

THE BOOK OF JOB
Elements of Truth
Text: Job 4:1-21

Key Word: Elements

Key Thought: Complete Truth Needs to Be Distinguished from Partial Truth

*** What is truth? Can partial truth lead us into incorrect conclusions? Judicial prosecutors often win a case by simply honing in on certain phrases or words and often a single part of the evidence presented. This past week a trial that had intrigued a great number of critics in the United States reached a conclusion that many (especially those living in South Carolina) thought would never happen. In the now infamous and unanimous decision of the jury that many felt would end with a “hung trial” case against the disgraced Alex Murdaugh will go down in history as “*justice has been served.*”

This elite, brilliant minded lawyer who had made so many closing arguments in his career went down because of a simple Snapchat video that placed him just moments before at the scene of the murders of his wife and son. He chose to take the stand and HE became the greatest piece of evidence used by the attorney general to seal his fate. This habitual, manipulative lawyer exposed himself in this six-week trial at the Colleton County courthouse and received a double life sentence in prison. I believe this is just the surface of the judicial icebergs that are going to be exposed in the United States and many other countries. Killing others to preserve one’s high level in society has come into the open at this time in history because God is cleaning house. ***

The apostle Peter wrote to the exiles in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia where the Spirit of the Lord would not allow Paul, Silas and their companions to travel northeastward in their second missionary journey (Acts 16:6). Pontus was the home of the Amazons who were the warrior priestesses of the Hitittes.

“For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”

18. AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?

I Peter 4:18-19 NASB 1995

Why Is this Important to Know and Lay this as the Foundational Groundwork for this Sermon?

“A text without a context is a pretext for a proof text.”

D. A. Carlson

“In other words, a scripture read without thought to the surrounding verses is easily misconstrued. Each verse lies inside a chapter. Each chapter inside a Book, inside a Testament, and inside the whole of Scripture. **To properly pull the truth from a scripture it must be understood within the context of the segment it’s in, the chapter it’s in and the book as a whole.** When doing so we find that each book has a specific purpose and/or theme. **The verse takes on a broader meaning when you realize who it was written by, who it was written to and why it was written at all.**”

James Kennison

God placed a thought in my mind yesterday to begin my day that if I want the treasured pearls that are contained in the Scriptures I’ve got to dive deeply. The surface only contains the debris that floats there after a storm. The precious pearls are undisturbed by storms of life. You don’t find them on the shore. **You may have to risk your life to gain the riches of God’s Word.**

There was a much greater lesson for Eliphaz **beginning** in chapter 4 then there was for Job. Don’t make the mistake of asking God for a “Word” when He wishes to share a **BOOK FULL OF WISDOM.** What takes a life to learn won’t be found in this or any other single chapter. We must be convinced that it is *“line upon line - here a little - there a little.”* I’m not satisfied going to a Petro Canada station and putting a litre of gas in my tank. I fill it for my next journey whether it will be limited to the border confines of Cornwall or I venture on a longer trip.

I. CHARGES AGAINST JOB’S PREVIOUS WORDS (Job 4:1-6)

II. COMPARISON TO THE UNRIGHTEOUS (Job 4:7-16)

III. CRUSHING THE STRONGMAN (Job 4:17-21)

I. CHARGES AGAINST JOB (Job 4:1-6)

Yesterday was in the infamous day that John Lennon said in an interview with the London Evening Standard in 1966 that “**The Beatles**” band was more popular than Jesus. Lennon was shot four times leading to his death in New York just a few months after his 40th birthday. I wonder what he is **Imagining** today about Jesus (1971 song “**Imagine**”)? *If you had an opportunity to remove previous words from your mouth or a lofty attitude that was imbedded in your heart because of your pride, what would they be?*

I honestly believe the Bible would be much smaller if we had a choice in what it contained. But God chose to include these embarrassing words and events to benefit future generations and especially ours at this closing time of history. It would be better for us today (by recognizing the mistaken words of Eliphaz) to remain silent than to avoid speaking to the main purpose of why things are happening. It's our immaturity that points away from a true lesson that can be learned. People (myself included) love to hear themselves speak especially when they believe they are wiser than someone else.

“If someone ventures a word with you, will you be impatient? But who can keep from speaking?”

Job 4:2

“Think how you have instructed so many . . . Your words have supported those who stumbled”

Job 4:3,4

That reminds me so much of the insults that were hurled at Jesus by the chief priests, the teachers of the law and elders as He hung upon the cross at Golgotha - “*He saved others . . . but he can't save himself.*” (Matthew 27:42).

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,
4. who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”*

II Corinthians 1:4 NASB

The seaworthiness of a ship is not decided upon while it is tied by ropes to a harbour pier but rather how it survives the winds and waves of a storm or withstands the impact of an iceberg.

II. COMPARISON TO THE UNRIGHTEOUS (Job 4:7-16)

I do believe that history can be a useful teacher only if we have the tenacity to understand the true lessons and not be sidestepped by crafty words that avoid focussing upon what is vital to know. Recently many countries have had militant objectors attempting to change history by removing monuments that bring to light both the rights and wrongs imbedded in the development of our nation. My continued concern is what they are being replaced with.

I also get annoyed when I can see they have nothing to put in its place to teach important lessons for us to avoid. Should we burn down the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum because it shows how evil mankind came become when God's righteousness is spat upon by those in authority and His eternal in burnt like pile fo garbage?

There is no way to compare the LORD's righteousness freely given to us and the hellish unrighteousness that continues to raise its ugly head but media chooses to continue their dangerous talking points that have cause millions to suffer and die. Lets just change the narrative like Eliphaz did. Eliphaz your implication was wrong - really wrong and without excuse.

“Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed?”

Job 4:7

How about Abel (Matthew 23:35)? The Church around the world needs a **baptism of reality**. The Church has been blind sided by leaders like Demas (*“because he loved this world”* II Timothy 4:10). We've swallowed hook line and sinker that righteous people are rich, famous and live above all problems. The righteous have the big homes and lavish lifestyles. Preach that message in a communist, Marxist Leninist country. Preach that in Cuba where the average gross salary is \$51.02 USD; or how about the Congo (\$81.94 USD/yr); or Tajikstan (\$143.24); Ethiopia (\$176.42); India (\$179.14); Sri Lanka (\$199.41 USD) or Indonesia (\$227.30 USD). The unrighteous live extravagant lives well beyond the average citizen in these ungodly nations. The Church needs to stop comparing our blessings as an indication of our Righteousness IN CHRIST.

“A tower may fall on the righteous as well as the wicked; an earthquake may destroy the innocent as well as the guilty; the pestilence sweeps away the holy and the unholy, the profane and the pure, the man who fears God and him who fears him not; and the inference is now seen to be too broad when we infer, as the friends of Job did, that no righteous man is cut off by special calamity, or that great trials demonstrate that such sufferers are less righteous than others are. Judgments are not equally administered in this world, and hence, the necessity for a future world of retribution.”

[“Barnes' Notes on the Bible”](#)

II. COMPARISON TO THE UNRIGHTEOUS (Job 4:7-16) (Contd.)

“They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!”

Acts 7:59

*“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;
8. in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”*

II Timothy 4:7,8

“The righteous man perishes, and no man takes it to heart; And devout men are taken away, while no one understands. For the righteous man is taken away from evil,”

Isaiah 57:1

Enough of picking Scriptures that follow our skimpy minds. Enough of the words that we adore when we believe they line up with what we believe. Lets get into the words that challenge us to get closer to the hard sayings of the Scriptures (John 6:66). There has been enough falling away in our generation - we are leaving nothing of hope, faith and true love for the next generation.

*“A word was secretly brought to me, my ears caught a whisper of it.
13. Amid disquieting dreams in the night, when deep sleep falls on people,
14. fear and trembling seized me and made all my bones shake.
15. A spirit glided past my face, and the hair on my body stood on end.
16. It stopped, but I could not tell what it was.”*

Job 4:12-16

It sounds super spiritual to me. Yet it is used to attempt to bring doubt to an upright and blameless man of that time period. Is this the way to be exalted? It sounds to me like someone who is trying to step on Job’s head while he raises himself upon an idealistic ladder.

III. CRUSHING THE STRONGMAN (Job 4:17-21)

“Can even a strong man be more pure than his Maker?”

Job 4:17

“He is willing to admit that it is impossible for any man to be just with God; but then arises Job's dilemma, Where is God's justice if He punishes the innocent as the guilty?”

[Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers](#)

Another way of expressing our weakness compared to God's strength is the illustration of lives being compared to the cords that hold up a tent. It is even more a picture of our feeble existence when we consider this next quote.

“Eliphaz's final image of man's precarious existence is that he is like a tent held up by a single rope.”

[“Job an Introduction and Commentary”](#)
Francis I. Anderson
p. 115

Have you noticed what happens to a tent, trampoline, awnings and even sheds during a wind storm? Now consider how vivid this portrayal would have been for those who permanently lived in tents even though cities with walls were constructed all around them. Does it not paint a picture of just how insecure the lives of those who try to express their lives as being free from walls and structures? I remember the devastation that eliminated an entire trailer park (among many other solid structures on the Eastern end of Edmonton and Strathcona County on July 31, 1987 (known after as Black Friday) and killed 27 people when the F 5 tornado ripped through a portion of the city. The casualties would have Orwellian if it had taken a track through the middle of the city.

“Orwellian is an adjective describing a situation, idea, or societal condition that George Orwell identified as being destructive to the welfare of a free and open society. It denotes an attitude and a brutal policy of draconian control by propaganda, surveillance, disinformation, denial of truth (doublethink), and manipulation of the past, including the "unperson"—a person whose past atrocity **(an extremely wicked or cruel act, typically one involving physical violence or injury)**: is idealised (**regard or represent as perfect or better than in reality**) from the public record and memory, practiced by modern repressive governments.”

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orwellian>

III. CRUSHING THE STRONGMAN (Job 4:17-21) (Contd.)

Is there anything to compare to what is happening across our world today that is similar to the crushing of a moth? Yes there is but it has been under tight scrutiny until recently. The cameras are now being focussed upon the false “strongman” of our day and age who has blinded the minds of people so they cannot see the truth.

The elements of truth cannot be hidden forever even with the twisting of words and phrases. People who are beaten and bound eventually gain their senses again. The complete truth begins to be proclaimed and the vicious lions begin to lose their teeth. Their prey outsmarts them and cubs are scattered (Job 4:10).

The gospel of truth is being spread with a Holy Spirit fire throughout the world as truth begins to reign in our hearts. Don't be downhearted. Be overjoyed because the spread of partial truth is being exposed. Don't think these workers of iniquity will go down without a fight. BUT they will have no defence against our God of Truth and Reconciliation.

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Date: March 5/23 (Communion Sunday)

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: “More Than Amazing”

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Elements of Truth
Text: Job 4:1-21

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Key Thought: Complete Truth Needs to Be Distinguished from Partial Truth

Acts 16:6; I Peter 4:18-19 NASB 1995

Why Is this Important to Know and Lay this as the Foundational Groundwork for this Sermon?

I. CHARGES AGAINST JOB - Accusing Speech (Job 4:1-6)

Job 4:2; Job 4:3,4; Matthew 27:42; II Corinthians 1:4 NASB

II. COMPARISON TO THE UNRIGHTEOUS (Job 4:7-16)

*Job 4:7; Matthew 23:35; Acts 7:59; II Timothy 4:7,8; Isaiah 57:1; John 6:66;
Job 4:12-16*

III. CRUSHING THE STRONGMAN (Job 4:17-21)

Job 4:17; Job 4:10