

**THE JOB'S PRINCIPLE**  
The Old Testament Today  
Banska Bystrica, 28th July 2019

וַיַּעַן הַשָּׂטָן אֶת־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר הַחֲנָם יְרֵא אֱלֹהִים	<b>Job 1:9</b> Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “ <b>Does Job fear God for no reason?</b> ”
<sup>8</sup> שֶׁהוּן קָדָם אֶהְלֵךְ וְאִינְנוּ וְאַחֹר וְלֹא־אֲבִין לוֹ <sup>9</sup> שְׂמֹאלוֹל בַּעֲשָׂתוֹ וְלֹא־אֲחִזּוּ יַעֲטֹף יָמִין וְלֹא אֲרִאֶה <sup>10</sup> כִּי־יֵרַדַּע הַדָּרֶךְ עֲמֹדֵי בְּחֻנֵּי כְּזָהָב אֲצֵא	<b>Job 23:8-10</b> "Behold, I go forward, but he is not there, and backward, but I do not perceive him; <sup>9</sup> on the left hand when he is working, I do not behold him; he turns to the right hand, but I do not see him. <sup>10</sup> <u>But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.</u>
וַיְהִיָּה שָׁב אֶת־שְׁבוֹת אֱיֹב בַּהֲתַפְלְלוֹ בְּעַד רֵעָהוּ	<b>Job 42:10</b> And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends.

## OUTLINE

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### 1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF RELIGION?

- 1.1. PROTECTION
- 1.2. PROSPERITY
- 1.3. RELATIONSHIPS
- 1.4. SOCIAL POSITION
- 1.5. HEALTH
- 1.6. AN EXPLANATION / UNDERSTANDING

### 2. WHAT KEEPS THE BELIEVER IN SUFFERING?

- 2.1. THE HOPE OF ETERNITY
- 2.2. THE PRESENCE OF GOD

### 3. TO REMEMBER

### 0. INTRODUCTION

- The Book of Job: *the question(s)* to which the other parts of the Bible give *the answer*.

#### 0.1. A PRE-ADAMIC MOTIVE

- **Job 38:4-7** "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. <sup>5</sup> Who determined its measurements- surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup> On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, <sup>7</sup> when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
- **Job 1:8** And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job [Adam?], that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man (Adam was created *innocent*), who fears God and turns away from evil?" → a discussion that could have taken place before the Fall in Eden

- Job → a model human being in TESTING of faithfulness
- Job → a representative of humankind in suffering

### 0.2. THE MAIN THEME OF THE BOOK

- suffering? the meaning of human existence? God's justice?
- multi-layered theme: from Job's catastrophe to theology of nature; theology of history; the character of God (THEODICY); the possibilities of human reason...  
Job in proverbs and sayings ("Job's news"; "Job's suffering";...)
- Job in literature: Carl Jung *The Answer to Job*;
- [Talmud] "We do not see things as they are. We see them as we are."

### 0.3. THE BOOK OF JOB IN THE HEBREW BIBLE

- a non-Jewish book → adopted by Israel (Moses?)
- Lam 4:21 "Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, that dwellest in the land of **Uz**."
- The wisdom of Edom (Jer 49:7; Obad 1:8) → association of wisdom with Edom in the Bible
- **John 4:22** You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews)
- **Eze 14:14** even if these three men, **Noah**, **Daniel**, and **Job**, were in it, they would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness, declares the Lord GOD ... **Eze 14:20** even if **Noah**, **Daniel**, and **Job** were in it, as I live, declares the Lord GOD, they would deliver neither son nor daughter. They would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness.

### 0.4. JOB - A FAITH BASED ON "NATURAL THEOLOGY"

- The hope of eternal life in Job(?) → Special revelation in the New Testament: **John 17:3** ...this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent
- **Job 38:36** Who has put wisdom in the inward parts (בַּשְּׁחוֹת הַבְּחִינָה) or given understanding to the mind? (נָתַן לְשִׁכְוֵי בִינָה)
- **Job 39:1** the mountain goats give birth?
- **Job 39:5** the wild donkey go free?
- **Job 39:9** the wild ox willing to serve you?
- **Job 39:13** the ostrich ... **17** because God has made her forget wisdom and given her no share in understanding.
- **Job 40:15** Behold, Behemoth, which I made as I made you
- **Job 41:1** "Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook or press down his tongue with a cord?"

### 0.5. JOB IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- **Jas 5:11** Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. (ἰδοὺ μακαρίζομεν τοὺς ὑπομείναντας· τὴν ὑπομονὴν Ἰωβ ἠκούσατε καὶ τὸ τέλος κυρίου εἶδετε, ὅτι πολὺσπλαγχνὸς ἐστὶν ὁ κύριος καὶ οἰκτίρμων)
- George Campbell MORGAN *The Answers of Jesus to Job*:<sup>1</sup>
  - The Cry for a Daysman → There is no daysman (arbiter מוֹדֵי) betwixt us, That might lay his hand upon us both. Job 9:33. There is one Mediator (μεσίτης) between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus. I Tim 2: 5.
  - The Inquiry as to Life → "If a man die, shall he live? Job 14:14. "He that believeth on Me, though he die, yet shall he live. John 11:25.

<sup>1</sup> CAMPBELL MORGAN, G. *The Answers of Jesus to Job*, New York: Fleming H. Revell, 1935.

- **The Witness in Heaven** → Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven, And He that voucheth for me is on high. - Job 16:19 For Christ entered ... into heaven itself, now to appear before ... God for us. - Heb 9:24
- **The living Redeemer** → I know that my Redeemer liveth. - Job 19:25. He ever liveth to make intercession. - Heb 7:25.
- **The Quest for God** → Oh that I knew where I might find Him! - Job 23:3. He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father. - John 14:9.
- **The Challenge to God** → Oh that I had One to hear me! ... And that I had the indictment which mine Adversary hath written! - Job 31:35. Ye are come ... to God the Judge of all ... and to Jesus the Mediator. — Heb 12:22-24.

## 1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF RELIGION?

### 1.1. PROTECTION

- **Job 1:10** Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.
- **Job 29:2-5** "Oh, that I were as in the months of old, as in the days when God watched over me,<sup>3</sup> when his lamp shone upon my head, and by his light I walked through darkness,<sup>4</sup> as I was in my prime, when the friendship of God was upon my tent,<sup>5</sup> when the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were all around me,
- **Ps 34:7** The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

### 1.2. PROSPERITY

- success; wealth;
- **Job 1:2-3**<sup>3</sup> He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east.

### 1.3. RELATIONSHIPS

- family; friends
- **Job 29:5** when the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were all around me
- **Job 29:11-13** when the ear heard, it called me blessed, and when the eye saw, it approved,<sup>12</sup> because I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to help him.<sup>13</sup> The blessing of him who was about to perish came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.

### 1.4. SOCIAL POSITION

- fame; influence
- **Job 29:7-10** When I went out to the gate of the city, when I prepared my seat in the square,<sup>8</sup> the young men saw me and withdrew, and the aged rose and stood;<sup>9</sup> the princes refrained from talking and laid their hand on their mouth;<sup>10</sup> the voice of the nobles was hushed, and their tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth.

### 1.5. HEALTH

- **Job 2:3-6** And 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."<sup>4</sup> Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! (עור בְּעֹר־עֹר) All that a man has he will give for his life.<sup>5</sup> But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face."<sup>6</sup> And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life."

## 1.6. AN EXPLANATION / UNDERSTANDING

- **The suffering of meaninglessness**
- **(The unexamined life is not worth living)<sup>2</sup>**
- the debate chpt. 4-37
- Job finally worships God without explanation (was never told why)

### → THE VINDICATION OF GOD'S ORIGINAL JUDGMENT

- **Job 42:1-6** Then Job answered the LORD and said: <sup>2</sup> "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. <sup>3</sup> 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. <sup>4</sup> 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.' <sup>5</sup> I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; <sup>6</sup> therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."
- **Job 42:4** Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.

## 2. WHAT KEEPS THE BELIEVER IN SUFFERING?

- **Job 29:18** Then I thought, 'I shall die in my nest, and I shall multiply my days as the sand,
- Romanticism: "Life is thus; but thus I will not have it. Standing braced on the intolerable reality, I recreate"<sup>3</sup>
- Ps 106:1; 107:1; 118:1, 29; 136:1 → הודו ליהוה כִּי־טוֹב כִּי לְעוֹלָם חָסְדוֹ
- **Ps 54:6(8)** With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good. (אוֹדָה שְׂמֵךְ יְהוָה כִּי־טוֹב)

### 2.1. THE HOPE OF ETERNITY

- **Job 19:25** For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
- NT→ the promises of God (→ the resurrection) → **Col 1:27** Christ in you, the hope of glory

### 2.2. THE PRESENCE OF GOD

- **Job 13:20-22** Only grant me two things, then I will not hide myself from your face: <sup>21</sup> withdraw your hand far from me, and let not dread of you terrify me. <sup>22</sup> Then call, and I will answer; or let me speak, and you reply to me. **Job 14:14-15** If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my service I would wait, till my renewal should come. <sup>15</sup> You would call, and I would answer you; you would long for the work of your hands.
- **NT**→ **Mt 5:8** "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God (μακάριοι οἱ καθαροὶ τῇ καρδίᾳ, ὅτι αὐτοὶ τὸν θεὸν ὄψονται)
- **Romans 5:1-5** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us

<sup>2</sup> ὁ ... ἀνεξέταστος βίος οὐ βιωτὸς ἀνθρώπῳ – Socrates in Plato's *Apology* (38a5-6)

<sup>3</sup> STEBBINS, L.P. – STEBBINS, R.P. *Enchanted Life*, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1940, p. 14.

**3. TO REMEMBER**

- *A minore ad maius*: from natural theology to the gift faith → **Matthew 12:41** The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.
- This life has never been meant to fulfill our deepest longings.
- Go beyond the solution of your life problems, even the promise of the eternal life → make sure you desire God Himself.