

“Perception vs. Perceptive”

Job 1-2

Is God good?

WHO is God? HOW do you KNOW?

WHEN is God good?

HOW is God good?

WHAT proves that God is good?

WHAT WE PERCEIVE... WE BELIEVE!

(What we believe... we become.)

***“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,
declares the LORD.”***

Isaiah 55:8

Definitions:

PERCEIVE: to observe; discern, understand; to grasp; to receive impressions via the senses

PERCEPTION: a notion; an idea; detection with interpretation...

PERCEPTIVE: having *keenness* of insight/understanding; astute observation; *keenly* discerning

*****KEENLY:** capable of detecting fine distinctions; shrewd (**Matthew 10:16!**)

FOUNDATIONAL QUESTION OF PERCEPTION = How do you perceive God’s Word?

Speculation or Revelation... (2 Tim. 3:16) = what you believe about:

- 1. God & God’s Word**
- 2. Man**
- 3. Satan**
- 4. Blessings & “Prosperity”**
- 5. Questions/Answers**
- 6. The World & your Circumstances**
- 7. Love, Joy, Peace...**
- 8. Family & Friends**
- 9. Impressions & Priorities**
- 10. Desires & Disciples...**

What do you perceive & believe when you Look UP... Look OUT... & Look IN???

I PRAY you are PERCEPTIVE when PERCEIVING

(a.k.a. "BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW")

VIDEO: "WHAT IS WORLDVIEW?"

Realize... WHAT you perceive to be truth... is determined by HOW you perceive Truth...

Review of "puzzle pieces"

1. **God has a PLAN** (Genesis 1-11; Psalms 8,12, 104; & John 1:1-3)
 - a. *Him* – Everything starts and is sustained by Creator God...
 - b. *Here* – All that is, was, or will ever be was spoken into being by the One true God
 - c. *Hurt* – sin entered the world thru the Devil's deceit and the "fall" of mankind
 - d. *Help* – the Bible is our one and only trustworthy "map" of truth, love, & real help
 - e. *Hope* – we all, regardless of back ground, have only One hope... His name is Jesus!

2. **Perfect P.E.O.P.L.E. Plan** - for imperfect people (Genesis 12-29)
 - a. *Proper Perspective* (established the foundations of "Him, Here, Hurt, Help, Hope")
 - b. *Elect* – acknowledging that God chooses His children... it is all of grace
 - c. *Obedience* in faith – accepting the fact that God takes sin eternally serious
 - d. *Powerful Promises* – God guarantees His promises – period.
 - e. *Loves the un-lovely* – God the Father always loves His children – no matter what!
 - f. *Everything* – God is sovereign (in control) over everything, everyone, every-time...

3. **P.E.C.U.L.I.A.R.** (Genesis 30-50)
 - a. *Peculiar Promise* (Genesis 3:15); *Peculiar Plan* (above); *Peculiar People* (above)
 - b. *Peculiar Election* – God chooses people like Jacob, Judah, Saul/Paul, Peter, you & me...
 - c. *Peculiar Church* – God builds His Church/family with "brown shoes & flip flops"
 - d. *Peculiar Uniforms* – "name on the front is more important than the name on the back"
 - e. *Peculiar Love* – "agape" is the ability to love the unlovely... no strings attached
 - f. *Peculiar Inclusivity* – we are "in-Him" only because of what He has done on the cross
 - g. *Peculiar Absolutes* – "I am the way, the truth, & the life, no one comes...but thru Me."
 - h. *Peculiar Reminder* – God hates sinners AND God loves sinners... look to the cross!

1:1 & 3 = *Job...was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil...
He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.*

What **perception of Job** do these passages advance?

**Romans 3:23 ... Job's like the fastest horse in the glue factory...
Job's like the prisoner with the best cell on death row...
We're ALL sinners separated from God... in need of a Savior!**

1:6-8 =

One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

What **perception of heaven** does this passage actually advance?

Do you realize what's going on when the angels "present themselves?" WAR!

How much of your life's present & future are being shaped & worked on without you having ANY idea of what's really going on???

What **perception of angels** does this passage actually advance?

Angels are not the butlers/maids of heaven... their soldiers of the King!

They are getting their marching orders... their protective assignments...

What **perception of Satan** does this passage actually advance?

"Satan" means "adversary/accuser"

Satan is "CREATED" vs. supernatural... *more like us than like God!*

Satan accuses church-goers of "**only claiming Christ for the heist...**"

Sadly... Satan is right more than he is wrong in that accusation :-{

What **perception of the Lord's interaction** with:

- 1) **Angels** (delegating) fighting...
- 2) **Satan** (dominating) on leash!
- 3) **Man...** (delivering) surrendering

1:9-12 =

"Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

What **perception of fearing God**, being **protected by God**, being **blessed by God**, and **stricken by God** does this passage advance for blameless, upright, God-fearing people who effectively shun evil?

1 John 2:15-17 = *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.*

1:13-19 = Satan serves up (4X) rapid-fire suffering!

Sabeans come from the SOUTH

Lightning comes from ABOVE

Chaldeans come from the NORTH

Tornado comes from the EAST

WHAM!

*** Job 9:18 = "He (God) will not let me get my breath..."

1:20-22 = ***At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. □ The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.***

Whoa... & WORSHIP!

GRIEF & GRACE are intertwined!

NOTICE: Job is NOT a victim! Job is being tested & blessed by God!

Quote: "Notice how Job is the same in adversity that he is in prosperity... (That's because) Good men, when they are cast down, are not destroyed... for 'blessed are those persecuted for My name's sake" - **Matthew Henry**

Note relationship to this world and the stuff of the world...

"...the Lord takes away; blessed by the name of the LORD" - is that your PERCEPTION?

REMEMBER: 1 John 2:15-17 = Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes, and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

Chapter 2: “Again...” angels come... Satan comes... God questions Satan...

*** Notice: **God does not refute Satan’s implied assertions in general... BUT... God defends His own!**

2:3 = ...the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason.”

How PECULIAR do you PERCEIVE v.3 to be in light of God’s PLAN?

*** **Isaiah 53:10** = *Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him & cause Him to suffer... giving His life as a guilt offering...*

*** **Acts 2:23** = *This man (Jesus) was handed over to **you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge**; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.*

VIDEO: “IT’S ALL GOD”

Quote: “Pain is God’s megaphone... to rouse a deaf world.” - **C.S. Lewis**

Quote: “A young child does not run AWAY from their father at the sound of an aggressive dog’s vicious barking... NO! Instead, the child clings to the father... And so it is with a child of God in the midst of adversity.” – **Charles Spurgeon**

2 Cor. 4:8-11 = *We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; **9** persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. **10** We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. **11** For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body.*

How PECULIAR do you PERCEIVE v.3 compared to typical false teaching?

2:4-8 = Again... Satan accuses, God permits Satan to inflict physical pain... Job suffers.

What **perception of Satan’s persistence** does this passage advance?

What **perception of God’s goodness** does this passage advance?

What **perception of Him, Here, Hurt, Help, & Hope** does this passage challenge?

2:9-10 = *Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." **10** But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this, Job did not sin with his lips.*

REMEMBER: God's justice & wrath are just as "good" as His mercy & grace!

What **perception of marriage** does this passage advance?

What **perception of integrity** does this passage advance?

What **perception of quitting** does this passage advance?

What **perception of leadership** does this passage advance?

What **perception of perseverance** does this passage advance?

2:11-12 = *Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came... to show him sympathy and comfort him... when they saw him from a distance, they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven. **13** And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.*

What **perception of "friends"** does this passage advance?

2 Cor. 11:13-15 = *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. **14** And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. **15** It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.*

What **perception of "first impressions"** does this passage advance?

It doesn't really matter what impression they make on YOU...
...It matters what impression they are making on GOD!
...and He sees ALL...

Moreover, it's not the FIRST impression that matters... it's the LAST!

Sadly...

We have too many tours given where the blind are leading the blind...

...Too sheep are cuddling up to wolves...

Too many children are playing with snakes...

All under the guises of goodness....

How utterly, eternally tragic!

What **perception of compassion** does this passage advance?

Don't under estimate the **Christ-like** value of the "**ministry of presence**"

***** John 11:35 = "Jesus WEPT."**

CLOSING:

Job 2:13: = *And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.*

***** This is the human-highlight/high-water mark of the Job 1-2...**

Job & his 3 friends = quiet & contemplative before God (good)

**Note: BEST RESPONSE to suffering is NOT RELIEF...
BUT REDEMPTION... Loving & living by faith in God!**

We don't POINT AT "CAUSES" ... WE POINT TO CHRIST!!!

Genesis 50:20 = *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*

VIDEO: "I AM"

The most *PERCEPTIVE* share the best *PERSPECTIVE*...

What do you perceive & believe...

...when you Look UP.....

...Look OUT...

...Look IN???

1 Pt 1:3-9 = *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, **though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8** Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

Let's PRAY!

Chris August: **"Battle"**

**There's a battle, between good & evil...
and it's raging inside of me;
There's a struggle... it's God & the Devil...
It's Love against the enemy...**

**Whoa, oh, oh, Nooooooo...
I'm NOT giving up now.**

**Life's a fight of wrong & right
that's tearing me apart;
Oh, but what the cross has DONE...
the world will try to battle for my heart
BUT the war is already WON!**

Word of God4 Notes

Background:

Name "Job" could come from the Hebrew word for "persecution," thus meaning "persecuted one," OR perhaps it comes from the Arabic word for "repent," thus meaning "the repentant one."

Ezekiel says (by inference in Ezekiel 14) that Job, Noah, & Daniel are the 3 most righteous men that ever lived!

Job's cultural context is Patriarchal... He knows and uses the name of Abraham's God (Yahweh), but there is no reference to the Exodus... thus, contextually, we place Job in the Patriarchal timeline...

Fact or Fiction? Faction???

1. O.T. & N.T. both acknowledge the reality of the man Job...
2. Most of Job is written in poetic scores...
3. Some think the true story of Job was embellished by God thru Job's author...
i.e. Shakespeare's "Henry the 8th"
4. Reality is that many are writing bogus "faction" today... corrupting the truth...

You must decide whether you are going to read Job as either speculation or revelation. (2 Tim. 3:16)

Be careful when quoting from Job... cause God says at the end of the book that what Job's friends said and thought was WRONG. Hence, quoting them out of context could be very misleading!

Quote: "It is ALL God's Word, but some of it is not true." – David Pawson

- Note: this is a very important truth to understand & defend!
- Note: context rules!
- Note: the Bible is always honest & true, evidenced by its honest depictions of untruths!

Job gives us many of our biblical proverbs and modern English colloquialisms

- "the patience of Job" (referenced in by James in his letter)
- "the Lord gives and the Lord takes away – blessed be the Name of the Lord"

Alfred Lloyd Tennyson – "Job is the greatest poem of ancient or modern times."

Martin Luther – "Job is the most magnificent, sublime book as no other book of Scripture."

Job is a part of the "Wisdom" literature of the O.T. Scriptures (vs. History or the Prophets).

Note: 1. The old Testament starts with 17 "historical" books, immediately followed by...

2. The 5 books of "wisdom" (or poetry)

- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon

3. Closing with 17 writings by the Prophets (5 "major" & then 12 "minor")

Wisdom is typically learned in one of two ways...

We can learn wisdom from others (typically from their experiences)... i.e. Proverbs

We can learn wisdom on our own – typically from our own experiences...

While our experiences can be "pleasant"

Most of our wisdom is gleaned through experiences learned in the school of hard knocks

- The "hard lessons" are typically the best learned lessons
- The school of hard knocks... school colors are "black & blue"

When it comes to "wisdom literature," we must remember:

- Not all of God's Word is true...
 - Sometimes God's Word reveals wrong thoughts, attitudes, deeds, etc.
 - In that way: "Not everything IN God's Word IS God's Word." – David Pawson
- Wisdom literature is "general" in nature and not "absolute promise"
 - Proverbs are a great example
 - Note: proverbs are generally true whereas promises are always true...
 - When some proverbs/wisdom seem to contradict... they don't! The issue comes down to understanding which "wisdom" fits the circumstances at hand... Sometimes different circumstances require different approaches to what may otherwise seem to be the "same" scenario.
- Wisdom, when followed, will generally lead to a better life!
 - Note: not an absolute... evidenced by Job in this way:
 - General truth = Obedience brings joy/blessing...
 - General truth = Disobedience brings pain/suffering...

- NOTE:
 - Job's obedience did not bring joy in this season of life...
 - Job's suffering was NOT caused by sin... in this season...
- NOTE:
 - Job's friends assume "absolute" truth of wisdom principles...
 - Job's friend's wrong application of truth becomes bigotry!
 - "Turning 'sometimes' into 'always' is usually dangerous" – JDP
 - i.e. "If you are still sick, you mustn't have enough faith."
 - NOTE: It is true "sometimes."
 - NOTE: It is not true always!

PHILOSOPHY (a study of the "great questions" of life) is addressed in/by Job:

Examples:

- Why are we here?
- Where did evil come from?
- What is life about?
- Why do good people suffer?

Job answers many of philosophy's greatest questions:

- Why is there pain and suffering?
- Why are pain and suffering so unfairly experienced?
- Why do "good people" endure pain & suffering?
- Why do "bad people" escape pain & suffering?
- If there is a God, is He interested in, and/or care about our pain & suffering?

THEOLOGY is also addressed in/by Job...

Foundational observation:

- One must hold a particular view of God before there would be any problem w/ suffering
- If God were "bad" then He wouldn't care about the reality of suffering...
- If God were "weak" He could not do anything about suffering...

ONLY if you believe God is Almighty AND Good... is there a problem w/ suffering

- Modern/liberal theology tries to pit God's attributes against one another
- External Enemies of Christ/the Church say:
 - "God is not "good" – hence the pain/suffering in this world...
 - Therefore... live life to the full and take care of yourself...
- Internal Enemies of Christ/the Church say:
 - "God is good... but weak: evidenced by His sitting on the sidelines..."
 - "God is good... but weak: He is not truly sovereign... we have "free" will

NOTE: to have a problem with suffering is to be well on one's way to accepting the reality of God...

*** NOTE: Combining the philosophical & theological...

Question: How can an all-powerful & all-loving God can exist in our reality?

Answer: Look at the supernatural "hating & loving" of sinners found in the cross!

- Job teaches us through the following observations/convictions:
 - There is a "good" & Almighty God
 - He created & sustains reality as well as all that is in it

- He does care about suffering and those who suffer
- The ultimate question that still begs to be answered:
 - If He is all-knowing, all-powerful, all-loving... then WHY?

KEY POINTS:

1. **Two underlying questions addressed in Job's plots/debates:**
 - a. **Isn't all religion based on "return?" (Satan's accusatorily wrong argument)**
 - b. **Isn't all suffering based on sin? (Job's friend's wrong argument)**
2. **One CORE QUESTION addressed in Job**
 - a. **Can you trust God by faith, even when suffering is real and answers are absent?**
 - b. **Job is not a story about patience or suffering (both are "pointers," not the point)**
 - c. **Job is a story about God's goodness & man's need for biblical faith!**
 - i. It is easy to "believe" or trust a God in the "good times"
 - ii. AND... for those who KNOW the truly "good God" – faith/trust = "No matter what"
3. Job does not find peace in "getting answers" to his questions...
4. Job finds peace when he realizes that he doesn't need answers to his questions!
 - a. Understanding the following replaces a need for understanding "Why?":
 - i. Him
 - ii. Here
 - iii. Hurt
 - iv. Help
 - v. Hope
 1. Job overcame physical pain
 2. Job overcame social pain
 3. Job overcame mental pain
 4. Job's REAL pain was SPIRITUAL pain - "If only I could connect with God"
 - b. Trusting in God as He is revealed is all we need!
 - i. The best "answer" to our questions is not "solution"... but Savior!
 - ii. The best answer is not "facts" but faith!
 - iii. "Answers" are not a "must;" our only "must" is trust!" – JDP

STRUCTURE OF JOB:

1. Job uses the "sandwich" literary structure...
 - i. Prose/Prologue (ch.1&2)
 1. Introduction
 2. God and Satan...
 - ii. Poetry/Dialogue (3 – 42:6)
 1. Humans
 - a. Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar (3-31)
 - i. Round 1 (3-14)
 - ii. Round 2 (15-21)
 - iii. Round 3 (22-31)
 - b. Elihu (32-37) – a monologue
 2. Divine
 - a. Round 1 (38-39)
 - b. Round 2 (40-42:6)
 - iii. Prose/Epilogue (42:7-17)
 1. Final round...
 2. God and Job

CONTENT:

1. The Plot(s)

a. Heavenly Plot/Debate... **(whether anyone truly loves/trust God just for who He is)**

i. God calls a meeting of His angels...

1. The implications for us are awesome!
2. Know that God is actively involved in His creation: past, present, future!

ii. Satan comes to the meeting...

1. Note the connection between Satan's name and activity ("Accuser")

a. Satan says:

- i. People only want God for what they can get from Him
- ii. People are selfish thru and thru...

b. Satan's limitations exposed:

- i. Satan goes to & fro... He can only be in one place at once
- ii. Satan cannot touch you without God's permission!

2. HUGE POINT:

a. People tend to have a "Greek" view of reality:

- i. Natural – everything in the physical sense
- ii. Super-natural – everything in the heavenly sense
- iii. Consequence:

1. Satan is given too much reverence/fear
2. Satan is given "supernatural" status...
3. God is obviously supernatural... therefore,
4. Most put Satan on the same side of the equation with God in the supernatural realm... **WRONG!!!**

b. People need to have a "biblical" world view of reality:

- i. Created/Creation – everything God has created...
- ii. Creator – God Almighty – Father, Son, & Holy Spirit
- iii. Consequence:

1. God has no one, nothing on His side of the line!
2. This contest is not in question!
3. Satan is created... God is Creator – period!
4. Satan never has any more power than God gives him
5. Your reality is never out of God's will/power – Amen!

c. Note how God defends Job in the discussion:

- i. He does NOT defend Job with physical/emotional defenses...
- ii. He defends Job's love/trust/faith...
- iii. God acknowledges that Satan is right about many, but not all
- iv. Job's faith is defended for its purity & passion (true faith)
- v. God allows Satan to test Job
 1. This is for Job's good (Romans 8:28)
 2. This good proves to be very, very hard (not "bad").
 3. Job's test can become our "wisdom"
 4. God blesses many thru one person's suffering/lesson
 5. Note: Satan is a pit-bull... on a God-measured chain...

d. Remember: God promises that His children will never be tempted beyond what they have the capacity (with the Spirit) to bear...

- i. I can do all things thru Christ who gives me strength...
- ii. Also: God controls the "tempter" – hence His/our confidence
 1. We may struggle with Satan...
 - a. but God never struggles with anyone/thing
 - b. but we don't have to struggle - the war is won

b. Earthly Plot/Debate (why is Job suffering worse than others... sin or innocent?)

Worldview Grid

	Where Did I Come From?	What's Wrong with the world?	Is There a Solution?	What is My Purpose?
Biblical Worldview	Creation Image of God	The Fall: Original sin Human responsibility	Atonement through Christ's death and resurrection	Doing God's will Restoring the fallen world
Secular Naturalism	Undirected evolution Time+Chance	NOT responsible • Genes • Society (Rousseau)	Worldly utopia Ideology	Self-fulfillment
Postmodernism	Pantheism Eternal universe	Oppression Western Civilization	Deconstruction Personal autonomy Tolerance enforced by law	Utopian Earth
Islam	Creation NOT image of God (Image of God= idolatry)	NO original sin • Deception • The Self	Salvation by arbitrary will of Allah No grace Transcendent not imminent	Submission to Allah Umma Muslima
Eastern Religions	World is an illusion Reincarnation	Eat karma • Ignorance • Desire	Mystical experience Eliminate desire	Accept karma "Liberation" (personal extinction)
New Age	Pantheism/God in us Biological evolution Spiritual evolution	Ignorance of own divinity	Psycho-technologies	Personal enlightenment Bring in the New Age