly this approach is not consistent with how God functions or what Scripture teaches and ends up causing damage in their own lives and the lives of others.

What is the primary purpose of Scripture? Scripture is a revelation of God to man, it is a recorded history of the battle between God and His methods of truth, love and freedom against Satan and his methods of lies, selfishness and coercion. It is a history documenting how deviations from God's design destroy and God through Christ heals.

Scripture is intended, not as a rule book of deeds to be done and sins to be shunned, but a window into history to help us look and see how the two methods work and the outcomes that occur when the two methods are applied so we can determine who to trust and which methods to apply to our lives!



SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, “Whatever one wants to say...” What is the “truth” and the “error” to which the lesson refers? The lesson last week said that the error from Job’s friends was their alleging he was being punished by God, the truth, according the lesson, is that God does inflict punishment for sin. Is this the truth? Or has the lesson authors been caught up in a lie?

In the opening of the great controversy, **Satan had declared** that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. **Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan;** and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. {DA 761.4}

Whose argument is it that God must punish sin? Why is this argument made? What is the underlying rationale for such an idea? It is an attack on God’s law—the idea that God’s law functions like the laws that created beings make, rules without inherent consequence; thus God is required to use His power to inflict pain, suffering and punishment. This argument causes the natural fear of disobeying God’s law (design protocols) to shift away from the destructive action—the sin itself—to instead lead one to be afraid of a god who is described as being the source of inflicted punishment. This undermines trust in God. Further, it casts God as a being not worthy of our trust, a being who functions no differently that we do.

Understanding this EGW wrote explicitly that God is not to be regarded as waiting to punish sinners, but sin brings its own punishment, just as Scripture teaches—the wages of sin is death, sin when full grown brings forth death...

We are not to regard God as waiting to punish the sinner for his sin. The sinner brings the punishment upon himself. His own actions start a train of circumstances that bring the sure result. **Every act of transgression reacts upon the sinner,** works in him a change of character, and makes it more easy for him to transgress again. By choosing to sin, **men separate themselves from God, cut themselves off from the channel of blessing, and the sure result is ruin and death.** {1SM 235.2}

This is design law, God doesn’t have to act to inflict punishment, God has to act to stop the destruction that unremedied sin brings and to heal and restore His creatures, lest if He doesn’t sin will destroy that which God loves—you and me!

Thus God acted, “For God so loved the world He sent His only Son...” Yes, God didn’t sit by idly when man sinned—God took action, but His actions have always been the actions of love judged best to slow the spread of sin and ultimately heal and restore.

Here is a historic view that I think says it beautifully:



For centuries God looked with patience and forbearance upon the cruel treatment given to his ambassadors, at his holy law prostrate, despised, trampled underfoot. He swept away the inhabitants of the Noachian world with a flood. But when the earth was again peopled, men drew away from God, and renewed their hostility to him, manifesting bold defiance. Those whom God rescued from Egyptian bondage followed in the footsteps of those who had preceded them. Cause was followed by effect; the earth was being corrupted.

A crisis had arrived in the government of God. The earth was filled with transgression. The voices of those who had been sacrificed to human envy and hatred were crying beneath the altar for retribution. **All heaven was prepared at the word of God to move to the help of his elect. One word from him, and the bolts of heaven would have fallen upon the earth, filling it with fire and flame.** God had but to speak, and there would have been thunderings and lightnings and earthquakes and destruction.

The heavenly intelligences were prepared for a fearful manifestation of Almighty power. Every move was watched with intense anxiety. **The exercise of justice was expected.** [what was the angelic view of justice at that time? what is described? where did that idea originate? Earlier with Lucifer who declared God must punish.] **The angels looked for God to punish the inhabitants of the earth. But "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." "I will send my beloved Son," he said... Amazing grace! Christ came not to condemn the world, but to save the world. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."**

The heavenly universe was amazed at God's patience and love. [Why was the heavenly universe amazed? Because they misunderstood God's law due to Satan's lies and therefore misunderstood what true justice is.] **To save fallen humanity the Son of God took humanity upon himself...** [Save fallen humanity from what? At whose direction did the Son of God become incarnate? At Gods! Jesus was carrying out God's will to save the fallen race—from what? From what happens when a being deviates from God's design for life!] {RH, July 17, 1900 par. 6}

Sadly, the lesson authors, as many in Christian leadership, are so deceived as to the nature of God's law that they argue that God is the source of inflicted pain, suffering and death. It is time in human history for Christians all over the world to stand up and say NO! It is not so. God is not like Satan has made Him out to be. God is trustworthy and is not the enemy we need to be protected from.

Read last paragraph, "Notice also:..." Yes, it is ironic that men could think they are defending God when in fact they are misrepresenting Him. It still happens today!

What about the idea that it would be better not to speak than to say things that are wrong?



Doesn't it depend on the attitude? If one has the attitude that they are teachable, that they are willing to be persuaded by the evidence, that they are willing to listen and understand, then is it okay to share one's understandings even if they are wrong? Didn't Nicodemus do this?

Who would want us to think it is better to stay silent in error than to seek to discuss our ideas in order to remove error and come to the truth?

Don't buy into the lie that it is better to stay silent than speak an error, if one has a willingness to learn and follow truth. Yes, if one is closed minded, has no desire to learn, believes they are right and won't examine evidence or consider ideas different from their own, then it is better for them not to speak.

I love this quote:

Those who cannot impartially examine the evidences of a position that differs from theirs, are not fit to teach in any department of God's cause. {1SM 411.2}

MONDAY

What do you think of the title? How can this idea, "Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him;" Job 13:15, be understood?

It can be understood in the sense of God is the source of inflicted punishment and death, but who am I but a worm and He is all powerful, so I choose to be on His side anyway because there is only one chance for me and that is being on the side of the One most powerful.

I don't find such an approach to be very mature or helpful, and in fact it suggests a very immature understanding of God.

However, there is another way to understand it—like a soldier in combat with a wise and trusted commander. One could say, "Even though my commander sends me on a mission that will result in my death, I will trust him, because I know my commander would never do that unless it were for some cause that I would gladly sacrifice myself for. I don't need to know the entire battle strategy, I only need to know my commander and know he is wise and absolutely trustworthy. Lord, send me, if my life serves you, send me into the breach."

Which way do you think Job meant it?

The lesson says in the second paragraph, "Job didn't have the advantage of knowing how things would turn out."

In what ways is this true, and in what ways is this not true?



It is most likely true that Job didn't have knowledge of what would happen in his temporal life, that his health and wealth would be restored and he would have more children. But, could he have known how it would turn out eternally? Was there information given by God that a redeemer would come and ultimately defeat sin and death? Could he have had an eternal hope?

Read the fourth and fifth paragraphs, "Even if He will kill me..." What is the basis of trust?

Is this different than the trust the Branch Davidians had in David Koresh, or the People's Temple followers had in Jim Jones? These people were willing to die for their faith in their leaders—is their trust different than the trust we are to have in Jesus?

Actually, no, trust is trust, and these cult leaders exploited the capacity to trust and lead people to trust the untrustworthy and this demonstrates that persons can die for causes that are not worthy of trust.

This is why it is so important we learn to discern, we learn to think, we learn to examine evidence and be able to tell the difference between God's true methods and those of the liar.

One of the keys to discernment is understanding God's law—God's law is design law, Satan's fraud is imposed law, imperial rule, coercive power. Thus, when we read in Christian literature descriptions of God using Satan's methods we know lies have entered. We must reject these lies and come back to the truth, lest we end up trusting what we should not—including putting trust in the church institution, i.e. the general conference, rather than trust in Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father.

Consider the methods the beast of Revelation uses? It uses the methods of coercion, no one can buy or sell and the beast seeks to kill all who won't submit. How many Christians teach God does the same? It is beastly!

How many Christians today are willing to use the methods of coercion to achieve their goals? We cannot win God's cause by using Satan's methods—why not?

What does God want? He wants love and trust which results in actual renewal and transformation of the character of the person. Can love and trust be achieved by force, by threat, by coercion? What do such methods achieve? Conformity but hidden rebellion. This is what Satan achieve through religious groups that use coercive methods.

As Martin Luther King Jr. said:

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.



TUESDAY

Read second paragraph, “What an interesting line...” Any questions? Any thought disconnects in this paragraph?

Is salvation liberation from death? To be sure those who experience salvation will not die eternally, and Christ died to free those who live enslaved by their fear of death (Heb 2:14) but is the primary meaning of salvation the same as avoiding death?

Did Jesus said, “This is life eternal that you will not die?” No, He said life eternal was knowing God. Is there a difference? What is the difference? There is a definite connection between not knowing God and dying, and knowing God and living—what is that connection?

What is the plan of salvation saving us from? Is it primarily from death, or something that results in death? What is it that results in death? Sin, which is what? Deviations from God’s design, i.e. transgressing His law—and what is it that causes breaking of God’s law? Believing lies about God!

“Eve believed the words of Satan, and the belief of that falsehood in regard to God's character, changed the condition and character of both herself and husband. They were changed from good and obedient children into transgressors...” E.G. White, Review & Herald 1/9/1886

Lies believed break the circle of love and trust...

Thus, life eternal is knowing God, restoring us to a right knowledge and experience with God, which results in trust in God, which results in removal of fear and experiencing love and the restoration of Christlikeness within. **Thus we are saved from a state of being that is out of harmony with God and that results in death.**

But to state salvation is liberation from death it moves the focus to avoiding punishment, and this is the way the false legal view sees it.

Would it be good news if we got to live eternally with God if God runs His universe like Satan alleges, rules imposed and threats to kill those who disobey?

Next concern from the paragraph, “After all, what is salvation other than liberation from death? And what is death, at least for the saved, other than a quick moment of rest, and instant of sleep, followed by the resurrection to eternal life?”

Is salvation liberation from a quick sleep-like death, or from eternal non-existence? In fact, isn’t the quick sleep-like death a mercy until the full restoration?



WEDNESDAY

Read third paragraph, “The world has been...”

Last Sabbath afternoon, I had an opportunity for Bible discussion with some friends at Cirsten’s home. It was very enlightening. I was reminded how our assumptions set us up to form concepts, beliefs and constructs that lead us to conclusions about God. If our assumptions about God’s design and law are incorrect we view God as more like Satan alleges than He truly is.

One of the ideas put forth by a very intelligent and passionate gentleman was the idea that Satan was the ruler of earth and that Christ had to overcome Satan’s legal status and rights. The argument was that God had to be fair to Satan as the ruler of earth and had to respond to Satan’s claims etc. etc.

It was suggested that Satan is the ruler of the earth and has a legal claim because of passages like this one:

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. Eph 2:1-2

It was argued that Jesus calls Satan the “ruler of this world” therefore Satan is the ruler, and that it was claimed that Satan offering Jesus the kingdoms of the world was proof of Satan’s legal status.

All of this legal perspective is based on multiple false assumptions.

If we check what Jesus actually said:

Now is the time for judgment on this world; now **the prince of this world** will be driven out. ³² But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” Jn 12:31,32

Satan is the prince of this world, which means what? That he has some legal right to rule here, or was Jesus referencing that Satan is the prince of selfishness, this world of sin, death, decay? When Jesus used the term world was He referring to territory or to a method of operating? When Jesus said He has overcome the world, to what was He referring, physical territory, or the deceptive and selfish methods of the world?

Also, when Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of the world was that evidence that Satan had a legal right to make such an offer and therefore was the owner of the kingdoms? No, it was evidence of Satan’s delusional egomaniacal beliefs, not reality.

This is from the book *The Desire of Ages*:



When Satan declared to Christ, The kingdom and glory of the world are delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it, he stated what was true only in part, and he declared it to serve his own purpose of deception. **Satan's dominion was that wrested from Adam, but Adam was the vicegerent of the Creator. His was not an independent rule. The earth is God's,** and He has committed all things to His Son. **Adam was to reign subject to Christ.** When Adam betrayed his sovereignty into Satan's hands, Christ still remained the rightful King. Thus the Lord had said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "**The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will.**" Daniel 4:17. Satan can exercise his usurped authority only as God permits. {DA 129.4}

When the tempter offered to Christ the kingdom and glory of the world, he was proposing that Christ should yield up the real kingship of the world, and hold dominion subject to Satan. This was the same dominion upon which the hopes of the Jews were set. They desired the kingdom of this world. If Christ had consented to offer them such a kingdom, they would gladly have received Him. But the curse of sin, with all its woe, rested upon it. Christ declared to the tempter, "Get thee behind Me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." {DA 130.1}

This idea that Satan has some legal right to earth and that God had to operate upon Satan's view of things is wrong. Satan never had a legal right. He had tricked Adam into giving up Adam's rule, but that did not remove Christ from His rulership over Adam. Christ had no need to legally remove Satan from any position because Satan didn't occupy any legally held position. Christ had to remove Satan from the perceived position he held in the minds of intelligent beings. We are still working to remove Satan from his false position in the minds of men.

In fact, the entire argument of Satan having some legal status, ownership, rights is an argument that rests entirely upon Satan's false view of God's law. If we merely return to design law, we understand instantly that Satan cannot have any legal status because Satan cannot hold reality together. Satan cannot control gravity, nuclear forces, laws of physics, create life, etc. etc. Only the Creator can and this is why Adam's rule was vicegerent to Christ because Christ was still holding all things together!

Thus Scripture says:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and **in him all things hold together.** Col 1:15-17

It is very difficult to teach people who have formed a system of beliefs on multiple false assumptions!



THURSDAY

The lesson lists a number of texts and asks us to review the hope found there.

- Gen 3:15: And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”
 - What is the hope? In Jesus who would come to overcome what we could not.
 - Is there anything that sounds legal here or does it sound as if the serpent enemy will be literally destroyed?
 - Does Scripture support this? Heb 2:14
- Gen 22:8: Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.
 - What is the hope and what does it mean?
 - God so loved the world... As John the Baptist said, Jesus is the Lamb of God that does what? Takes away the sin of the world, in other words, the one who cleanses, removes deviations from God’s design, restores to God’s original ideal!
- Lev 17:11: For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.
 - What is the hope? What law lens do you hear this through?
 - Atonement means—at-one-ment or reconciliation—what was causing the unity God designed for Him to experience with His creatures to be fractured? Was it something in God? No, it was a change in the nature and character of humanity—distrust, fear and selfishness, which all are founded on believing lies about God.
 - So, what does the blood represent? The life of Jesus which is a life which not only revealed the truth to destroy lies and win to trust, but was a life lived out in human flesh that developed a perfect sinless character restoring humanity back to at-one-ment with God!
- John 1:29: “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
 - What is the hope?
 - Again, what did Jesus take away? Not the punishment for sin, but sinfulness itself!
- Gal 2:16: know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.
 - What is the hope?
 - What does it mean to be justified? To be set right—what is wrong, that sin caused, that needs to be set right?
 - Is it a legal status or an actual state of being that is out of harmony with God?
 - Thus Abraham’s natural heart, which is enmity to God, was set right and Abraham trusted God, and then God recognized him as righteous—why? Because he was actually, genuinely, truly, set right or justified with God in his heart!
 - **There is nothing legal about justification—all the legal constructs are predicted on first accepting Satan’s lies about God’s law, thus the entire penal/legal view of salvation is a lie that traps good people into a form of godliness but with no power to overcome!**
- Phil 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
 - What is the hope?
 - Who is the one who began and completes the healing and restoration to righteousness in you?



- 1 Cor 10:13: No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.
 - What is the hope?
 - You will never be placed in a situation that is beyond your ability to overcome as long as you trust God.
- Dan 7:22:
 - From the NIV: until the Ancient of Days came and **pronounced judgment in favor of the saints** of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.
 - From the King James: Until the Ancient of days came, and **judgment was given to the saints** of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.
 - What is the hope?
 - Is it that you get a legal declaration in a heavenly court, or that you get the ability to discern truth from error?
 - The good news is that we get judgment, discernment, the ability to determine the right from the wrong and our minds our cleansed of the lies of Satan about God and God's laws and methods.
- Dan 12:1-2: "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. ² Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.
 - What is the hope?
 - A future life eternal without pain, suffering or death!
- Mt 24:27
 - For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. NIV
 - For the coming of the Son of Man will be visible to the entire world, just like sunlight dawns in the east and shines to the west, covering the entire planet. *The Remedy*
 - What is the hope?
 - That Christ is coming back again, literally for real!
- Dan 2:44: "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."
 - What is the hope?
 - A kingdom of love that will never end!

FRIDAY

What doctrines give you hope?



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We need HELP! With what? Well, after 10 years of ministry, this website has collected a huge number of articles, blogs, videos, podcasts, and notes that need to be categorized and indexed, so YOU can easily find all that's been said on a particular topic. The problem is, we don't have hundreds of eyes and ears on staff to search, read, listen, and find all these nuggets of truth. So, Come And Reason is calling on you, our faithful supporters, to help us with this task.

What do we need from you? Easy. Whenever you come across an article, blog, video, audio, or note that talks about a specific topic (like wrath, punishment, sanctuary, temple, mind, character, sin, death, etc., etc.), simply go to About > Contact Us and send us a note telling us where you found the information (page # in a document/note, time index in a video or audio file, the exact web address where you found the material, and the TOPIC the citation is talking about). We'll take those TOPICS and arrange them into categories and build a new menu entry to index all these resources.

Thank you, all, ahead of time for your participation and help in this rather significant endeavor!

Calendar: Come and Reason now has a Calendar of Events on our Website. If you would like to know what is coming up or where Dr. J is speaking or who is teaching a particular week, check out the calendar.

January 20, 21, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at The Haven in St. Helena, California

May 6, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Summit Northwest Ministries, Post Falls, Idaho.

September 15,16 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Church in the Valley, Aldergrove, British Columbia, Canada.

October 12-16, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Garden Grove SDA church in Garden Grove, CA. This will be a multi-speaker event focusing on the atonement. For more information contact:

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October 27, 28, 2017: Dr. Jennings will speaking at the Arlington SDA church in Arlington, TX. For



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