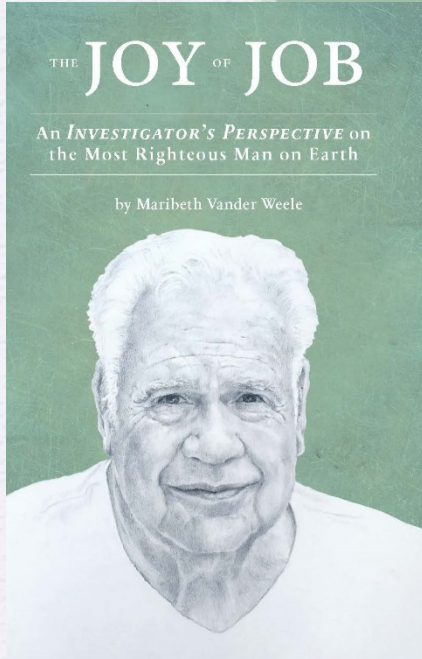


The Joy of Job

An Investigator's Perspective on the
Most Righteous Man on Earth

Scribe and Speaker

Maribeth Vander Weele



Week 1:

Reinterpreting Job's Journey:
An Introduction

Job's Public Image

Where the Journey Began

Job, Recalling His Old Way of Life

“When I went to the gate of the city and took my seat in the public square, the young men saw me and stepped aside and the old men rose to their feet

Job 29:7-11

“The chief men refrained from speaking and covered their mouths with their hands; the voices of the nobles were hushed

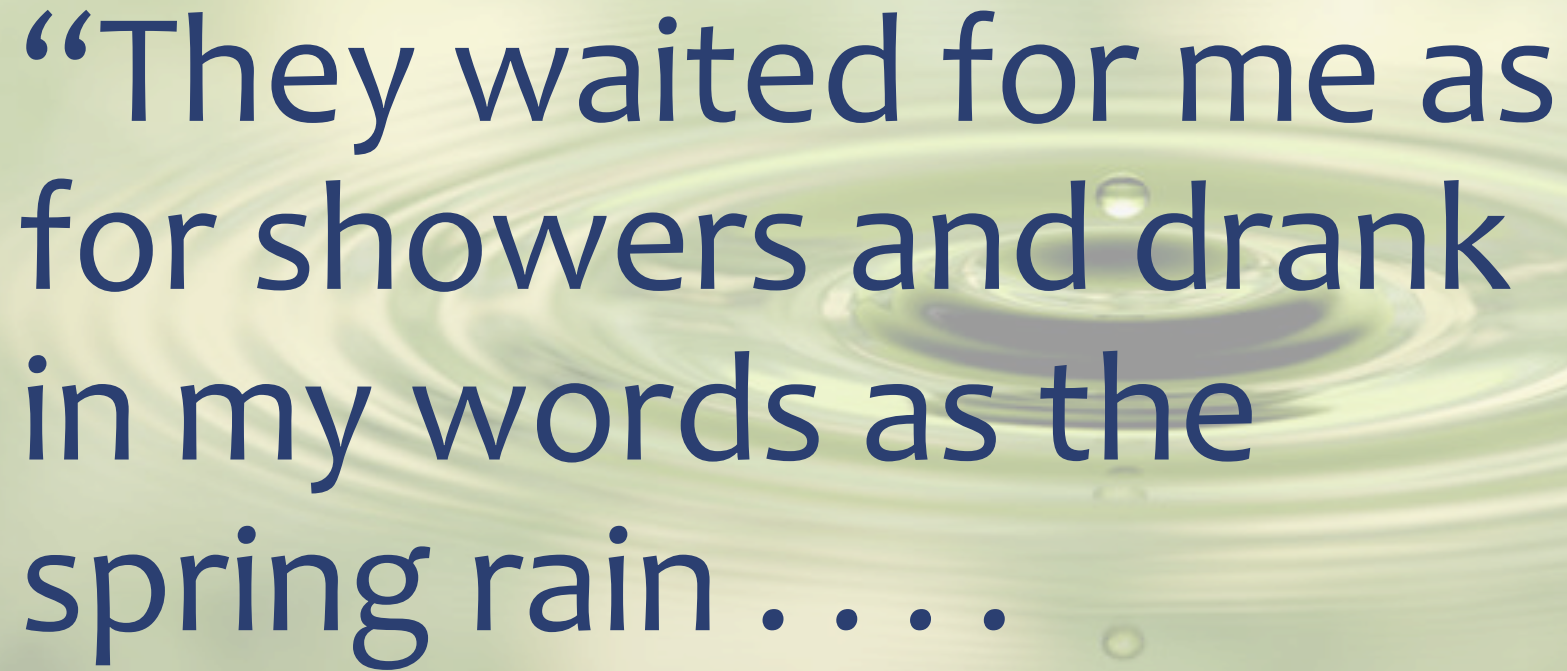
“... and their
tongues stuck to the
roof of their mouths.



“Whoever heard me spoke well of me, and those who saw me commended me” Job 29:7-11



“Men listened to me expectantly, waiting in silence for my counsel. After I had spoken, they spoke no more; my words fell gently on their ears

The background of the slide features a close-up, artistic shot of water droplets hitting a surface, creating concentric ripples. The overall color palette is a soft, natural green, with the water appearing in various shades of light and dark green. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the water and the surrounding environment.

“They waited for me as
for showers and drank
in my words as the
spring rain

*“When I smiled at them,
they scarcely believed it;
the light of my face
was precious to them.”*

Job 29:21-24

“{I thought}
my glory will not fade.”

Job 29:20



Background

The Old Testament Book of Job

- Reportedly the oldest book in the Bible
- Written in Hebrew with Syriac and Arabic expressions
- One of the most difficult Biblical books to translate
- Set in Uz, a great land in the East
- Author unknown



About Job

- Possible Descendant of Jobab, a son of Joktan, a descendent of Shem, a son of Noah
- Joktan was progenitor of the ancient Arabians.



About Job

In Arabic, the name “Job” means,

“The man who repented and gave praise to God.”

In Hebrew, the name “Job” means **“The Persecuted.”**

Job was Arabian, according to Bible scholars.

The background of the slide is a dense, textured field of gold coins, likely 19th-century gold pieces, scattered across the entire surface. The lighting is warm, highlighting the metallic sheen and intricate details of the coins.

About Job

- Greatest Man in the East
- Wealthy
- Father of 10 children
- Lender, possibly banker

Other Characters in the Book of Job

- The Lord
- Angels
- Satan
- Job's Wife (Unnamed)
- Job's First Set of Children (Unnamed)
- Job's Second Set of Children (Three Daughters Named)
- Job's Relatives (Unnamed)



Other Characters in the Book of Job

Friends

- Eliphaz the Temanite
- Bildad the Shuhite
- Zophar the Naamathite
- Elihu of the Family of Ram

Other Characters in the Book of Job

- Job's Closest Friends
- Job's Servants
- Young Men in the Square
- Chief Men and Nobles
- All who knew him before

Other Characters in the Book of Job

- Youth who lived among the rocks
- Fathers of the youth who lived among the rocks

Knowing the characters is important for a running a “movie in the mind” of events.

As we analyze Job, we will study what these characters said and/or did in response to Job and determine whether their words or actions ***correlate*** or ***contradict*** his representations.

The Events Job 1

1. Satan and angels come before Lord.
2. In a famous discussion, the Lord and Satan talk.
3. The Lord tells Satan that Job is blameless and upright.
4. Satan challenges the Lord, attributing his righteousness to his being blessed.
5. The Lord gives Satan permission to afflict Job.

The Events

6. Job loses his oxen, donkeys and servants.
7. Job loses his sheep and servants.
8. Job loses his camels and servants.
9. Job loses his children.
10. Job's first reaction: he does not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

The Events

11. Satan goes for another round.
12. Job loses his health.
13. His wife suggests he curse God and die, but Job rejects his wife's suggestion.
14. Job is universally abandoned by family, servants, and neighbors and ridiculed.
15. Three men meet to "comfort" him. Elihu joins later.

Traditional Interpretation

How would you describe the
character of **Job**, under the
traditional interpretation?

The Traditional Interpretation

Character of Job

- Patient
- Righteous
- Benevolent and Generous
- Persevering
- Good Father
- Deservedly Wealthy

How would you describe the
character of **God**, under the
traditional interpretation?

Character of God

- Enigmatic
- Mysterious
- Disturbing
- Unsympathetic
- Unfair
- Unresponsive

The Traditional Interpretation “Least Sympathetic Character” in the Book

-- *New Yorker* December 16, 2013

BOOKS DECEMBER 16, 2013 ISSUE

MISERY

Is there justice in the Book of Job?

By Joan Acocella



The Book of Job, in the Old Testament, opens with words both majestic and once-upon-a-time-ish: “There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.” Job has ten children, three thousand camels, seven thousand sheep, and many servants. He is the richest man in the East. He doesn’t take his good fortune for granted. Always, the Bible says, he gets up early and makes burnt offerings to God.



William Blake's "Behemoth and Leviathan," creatures of an all-

What was the
intended takeaway,
under the traditional interpretation?

*While respecting Job's faith in a powerful God and his perseverance,
The Joy of Job challenges
the traditional interpretation that he
was blameless.
It uses investigative tools to do so.*

Investigative Tools

Investigative Tools

- Run *Movie in the Mind*
 - Apply to statements.
 - Apply to events.

Apply Logic



- Does the representation make sense?
- Does it ring true?



Set Aside the
Metaview

Investigative Tools

Investigative Tools

Set Aside Preconceptions

- Don't assume based on how we would react
- Don't accord more credibility to victims
(*empathy, yes; credibility, no*)

Investigative Tools

Be Attuned to the
Throwaway Line



Identify Mythical Third Parties

Investigative Tools

*“I have a friend with a
problem”*

“There was a guy”

Investigative Tools

Detect Projection

- Accuses the accuser.
- Expresses outrage at being accused.
- Takes a righteous stand against the very conduct of which one is guilty.



Identify Types of Evidence

- Examine Witness **Actions**
- Examine Witness **Statements**



The gold standard is a
confession.



Identify the Standard

Compare Field Conditions against Standard

- Identify the Standard (*Biblical Scriptures*)
- Identify Field Conditions (*Statements and Actions*)
- Cite Gaps or Inconsistencies

Investigative Tools

Assess
Character and
Possible
Motives

Do actions match words?

Do words spoken carelessly
 (“throwaway lines”) support
 the image the individual is
 trying to present when on
 stage?

Investigative Tools

Understand Delusion (No lie too large)

“The rich are wise in their own eyes; one who is poor and discerning sees how deluded they are.”

Proverbs 28:11

Other Tools

- Look for level of specificity
- Test the Theory

Investigative Tools

1. Run Movie in the Mind
2. Apply Logic
3. Document the Obvious
4. Assess Character
5. Identify the Standard
6. Listen to Throwaway Lines
7. Identify Mythical Third Parties
8. Set Aside the Metaview
9. Set Aside Preconceptions
10. Identify Types of Evidence
11. Understand Projection
12. Understand Delusion
13. Look for Level of Specificity
14. Test the Theory

Job's Public Image

Where the Journey Begins

Job's Image (*In Job's Eyes*)

- Universally Commended
- Adored
- Wise
- Listened to

Compare to Standard

Job was fixated
on his loss of
reputation.

Paul stated that if he
were trying to please
people, he could not
serve Christ.

Galatians 1:10

Christ's Words about the Pharisees

"Everything they do is done for people to see they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues;



Christ's Words about the Pharisees

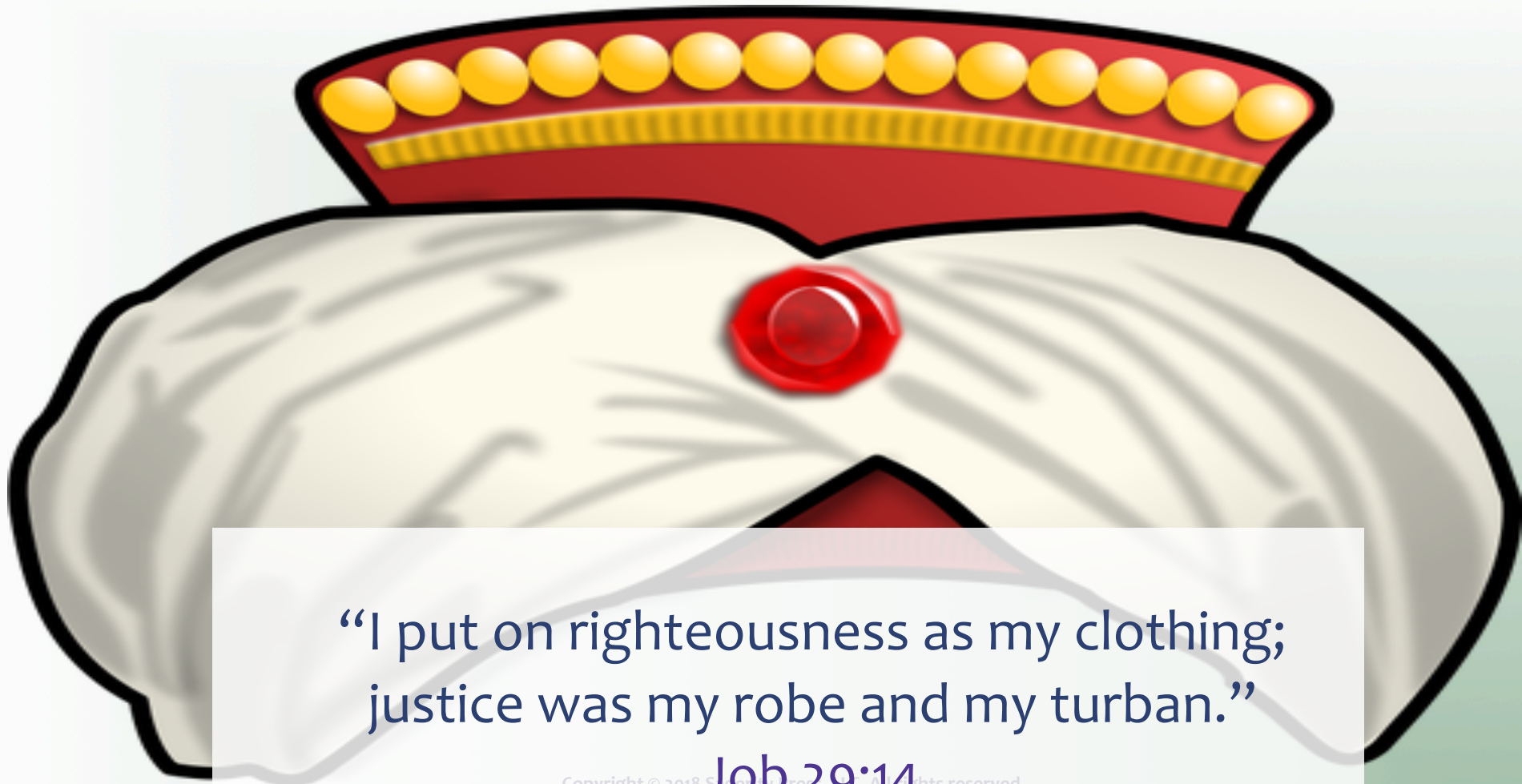
“... They love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi' by others.”

Matthew 23:5-7

Job's Character

“Righteous in his Own Eyes”

Job 32:1



“I put on righteousness as my clothing;
justice was my robe and my turban.”

Job 29:14

Job's Character (*In Job's Eyes*)

“Let God weigh me in honest scales and He will know that I am blameless”

Job 31:6

Job's Character (*In Job's Eyes*)

“I will defend my integrity
until I die.”

Job 27:5 (NLT)

Job's Character (*In Job's Eyes*)

Job named at least two dozen ways in which he was righteous.

Job's Character (*In Job's Eyes*)

1. Hadn't walked in falsehood or been deceitful. Job 31:5
2. Hadn't concealed sin in his heart. Job 31:33
3. Wasn't enticed by a woman. Job 31:9
4. Hadn't trusted in gold. Job 31:24
5. Hadn't rejoiced over his great wealth. Job 31:25

Job's Character (*In Job's Eyes*)

6. Hadn't worshipped the sun or moon. Job 31:26-27
7. Hadn't rejoiced over his enemy's misfortune. Job 31:29-30
8. Hadn't cursed his enemy. Job 29:30
9. Hadn't denied justice to his servants. Job 31:13

Job's Character (*In Job's Eyes*)

10. Hadn't failed to pay for the yield of his land. Job 31:39
11. Hadn't broken the spirit of its tenants. Job 31:39
12. Took up the case of the stranger. Job 29:16

Job's Character (*In Job's Eyes*)

13. Hadn't denied the desires of the poor. Job 31:16
14. Hadn't let the eyes of the widow grow weary. Job 31:16
15. Shared bread with the fatherless. Job 31:13
16. Reared the fatherless from his youth. Job 31:17-18

Job's Character (*In Job's Eyes*)

17. Rescued those who had none to assist them. Job 31:17-18
18. From his birth, guided the widow and made her heart sing. Job 31:18
19. Helped anyone he saw perishing for lack of clothing or needing clothes. Job 31:19

Job's Character (*In Job's Eyes*)

- 20. Shared his food with his household. Job 31:31
- 21. Opened his door to travelers -- no stranger had to spend a night in the street. Job 31:32

Job's Character (*In Job's Eyes*)

- 22. Was eyes to the blind. Job 29:15-16
- 23. Was feet to the lame. Job 29:15-16
- 24. Was father to the needy. Job 29:15-16

Job's Character

Applying the Tools

Can any of us—like Job—
say that we have done
everything right?

What's the Standard?

“To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

“The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’



“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

What's the Standard?

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Luke 18:9-14

Apply Logic

Counseled the
widows *since*
he was born.



Apply Logic

- Fathered the fatherless ***since his youth.***

Really?



Job's Benevolence

What type of operations
might be required
to be this *generous*?

Job's Benevolence

- Collect food
- Slaughter the animals
- Thresh the wheat
- Make meals
- Serve food
- Manage distribution
- Cleanup
- Sew clothes
- Distribute clothes
- Eyes to the blind – Assistants?
- Feet to the lame – Assistants?
- House strangers

Intelligence to locate every needy, blind, lame, and traveling person



Movie in the Mind: *Filling in the Gaps*

- Were any of these operations mentioned in the book of Job?
- Does it make sense that one man could serve every member of so many different types of vulnerable populations?
- After the tragedies, did Job mourn over those who he could no longer help?

Most importantly, how would you expect the beneficiaries of Job's benevolence to react when he encountered tragedy?

How did the people *actually* react
when Job encountered tragedy?

They:

- Humiliated him
- Jeered him
- Ridiculed him
- Mocked him
- Detested him
- Surrounded him with hostility
- Spit at him
- Struck him on the cheek
- Made him a laughingstock
- Filled him with shame
- Universally abandoned him



Movie in the Mind

Apply Logic

Does the reaction of family, servants, towns people, friends, and other beneficiaries of Job's largesse make sense?

Pop Quiz

What other witnesses testified that Job was generous to the widows, the fatherless, and other vulnerable populations?

Answer: None

Eliphaz to Job

“You demanded security from
your relatives for no reason.”

Job 22:6

Eliphaz to Job

“You stripped people of their clothing, leaving them naked.”

Job 22:6

Eliphaz to Job

“You gave no water to the weary and you withheld food from the hungry, though you were a powerful man, owning land — an honored man, living on it.” Job 22:7-8

Eliphaz to Job

And you sent widows away
empty-handed and broke the
strength of the fatherless.” Job 22:9

Elihu to Job

“But now you are laden with the judgment due the wicked; judgment and justice have taken hold of you. Be careful that no one entices you by riches; do not let a **large bribe** turn you aside

Elihu to Job

... Do not long for the night, ***to drag people away from their homes.***” Job 36:17-20

Elihu

Why would Elihu warn Job against taking bribes or dragging people away from their homes (repossessing homes?) in the middle of the night unless Job was prone to doing so?

Eliphaz

*Indirect
Statements*

Mythical Third Party:

The Wicked

“For the company of the godless will be barren, and **fire** will consume the tents of those who love **bribes.**”

Job 15:34

Eliphaz

Indirect Statements

Mythical Third Party: The Wicked

“The righteous see their ruin and rejoice; the innocent mock them, saying, ‘Surely our foes are destroyed and fire devours their wealth.’ ” Job 22:19-20

Bildad about the Wicked . . .

“Fire resides in his tent; burning sulfur is scattered over his dwelling.”

Job 18:7

Mythical Third Party

Zophar's Analysis of the Wicked

“A fire unfanned will consume him and devour what is left in his tent.”

Job 20:26

Mythical Third Party

Who else experienced destruction by fire from heaven?

“The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up Job’s sheep and the servants” Job 1:16

Mythical Third Party

Job acknowledged Eliphaz was talking about him when he responded:

“I could make fine speeches against you and shake my head at you” Job 16:4

Zophar's Analysis of the Wicked

- “The pride of the godless reaches to the heavens.” Job 20:6
- “In the midst of his plenty, distress will overtake him.” Job 20:22
- “God will . . . rain down His blows on him.” Job 20:23

Zophar's
Analysis of the
Wicked

“For he has oppressed the
poor and left them
destitute; ***he has seized
houses he did not build.***”

Job 20:19

Mythical Third Party

Job acknowledged Zophar was talking about him when he responded “Mock on.”

Job 21:3. See also Job 21:27.

Bildad

- Bildad described a wicked man whose own schemes took him down. Job 18:7
- “(Calamity) eats away parts of his skin . . .” Job 18:13

Bildad

Although Bildad did not refer to Job when describing the wicked man, Job recognized that Bildad was talking about him. “Ten times now you have reproached me,” he responded to Bildad. “Shamelessly you attack me.”

Job 19:3

Examine the Evidence

All four men, directly or indirectly, accused Job of business practices that victimized the vulnerable.

“One witness is not enough to convict anyone accused of any crime or offense they may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”

Deuteronomy 19:15

Does it make sense that four otherwise good people would spend weeks—perhaps even months—away from their homes to falsely accuse a suffering man of bad business practices?

Why did Job's
first three
friends stop
talking to him?

Pop Quiz

*Because he was
“righteous in his own
eyes.”*

Job 32:1

“The rich are wise in their own eyes; one who is poor and discerning sees how deluded they are.”

Proverbs 28:11

This is the end of today's presentation. Week 2 will delve deeper into the evidence against Job's righteousness and examine how the re-interpretation changes our view of man and God.

This material was taken from Scriptures and *The Joy of Job, An Investigator's Perspective of the Most Righteous Man on Earth*

See JoyofJob.com for upcoming events and further information.

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Thank You and God bless!

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