

Week 3:  
The Character of God

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# What Job did Right

- He engaged with God.
- He knew the standards of righteousness.
- He persevered.

# What Job did Right

**He kept his faith in a powerful God.**

“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes—I, and not another, How my heart yearns within me!”

Job 18:25-27

# What Job did Right

**He did not curse God, despite his wife urging him to do so.**

“So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. His wife said to him ‘Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!’ He replied, ‘You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?’ ”

Job 2:7-10

# Compare to Sufferers in the Tribulation

“People gnawed their tongues in agony  
and cursed God in heaven  
because of their pains and their sores,  
**but they refused to repent**  
of what they had done.”

Revelation 16: 11-12

Job also suffered skin sores,  
but he repented and refused  
to curse God.

***Job finally became quiet before God.***

**“In repentance and  
rest is your salvation,  
in quietness and trust  
is your strength . . . .”**

Isaiah 30:15



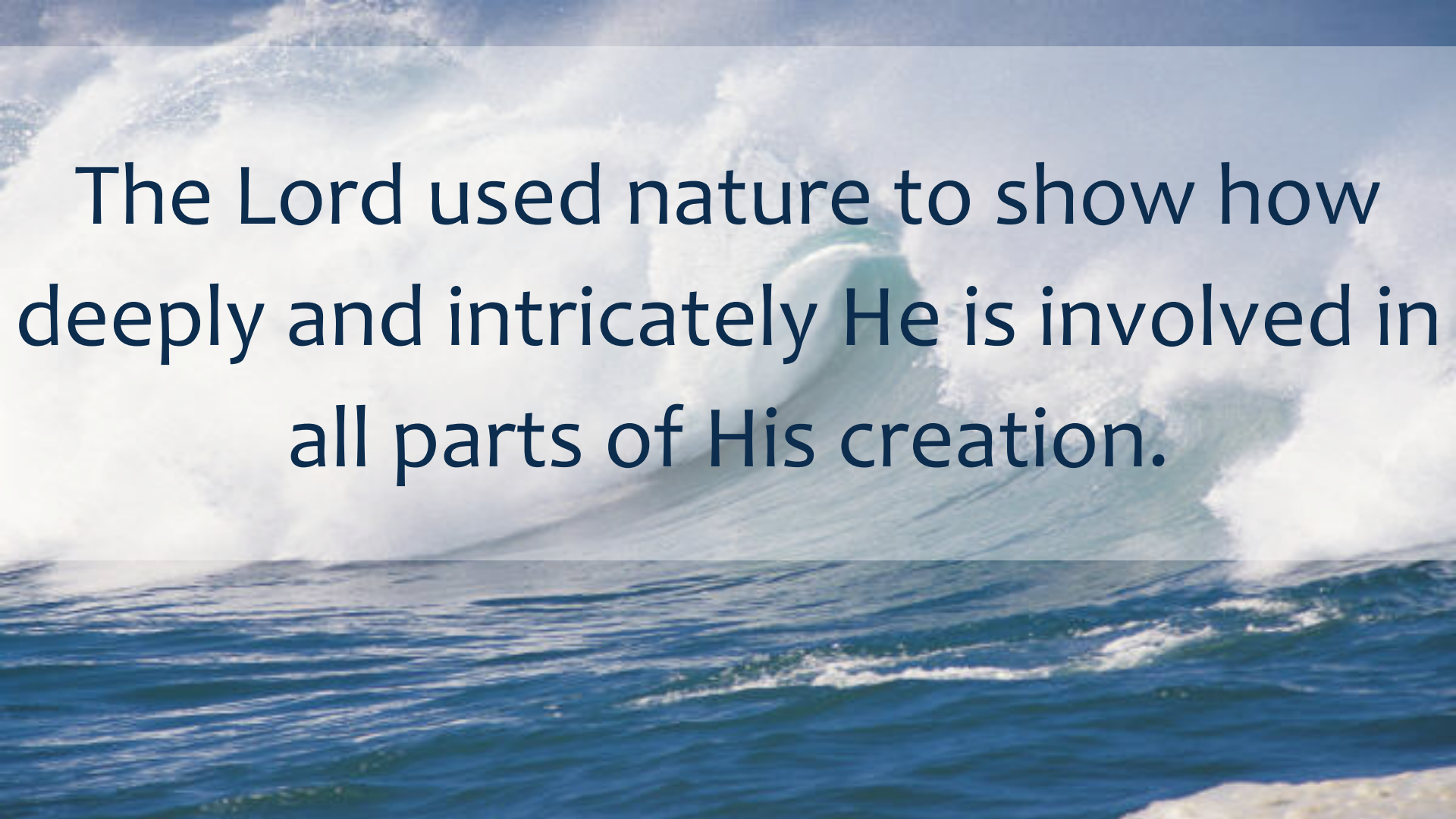
# Breakthrough

*The Lord broke through Job's blinders.*

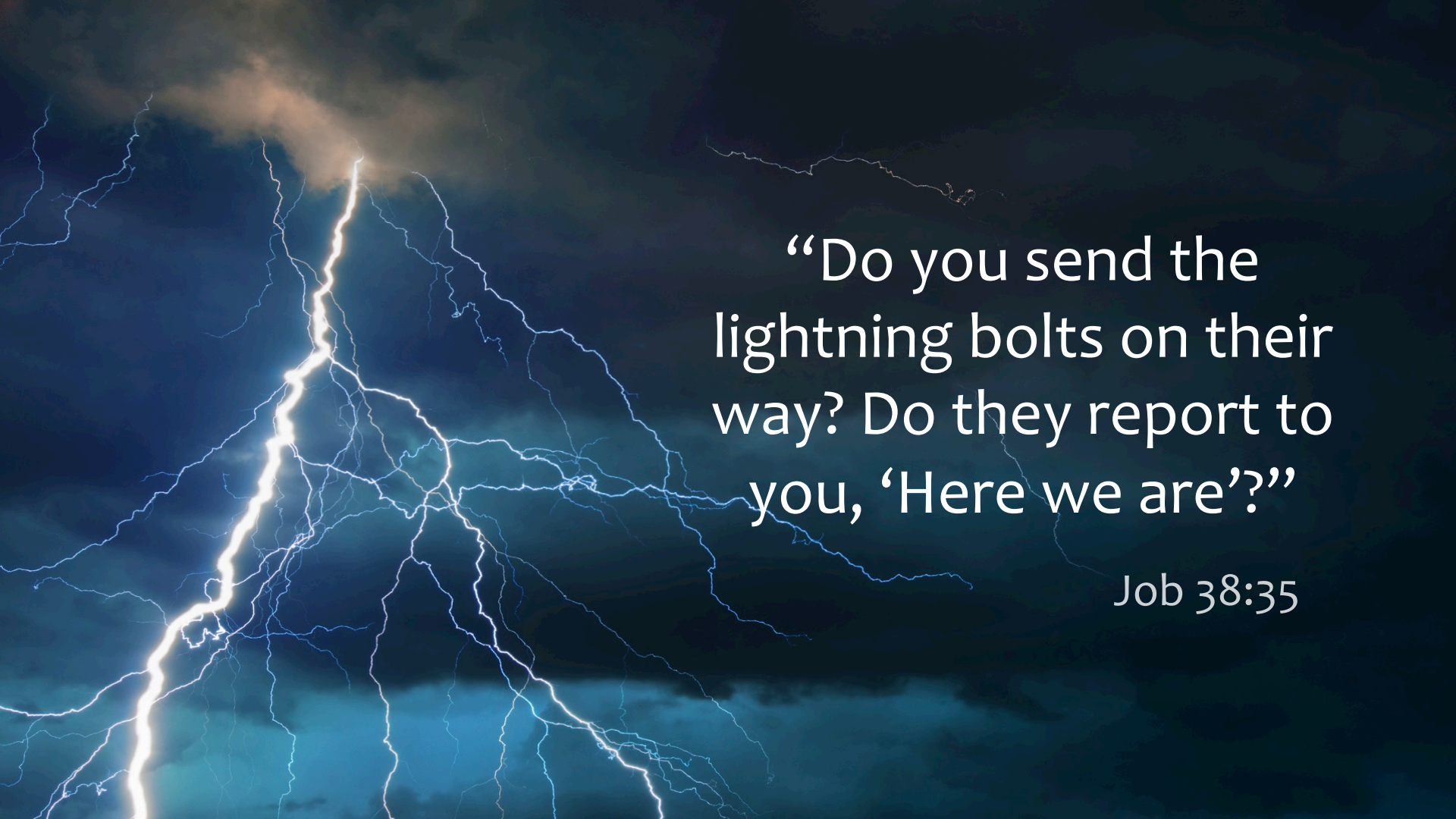
*He used nature—the handiwork of God as Creator—to show Job, in full splendor, his position: that he was a created being and not equal to God.*







The Lord used nature to show how deeply and intricately He is involved in all parts of His creation.



“Do you send the lightning bolts on their way? Do they report to you, ‘Here we are’?”

Job 38:35

“Who gives the Ibis wisdom or gives the rooster understanding?”



“Who has the wisdom to  
count the clouds?”

Job 38:36-37

“The wings of the ostrich flap  
joyfully . . .”

Job 39:13



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What's the lesson from nature?



*From Rev. Fry . . . .*

“Will He, who in lesser things manifests so much art and design, and seems to love to put it forth so variously—

“ . . . will He have neglected man, or have given up his concerns to misrule; or will He act ***arbitrarily and without reason,*** in His treatment of this His noblest production?”





“His eye is on the little sparrow. And I know he cares for you and me.”



Song Lyrics based on Luke 12:6-7

# What Job did Right

- Job repented.
- Job realized he was unworthy.

Job forgave and  
was forgiven –  
and forgiveness  
fre<sup>e</sup>s us.

“And the Lord turned  
the captivity of Job,  
when he prayed for  
his friends . . . .” Job  
42:10 (KJV)

# What Job did Right

Most of all,  
Job found relationship  
with God.

# What Job did Right

Then Job replied to the Lord:  
“... my ears had heard of you  
**but now my eyes have seen you.**

Therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust  
and ashes.”

Job 42:1-6

Throughout history, holy men of God were  
those in relationship with God.



*God wants Relationship*

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# Relationship

“They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they return to me with all their heart.”

Jeremiah 22:16



# What Job did Right

Job could not enter into relationship with God until he saw himself for who he was.

Pride blocks relationship  
with God.

# The Lord's Words

“I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior  
and perverse speech.”

Proverbs 8:13

# What Job did Right

In his brokenness, Job came to understand God's purposes in allowing him to suffer: to bring him into relationship with God. And relationship is being in commune with the Holy Spirit.

God is logical.

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He acts with profound  
and glorious purpose.

*“And we know that in all things  
God works for the good of those  
who love Him, who have been  
called according to His purpose.”*

Romans 8:28

# What Job did Right

Then Job replied to the Lord:

“I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’ Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know . . .”

It was ***God's purpose*** that the  
three friends missed.



Immediately after Job's confession, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth ***about me***, as my servant Job has . . . ."

Job 42:7

Elihu was exempted  
from the rebuke.

Of Job's four friends, only Elihu spoke of the concept of providence and, in doing so, escaped God's rebuke. "I will ascribe justice to my Maker . . . . [God] is mighty, and firm *in his purpose,*" said Elihu.

Job 36:3-5

“Be on guard! Turn back from evil, for God sent this suffering ***to keep you from a life of evil.***”

Elihu, explaining to Job the purpose of his suffering  
Job 36:21 (NLT)

God is forgiving.

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“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14

*God is patient.*

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“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

I Peter 3:9

“The Lord is slow to anger but great in power . . . ”

Nahum 1:3



Job found restoration.




Job reconciled with family and friends.



Job's wealth was restored, twice over.





He begat a  
new and  
treasured  
family.



He lived  
another 140  
years.

Under the re-interpretation,  
Job's story is consistent with the  
rest of Scriptures.

Job is no longer a  
“hermit” book with independent  
and unfamiliar themes.

Of critical importance is  
the character of God.

The traditional interpretation of Job's  
journey elevates man,  
which unintentionally  
denigrates God and discredits his justice.



# The Lord to Job

“Would you discredit my justice?  
Would you condemn me to justify  
yourself?”

Job 40:8

# Traditional Interpretation

When we believe man is good, we try to enter the gates of righteousness through the Law, the achievement of which relies on our own strength.

It has a form of godliness, but  
denies its power.

2 Timothy 3:5

# Theme: Law

## Traditional Interpretation

Man can achieve  
righteousness through  
outward acts and  
ceremony.  
(THE LAW)



## Unspoken Implications

Man becomes proud and  
self-righteous. Religious  
pride is the root of so  
many misdeeds by  
religious people.

# Re-Interpretation

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Man can achieve righteousness only through repentance and faith. In many of today's congregations, faith without repentance for sin is accepted.

# Traditional Interpretation

When we believe man is good, we cannot comprehend the holiness of God and we cannot experience the magnificence and true joy of his forgiveness.

*God is holy.*

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# Theme: God is Holy

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” ————— Isaiah 6:3

“Dominion and awe belong to the Lord . . . .”

Bildad in Job 25:2

“Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you when you forsake the Lord your God and have no awe of me,” declares the Lord, the Lord Almighty.”

Jeremiah 2:19



Under the traditional interpretation, some authors praise Job's honesty for venting his anger against God. They even give his wife a pass for urging him to curse to God.



# Unspoken Implications

We have the right to  
“let it all hang out”  
and lash out  
against God.

# Traditional Interpretation

Such behavior portrays an ignorance of God's holiness. It elevates human comfort above God's purposes.

# Re-Interpretation

The only appropriate approach to the Lord is extreme reverence. He welcomes our questions and expression of emotions, but in deference to his holy authority.

Andrew Murray said the  
closer we draw to the light,  
the more visible become the  
impurities in our souls.

“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips . . . . and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

Isaiah 6:5

“But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie . . . .”

Luke 3:16

Only in the power of the Spirit  
can we begin to know the  
magnificence of God.

# Works of the Spirit

“Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases . . . who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”

Psalm 103:1-5



# The Power of the Spirit

Works *Follow Justification*



# Works of the Spirit

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:31

God loves us and  

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wishes to bless us.

“Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room to store it.”

*(Which is what he did with Job)*

Malachi 3:10

But He will bless us  
only on His terms.

“See, I am setting before you a blessing and a curse—the blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today.”

Deuteronomy 11:26-27

*God curses, too*

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“See, I am setting before you a blessing and a curse—the . . . curse if you disobey the commands of the Lord your God . . .”

Deuteronomy 11:26-28a

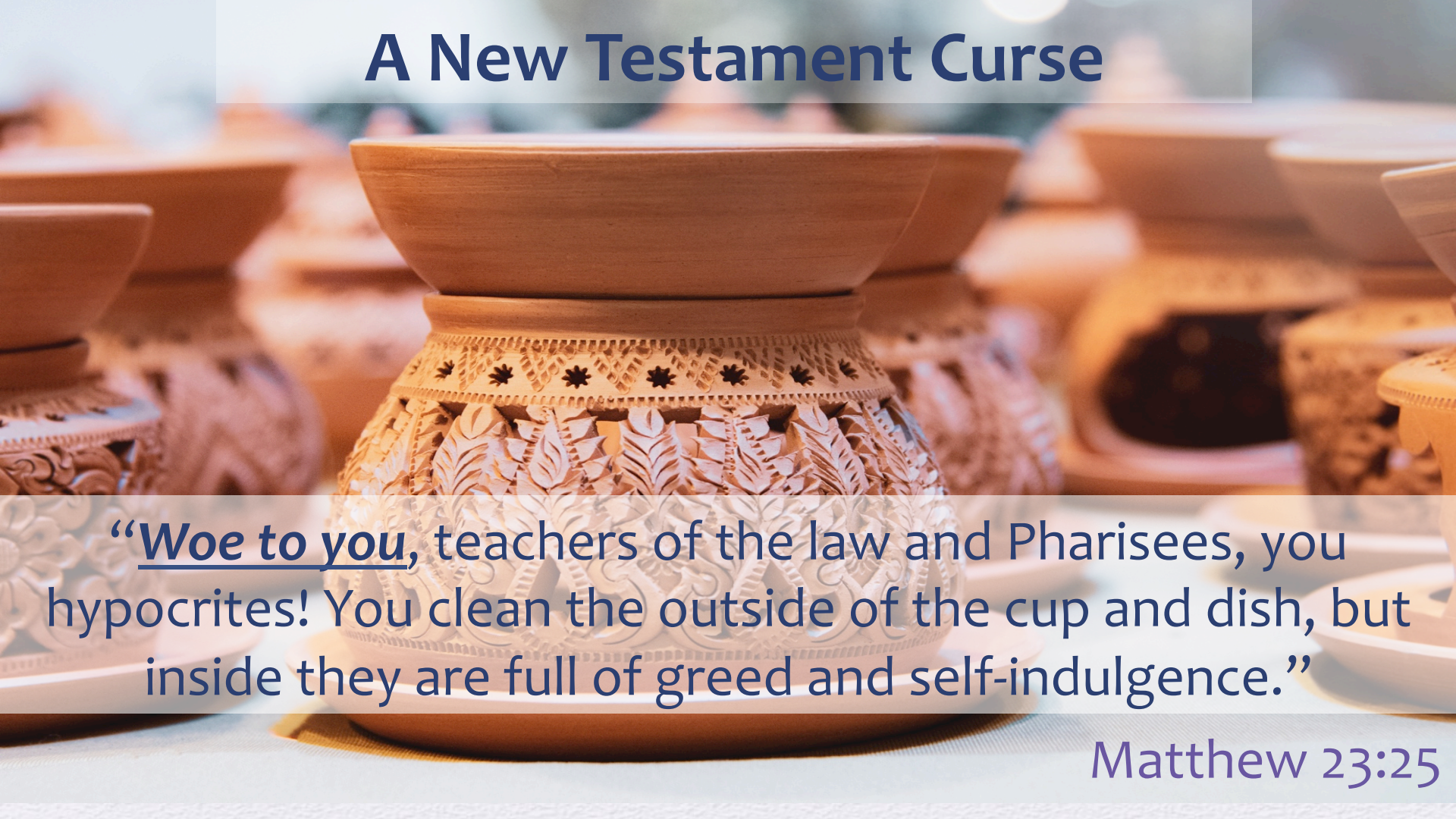


# An Old Testament Curse

“... I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, who deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the Lord Almighty.

Malachi 3:10

# A New Testament Curse



“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.”

Matthew 23:25

God's wrath is intended to bring  

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us into relationship with Him.

“Surely it was for my benefit that I  
suffered such anguish. In Your love  
You kept me from the pit of  
destruction; You have put all my sins  
behind Your back.”

Isaiah 38:17

God uses suffering to

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refine us.

“For he will be like a refiner’s fire . . . He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness . . .”

Malachi 3:2-3

“In all of this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 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, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

I Peter 1:6-9

God is shrewd.

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More than four dozen times,  
the Lord uses “off-the-nose”  
language at the end of the  
book of Job.

“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? . . . . Surely you know!” Job 38:4-5

“What is the way to the abode of light? And where does darkness reside? . . . . Surely you know, for you were already born! You have lived so many years!” Job 38:19-21

It makes sense that the Lord  
used the same literary device  
in the beginning.

“Have you considered my servant Job?”  
the Lord shrewdly asks Satan. ‘There is  
no one on the earth like him, he is  
blameless and upright, a man who fears  
God and shuns evil.’ ”                      Job 1:8.

“To the faithful, you show yourself faithful, to the blameless, you show yourself blameless, to the pure, you show yourself pure, but to the devious, you show yourself shrewd.”

2 Samuel 22:26-27

# Old Interpretation

*Job Chapters 3-42 are largely overlooked*

*Job Chapters 1 & 2  
and Job 18:25  
Dominate*



**Re-Interpretation**

***Job Chapters 3-42 shape the  
Re-interpretation***



***Job Chapters 1 & 2***

The theory of the shrewdness  
of God reconciles the two.  
God turned Job over to Satan  
to deliver him from  
his fleshly nature.



# Shrewdness of God

“So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of the Lord Jesus is present, hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.”

I Corinthians 5:4-5

# Shrewdness of God

“Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.”

I Timothy 1:20

God uses Satan against himself. Satan would have been better off had he left Job alone, thus permitting one more religious man without a relationship with God to roam the earth.

Imagine the impact Job made for  
God in his last 140 years, living in  
joyful union with God.

Imagine the impact on Friends.  
Family. Servants. The Noble men.  
And the boys among the rocks.

*And the boys among the rocks!*