

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



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George L. Faull, Editor

Pledge of Allegiance

By Terry Carter

The following article was written in 1999, but has never been published. It seems to me that it is more relevant today than ever before. It was written in answer to those who refused on religious grounds to pledge allegiance to the flag or stand for the National Anthem. Specifically, it answers those who believe that doing so is a form of worship of the flag or nation and therefore, idolatry.

Today, there are people who refuse to honor our flag, National Anthem, etc. for political reasons rather than religious reasons. Whatever the reason, the Christian is bound by God's Word which tells us to give honor, tribute, and fear to whom it is due and to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's.



While it is certainly wrong and idolatrous to worship anything other than God, I do not believe that pledging allegiance to the flag or standing for the National Anthem amounts to "worship". It is right to honor, respect, and fear the government, but not to worship it for the following reasons:

First, there is nothing inherently idolatrous about having a flag. Even the Israelites had standards, which were flags. "Everyone of the children of Israel shall camp **by his own standard, beside the emblems of his father's house**; they shall camp some distance from the tabernacle of meeting." **Numbers 2:2 (NKJV)**

Second, there is a difference between honor and worship. We are told in Scripture to honor quite a number of people, including the king. Clearly, this is not the same as worship.

1. Our father and mother, **Ephesians 6:2**

2. Widows, **I Timothy 5:3**
3. Elders, **I Timothy 5:7**
4. All men, **I Peter 2:17**
5. The king, **I Peter 2:17**
6. One another, **Romans 12:10**

It is especially noteworthy that we are commanded to honor the king who is the head of the government. Jesus also made it plain that supposed honor to God does not free us from our obligation to honor our father and mother. "3 He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? 4 "For **God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'**"; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' 5 "**But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, 'Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God'**"; 6 'then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition." **Matthew 15:3-6 (NKJV)**

Third, to honor our flag with the pledge of allegiance is certainly not to worship it since the pledge itself acknowledges that the nation is under God and therefore secondary and subject to Him. The National Anthem simply sings of the joy of having gained and maintained our freedom. There is no indication of worship of our nation in it whatsoever.

Pledging allegiance is not swearing allegiance. The word "pledge" means to promise. "Swear" means, "to vow, promise under oath, or assert to be true with an appeal to God".

We can, and ought to, love our country without idolizing or worshipping it. I do the same with my wife. I love her, but I don't idolize or worship her. I did, however, pledge, in fact vow, my allegiance to her when I married her. I even called upon both God and man to witness my vow of allegiance to her.

Fourth, Jesus said to render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's. There are things that belong to Caesar and other things that belong to God. "They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "**Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.**" **Matthew 22:21 (NKJV)**

Fifth, Paul commanded that we honor, fear, and pay taxes to the governing authority. He says they are appointed by God and to resist them is to resist the

ordinance of God. **“1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. 5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. Romans 13:1-7 (NKJV)**

If it be objected that our government is corrupt, unjust and ungodly, remember the following:

1. So were the governments of Babylon and the Medes and Persians under which Daniel served.
2. The Caesars accepted worship as gods.
3. The wicked Nero who was later responsible for terrible persecution of Christians was on the throne when Paul wrote **Romans 13:1-7**.
4. The church was being persecuted by Rome when Peter commanded them to honor the king, **1 Peter 2:17**.

Sixth, God's people are to seek the peace of our country and pray for our leaders. This is how we can have peace and live in godliness and reverence. It is good and acceptable in the sight of God. Israel was to seek the peace of Babylon while they were in captivity. Daniel did exactly that, even serving Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius and Cyrus.

“And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace.” Jeremiah 29:7 (NKJV)

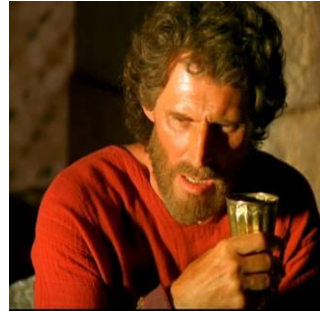
“1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,” 1 Timothy 2:1-3 (NKJV)

It is right and proper to honor and give allegiance to government. Even to a government as corrupt as Rome's was under Nero. To resist the authority is to resist the ordinance of God.

We are not seeking to ostracize anyone over this issue. Nor do we wish for anyone to violate their conscience in this. But we do believe that we not only have the liberty to do this as Christians, but a Scriptural imperative to do so.

~ ECCLESIASTES ~

Solomon's Sermon



INTRODUCTION:

Ecclesiastes 1:2-3, “2 Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; **all is vanity. 3 What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?**”

↳ It is like:

- a. The sun repeats its circuit every day – vs 5.
- b. Wind goeth in circles – vs. 6.
- c. Rivers roll to oceans, evaporates then rains again – vs 7.
- d. Eye wants to keep seeing – vs 8.
- e. Nothing new under the sun, vs 9-10.
- f. Ear wants to keep hearing – vs 8.
- g. One generation after another with no real genuine progress – vs 11.

↳ I ought to know – I was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

All is vanity is proven by:

- a. **Experiment**, “**he tried**” – vs 13.
- b. **Observation**, “**he saw**” – vs 14-15.
- c. **Common sense**, “**he reasoned**” – vs 16-18.

I. I TRIED – CHAPTER 2

- A. **Things – Ecclesiastes 2:1-11** (wine, women, works, wealth, wisdom)
 1. Mirth – vs 1-2
 2. Pleasure – vs 1-2
 3. Wine – vs 3
 4. Architecture – vs 4
 5. Gardening – vs 5-6
 6. Wealth – vs 7
 7. Cattle ranching – vs 7
 8. Art collections – vs 8
 9. Music – vs 8
 10. Whatever my eye wanted – vs 9-10
 11. All was vanity – vs 11
- B. **Wisdom**
 1. But wise can do nothing new – vs 12.
 2. Both wise and foolish die – vs 13-15.
 3. Wise no better remembered – vs 16-17.
 4. Leave all my things wisdom got me is left to a fool – vs 18-21.
 5. This makes you sleepless at night and vexed – vs 22-23.
- C. **Eat, drink, and be merry** – vs 24-26 – it is vanity.

D. **Philosophies** (Life is barren, boring, bitter.)

1. Fatalism – **Ecclesiastes 3:1-22**
 - a. Time for everything – vs 1-13.
 - b. God doing it all – vs 14.
 - c. History repeats itself like nature – vs 15.
 - d. All die and it will start over again – vs 16-22.
2. Deism – **Ecclesiastes 4:1-16**
 - a. Problems galore but no comforter – vs 1.
 - b. Better off dead – vs 2.
 - c. Better off never born – vs 3.
 - d. Men work but envied – vs 4-6.
 - e. Childless or brother (heirless) – vs 7-8.
 - f. Little better off with a partner – vs 9-14.
 - g. Who will help and give advice? All men die – vs 15-16.
3. Ritualism
 - a. Make sacrifices good – vs 1.
 - b. Make vows good – vs 2-6.
 - c. Still vanity.
4. Conclusion of Experiment – **Ecclesiastes 5:8-17**.
 - a. On wisdom, philosophies, and wealth – all is vanity.
 - b. Obeying God is the answer.

II. **I SAW – ECCLESIASTES 5:18**

- A. His first thoughts – vs 18-20.
- B. What he saw.
 1. Wealthy die before partaking – vs 2.
 2. Old age is useless (miscarriage better) – vs 2-6.
 3. Wisdom useless for all done beforehand will happen again – vs 7-12.
 4. Reputation is vanity – **Ecclesiastes 7:1**.
 5. Laughter is vanity – **Ecclesiastes 7:2-6**.
 6. Wisdom useless – **Ecclesiastes 7:7-13**.
 7. Even the just man perishes – **Ecclesiastes 7:14-16**.
 8. But very wicked is vanity – **Ecclesiastes 7:17**.
 9. Strength is no good without wisdom, but wisdom is also vanity – **Ecclesiastes 7:18-25**.
 10. Woman vanity – **Ecclesiastes 7:26-29**.
 11. Power is vanity – **Ecclesiastes 8:1-8**.
 12. Following government is vanity – **Ecclesiastes 8:9**.
- C. Conclusion of what he saw – vs 14-17. Obeying God is the answer.

III. **I REASONED – ECCLESIASTES 9:1**

- A. Thoughts
 1. All things come alike to all – vs 1-2.
 2. All die – vs 3.
 3. Living is little better off than dead – vs 4-6.

4. Do what you will because tomorrow you die – vs 7-10.
5. You don't know when you will die – vs 11-12.
6. Wisdom will not give reputation – vs 13-18.
7. Reputation easily ruined – **Ecclesiastes 10:1**.
8. Do evil - you pay – 2-9.
9. Wise talk is better than foolish, but wise men die too – vs 10-20.
10. Don't know the ways of God – **Ecclesiastes 11:1-8**.
11. Youth is vanity – vs 9-10.

B. Conclusion of "I reasoned".

1. Remember the Creator in your youth while you have:
 - a. Two eyes.
 - b. Arms – keepers of the home.
 - c. Legs – strongmen bow themselves.
 - d. Teeth – grinders.
 - e. Mind – those that lookout window.
 - f. Ears – vs 4.
 - g. Silver hair – Almond tree.
 - h. Death is coming – vs 5.
 - i. Spinal cord – Silver cord.
 - j. Brain – Golden bowl.
 - k. Heart – Pitcher.
 - l. Circulatory System – Well.
2. When death comes, the spirit returns unto God – vs 7.
3. Though all is vanity (vs 8), the preacher still taught Proverbs (Proverbs should follow the book of Ecclesiastes) and made books. **Because the spirit returns to God, it is your duty to fear God and keep His commandments** – vs 13-14.

IV. **HE SEES THE FOLLY OF:**

- A. A new leaf without new life – 3:12-17.
- B. Might without right – 4:1-3.
- C. Plenty without peace – 4:4-8.
- D. Prosperity without posterity – 4:9-12.
- E. Sovereignty without sagacity – 4:13-16.
- F. Religion without reality – 5:1-6.
- G. Wealth without health – 5:7-20.
- H. Treasure without pleasure – 6:1-6.
- I. Appetite without appeasement – 6:7-10.
- J. Life without length – 6:11-12.

V. HE SAW THESE FALLACIES

- A. Fiction of being great – 8:1-9.
- B. Folly of being godless – 8:10-13.
- C. Fantasy of being good – 8:14.
- D. Frivolity of being gay – 8:15.
- E. Fault of being gifted – 8:16-17.

VI. SOME COMMON MISUSES OF THIS BOOK

- A. Skeptics use it for proof that there is nothing after the grave.
 - 1. But remember that this is what the natural man thought.
 - 2. This was the author's skeptical thought, **NOT** a revealed truth.
- B. Soul sleeping has been urged from this book. But again, this is the natural man's assuming, **NOT** revelation.
- C. Pessimistic people take delight in the book for at first glance it appears very pessimistic.
 - 1. A careful reading shows that it is saying that "all these things" cannot satisfy man, for he is too big for this world.
 - 2. **He has an eternal heart – 3:11.**
 - 3. See Halley's Bible Handbook.
 - 4. In fact, if we obey God, we may enjoy the things of this life!
- D. Some use this book as evidence that the Bible is contradictory and uninspired. It is true that some of the statements in the book of **Ecclesiastes contradict other Bible principles, but keep in mind:**
 - 1. **The conclusion of the whole book does not.** Because the author has chosen to tell of his experiences, observations, and reasoning does not mean they can be used against the whole.
 - 2. **Inspiration is progressive.**
 - 3. **The nature of its inspiration is not to reveal just inspired truths, but the context or setting for a truth to be taught.** This was an excellent way to drive home his point – fearing God and keeping His commandments. He had tried, seen, reasoned that all else was vanity.
- E. **Another key is in Ecclesiastes 3:11.**
 - 1. The word "world" in the R.V. is translated, "eternity".
 - 2. God hath set eternity in their heart.
 - 3. This same word is used 7 other times:
 - a. **Ecclesiastes 1:4**
 - b. **Ecclesiastes 1:10**
 - c. **Ecclesiastes 2:16**

- d. **Ecclesiastes 3:11**
- e. **Ecclesiastes 3:14**
- f. **Ecclesiastes 9:6**
- g. **Ecclesiastes 12:5**

- 4. It is translated, "forever", "old", "long", "everlasting".
- 5. Man has eternal thoughts in his heart. (See "*Halley's Bible Handbook*" for this thought.)

This is why "all under the sun is vanity."

F. Suggested readings:

- 1. "*Unger's Bible Handbook*", page 296.
- 2. The Book of Ecclesiastes in the "*New Analytical Bible*", Outstanding Facts.

VII. LESSONS

- A. It is vanity and vexation of spirit if you look at only things under the sun.
- B. This book is man's cry for an eternal home.
- C. This book teaches us the danger of lifting a text out of context lest it become a pretext.
- D. This book is the experiments, observations, and reasoning of a man without God's revelation. It should not be used to prove or disprove a doctrine, except in the conclusions of each section. (See outline)
- E. It shows the vanity of materialism, science, philosophy, pleasure, arts, women, creativity, ritualistic religion, reputation, power, morality – for all is vanity.
- F. This book shows a man being strictly honest in saying that, "Apart from God, all is vanity."

VIII. SIDELIGHTS

- A. God is mentioned 40 times as "**Elohim**" (the God nature presents, but not "Jehovah", the God revealed in Scripture.) **God is considered in light of the natural man.**
- B. "Under the sun" appears 29 times.
- C. "Vanity" is mentioned 37 times.
- D. "Communed with my heart" appears 7 times.

We have included these outlines on Ecclesiastes and Job because they are overlooked books.

These outlines may help students grasp the purposes of these two books!

Memories of Alcohol



“I drank for happiness and became unhappy.
I drank for joy and became miserable.
I drank for sociability and became argumentative.
I drank for sophistication and became obnoxious.
I drank for friendship and made enemies.
I drank for sleep and woke up tired.
I drank for strength and felt weak.
I drank for relaxation and got the shakes.
I drank for courage and became afraid.
I drank for confidence and became doubtful.
I drank to make conversation easier and slurred my speech.
I drank to feel Heavenly and ended up feeling like Hell.”

--Author Unknown



Coming Soon...

**A New Book Co-written by
Terry Carter and George L. Faull
“The Age of Accountability for Baptism”**

This unique book provides hours of research giving Scriptural answers to many questions people have for their children, or the children of others, and whether they are old enough to be at the age to consider baptism for their salvation.

Muslim Divorce Law Revoked in India



The Supreme Court of India delivered a verdict that invalidated a long practiced Indian Muslim law. The law is even more evil than the law of Indiana, which allows no-fault divorce.

One can get married in Indiana and be divorced in a matter of months without a Scriptural reason. But the divorce law of India is even worse. It is called, "Triple talaq." It allowed a Muslim husband to divorce his wife by saying "talaq" three times in the presence of two witnesses in one sitting, by letter or email. It was irrevocable and a part of their Sharia law.

Or you could say the word over the course of three months instead of the triple "Talaq" rule. The latter choice of doing so was call "talaq-e-hasan".

Twenty-two Muslim nations used these two means of divorce. Some Muslims insist they will not pay any attention to the Supreme Court of India banning the practice.

The Muslim scholars do not believe any Sharia law can be trumped. They believe it interferes with Muslim personal law.

The Sunni Muslims will not obey the law even though the Shiites supposedly welcomed the law. This fact has no effect on the Sunni Muslims who will refuse to act on the law.

This should alarm any American who welcomes Sharia law to get any foothold in any city in the United States. There is not enough room for the laws of the United States and the laws of an apostate religion.

Speak up now or see your daughters divorced (should they be unwise enough to marry a Muslim).

Three strikes may work in baseball but “three *talaqs*” you’re out at home could only be a device of Satan, the great opponent of God’s institution of marriage.

Congratulations to the Supreme Court of India for their courage and common sense. It is too bad that Indiana legislators lost theirs years ago.



Did John the Baptist Start the Church?

If he did, the Bible doesn't say he did.

If he did, he did not announce or prophecy that he was going to do so; like Jesus did – **Matthew 16:18**

If he did, he did it after he died and before Jesus said, "I will build My Church – **Matthew 14:10** - Compare **Matthew 16:18**. Are there two Churches or two founders? If there are two churches, obviously which church should you be a part? If there is one Church, how can we accept Jesus as the founder of His Church?

If he did, why did Christ prophecy "Upon this rock I will (future) build My Church" and death or Hades would not prevent His doing so? **Matthew 16:18**

If he did establish a church, he did not purchase it with his own blood, as Jesus did. **Acts 20:28**, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

If he did, it never had any members because John said Jesus must increase and he (John) must decrease. If one decreases, there are none.

If he did, his converts had to be baptized again because his baptism did not give the Holy Spirit – **Acts 19:1-5, Acts 2:38**.

If he did, does it not divide the body of Christ for we are not to say, "I am of Paul or Cephas or Apollos", so why should Baptists say, "I am of John"? – **1 Corinthians 1:12**

If he did, was Christ divided? For John was not crucified for his church nor were they baptized in John's name – **1 Corinthians 1:13**

If he did, how can Jesus be the cornerstone and the apostles and prophets the foundation of it? – **Ephesians 2:20**

If he did, how can it be said "There is one body"? **Ephesians 4:4, Ephesians 1:22-23**

If he did, how can there be one Spirit for the Spirit was not given by John's baptism? **John 7:39, Ephesians 4:4**

If he did, how can a man who was not risen from the dead give us the "one hope"? **Ephesians 4:4**

If all of this is true, the Baptist denomination cannot be the Church of Christ for the Church gives Christ the Preeminence – **Colossians 1:18**.

Then, who started the Baptist denomination? John Smythe and Thomas Helwys in about 1607 in Holland, sixteen hundred years after John the Immerser died. See article on Baptist Origins in Wikipedia. Of course, there are 200 – 500 different kinds of Baptists and man does not know which the true church is, which John supposedly established.

In light of this, the doctrine of succession of the Baptist Church is as ludicrous as Rome's claim or the Episcopal Churches claim of a succession from the Apostles.

But with Christ's Church there is no provable succession needed. We are plainly told that the Church will be hidden in the wilderness for 1,260 years during the dark ages. **Revelation 12:14**

All that is needed is for those who believe that Jesus is Lord and obey Him in Christian baptism, to gather in an assembly each Lord's Day to observe the Lord's Memorial with others of like-precious-faith.

These give preeminence to Jesus and recognize that He is the cornerstone foundation with the teachings of His Apostles and Prophets as foundation of Christ's Church.

Jesus owns the Church because He built it, bought it, was crucified for it, and it's to be called by His Name and to be Holy and walk as He walked.

What made a Christian in the first century makes one a Christian today!

Only what His Church taught then, is what makes His Church today.

No creed, but Christ.
No Book, but the Word,
No Name, but the Divine.

The ordinances (baptism, Lord's Supper) are Christ's ordinances, not the ordinances of the Church.

They are His commands, not what men make them.

We meet in His Name, wear His Name, and recognize Him as having all authority in Heaven and earth!

To recognize the ordinances of men and teach for doctrine the commandments of men, and negate the commands by our traditions, is mutiny!

To recognize any alleged authority who presumes to teach any other doctrine, is to make ourselves their fellow usurpers!

~ JOB ~

Key: “I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear; but not mine eye seeth thee: wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

Job 42:5-6

Outline:

- I. Introduction to Job’s problem – Ch 1.
- II. Introduction to Job’s friends – Ch 2-32.
 - A. Job answers Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar – Ch 33.
 - B. Job answers Elihu – Ch 32-37.
- III. Introduction to Job’s Lord – Ch 38-41.
- IV. Introduction to Job’s final bliss – Ch 42.
 - A. His personal repentance.
 - B. His friends’ rebuked.
 - C. His integrity retold.
 - D. His family restored.
 - E. His wealth replenished.

Who was Job?

He was probably the Jobab mentioned in Genesis 36:33, as the postscript in the Septuagint suggests.

His friend, Eliphaz, was a descendant of Esau, **Genesis 36:11**.

Bildad, the Shuhite, was of Abraham’s lineage, **Genesis 25:2**.

Elihu was a Buzite, **Genesis 22:21**, and Buz was a brother of Uz from which Job’s territory was named, Job 1:1.

Job is mentioned in **Ezekiel 14:14-20**.

JOB

- I. Background
 - A. This book was written in the purest of Hebrew.
 - B. It is written in the loftiest style of oriental poetry.
 - C. This book presents a beautiful story of Patriarchal religion.

- D. It presents the being and perfection of God.
- E. It records God’s creation and His universal control.
- F. It teaches the Sovereignty of God, and the mercy and goodness of God.
- G. This book teaches the immortality of the soul, and the resurrection of the body.

- II. Job was a Real Person – **Ezekiel 14:14, 20, James 5:11**.

- A. **I Corinthians 3:19** - Compare **Job 5:13**
James 4:10, I Peter 5:6 - Compare **Job 22:29**
Romans 11:34-35 - Compare **Job 15:8**
- B. There is no good reason to question the authorship of this book by Job.

- III. Job’s Home.

- A. Not in Edom or southeast of the Dead Sea as supposed by some. On the contrary, his home was in the Mesopotamian country.
 1. **Job 1:3**
 2. Sabeans were known in this country.
 3. History records a city of Uz in the Mesopotamian country.
 4. Seven different places in Mesopotamian Valley claimed as Job’s burial place. Well-known in the East.

- IV. The Age of Writing.

- A. It is the oldest of all books.
- B. Patriarchal age.
 1. Job refers to the earliest forms of idolatry – the worship of heavenly bodies.
 2. Job’s language is Hebrew, interspersed with Syriac and Arabic expressions.
 3. Job speaks of the most ancient writing – sculpture.
 4. There is no mention of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah or any of the events that followed.
 5. Job was the Priest of his family, which points to the Patriarchal Age, or an earlier age.

ELIPHAZ

Apologist who defends God.

Argument based on human experience. “I have seen.”

“Only’ the wicked suffer.

Uses a dream as an argument (4).

“If” Job had not sinned, he would not suffer.

A Philosopher.

BILDAD

Lecturer who glorifies God.

Argument on tradition. “Inquire of the former age.”

Wicked “always” suffer.

Quotes ancient proverbs as argument (8).

Job “must” suffer because of his sin.

A Historian.

ZOPHAR

Religious bigot who condemns Job.

Arguments are merely assumptions. “Know thou”.

Wicked prosperity short lived.

Arguments are simply religious orthodoxy.

Job is suffering for his sin.

An Orthodox Believer.

- V. The Purpose of the Book.
- Primarily, it sets forth divine sovereignty in all its wonder, majesty, excellence, and glory.
 - Secondly, it deals with the problem of human suffering.
 - Thirdly, it plainly teaches that a person's fortunes or misfortunes are not sufficient in themselves to classify one as evil or righteous. **Matthew 5:45**

ELIHU:

He was the daysman (lawyer) Job pleaded for, and he announces himself as such. **Job 33:6** He does not want to judge Job, but wants to be a friend of his. He says he could be a daysman because, "I also am formed of clay." Job 33:6 (i.e. tempted as you are since I am as you are.)

He rebuked Job not for sins of the past as the other three friends, but for his attitude presently of condemning God for his calamity.

He pointed out that suffering was for restraining men from sin, and not necessarily chastisement for past sin. It was preventive, as well.

He told Job to have faith in God not in an explanation of God allowing him to suffer.

Was he out of place?

- He kept silence for 8 speeches of the others besides Job's.
- He acknowledged his youth.
- The others were silent.
- He claimed inspiration.

What happened in Heaven before and how Job was to be vindicated by God was not known to Job's friends.

- They were philosophers explaining why Job suffered. The purpose of the book is to show that the solution of our suffering is not revealed except that it has Heavenly purposes for our good. It teaches us that all suffering is not chastisement or punitive, but for a greater reason which God dictates.
- God did not even give an explanation for Job's suffering. Instead of answering his questions, God asked him questions. These questions neither Job, nor man today, can answer.

His questions concerned:

- Creation of the earth.
- Creation of the Heavens.
- Creation of living things.

God appeared:

- To humble Job.
- To show His awareness of his trial.
- To make Job awe-stricken simply at the thought of God's wisdom, so that he would rely solely on Him.

The speech ended Job's:

- Self-justification
- Self-righteousness

- Self-wisdom

In the beginning, Job is somewhat as man was in Eden; perfect and content.

Job sitting among ashes with sores is a picture of man as he is in sin.

When Job was transformed, vindicated, and restored, he is man as he shall be when God shall show us His glory.

If Job could not understand Jehovah's natural government, how could he hope to understand His moral government?

JOB – A MONUMENT OF PRIMITIVE THEOLOGY

- Atonement by sacrifice of blood – 1:5, 42:8.
- Mediation of a righteous person – 42:8-9 compare **Job 9:33**.
- Creation by God – Chapters 38-41.
- Providential care by God, Chapters 38-41.
- Ministry of angels – 1:6-7, 5:1, 33:22-23 (including apostasy in their midst – 4:18, 15:15).
- The nature of Satan:
 - Accuser of the brethren - Compare **Revelation 12:10**.
 - As a roaring lion going about – 1:7, Compare **1 Peter 5:8**.
 - Powerful
 - ✓ But limited by God – Compare **1 Corinthians 10:13**.
 - ✓ Not omniscient.
 - ✓ Not omnipotent.
 - ✓ Not omnipresent.
- The resurrection – 14:12-15, 19:26.
- God causes it to rain on the just and unjust alike – Chapter 21.
- A great day of vindication for the righteous – Chapter 42.
- The body of man is but a tabernacle – 28:4.
- Righteousness is more than abstinence, but rather doing good – Chapter 31.
- God is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient – Chapters 38-42.

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES IN JOB

Morning Stars sing – **Job 38:7**

Treasuries of the snow – **Job 38:22**

Stars effect on earth – **Job 38:31-33**

Precipitation – **Job 36:26-28**

Hydrologic balance – **Job 38:24-26**

Hung the earth upon nothing – **Job 26:7**

Cloud balancing – **Job 37:16**

Springs of the Sea – **Job 38:16**

Dinosaurs – **Job Chapters 39 and 41**

