

Job to Paul
Finding Light in the Darkness, Session 15
Slide Notations – Cere Muscarella

Left off... Job! Unique Book! Placed within the “poetics!” Really misunderstood book! “*Patience*” book? Little more than 7 days! “*Righteous suffering?*” Not righteous @all! No redemption from the law that was given to prove that we weren’t... He was a good man of his day: straight, reverent, turned away from evil...

Job... stands for... *Things we fear come upon us, from Satanic side...* Reason we live by “faith in the Son!” *The need for rightly ordered friendships!* Didn’t delve into it but Job’s comforters, were miserable! Incredible ability we have to justify ourselves and speak ridiculously about things we have no understanding in! *Our need to read and strain the Word of God!* His case was truly stated by him, but not necessarily true! Not patient, not righteous, assault came as direct result of his faithlessness, God was not taking away his loved ones, and he wasn’t accurate about what was happening! *The frailty of man...* Despairing of life, even wishing for death, when we say we know Him and that we believe His word! Lack of knowledge that everything happens with reason! Spiritual math! *The protection... of God! The patience... of God... The grace, mercy and blessing of God... The blessedness of our new covenant with God!* No longer waiting for the destroyer to come get us for our sins... Have the Holy Spirit to convict us! “Take out our own garbage...” No need for garbage man (**Is 54**) to enter our domain! No longer have to make a case before God... He is completely on our side!

Minor Prophets...

Hosea! “Go and marry a prostitute!” Hey! Welcome to the ministry! “All flowers, rainbows and sunny skies!” Demonstrate for them what I see in them! “My people are always going astray, seeking counsel from wrong sources, perishing for lack of knowledge.... Only way back... **BREAK UP YOUR SHALLOW GROUND** and walk in the ways of the Lord!

Joel: You are surrounded by pestilence, stripped of everything... Wake up from the stupor, get dressed, get praying and **TURN** with all your heart and I will restore you!

Amos: Shepherd/Farmer to God’s people: “For your great privilege there is great responsibility/great judgment!” People to Shepherd: “It’s enough, too much, don’t ever speak here again, and you better run!” **7.10-13**

Obadiah: to Edom/Esau: “Your national pride and ability has deceived you and it won’t save you!” “your allies won’t save you!” “your wisdom won’t save you!” “Nothing will save you from your treatment of My sons and daughters...”

Jonah: Overboard Prophet of God! Picked up after Elisha’s death... Focus on disobedient servant and the “whale” story... prepared fish! “The word of the Lord came the 2nd time!” Encouraging truth! Foretelling the redemption of Gentiles! “Like it or not, God loves all the people, and it is smart to love them too!”

Micah: “He has shown you what He requires of us...” **6.8** To do justly: Holy in our feelings, emotions, service, practices, morality... **LIFE AND PROFESSION MARRIED!** To love mercy: forgiveness and compassion, reception and extension! To walk humbly: fixed on His purpose, rejoicing in His presence, valuing Him as priceless!

Nahum: God is jealous for His people and vengeful of their enemies... Slow to anger: never reactionary, always measured! But great in power: His true fury is not survivable!

Habakkuk: How long will it be before the answers come? **v2** Why do we see sin/violence growing everywhere we look w/o rescue? **v3** The law seems powerless to stop the unrighteous surrounding us! **v4** *Yet I will stand my watch 2.1 I make a deliberate decision to follow the God who is all powerful, all caring, but whose ways are not our ways!*

Zephaniah: A word to those who tempt God by saying, “He’s not interested in these earthly things – He won’t do anything about it...” **v12** To people living in luxury, not believing, trusting or thanking the Lord, who are self centered and materialistic... I will judge you and carry it all away... Only way to escape is to repent... “Be people of pure lips, servants of God, free from condemnation, humble... it will only be a remnant, but be...”

Haggai: a word for people who have lapsed into complacency and self focus! “Look around, take an inventory, you work hard and it yields little, you eat but you’re never full, you drink but remain thirsty, you clothe yourselves but you are never warm, you earn and your money goes into a bag full of holes!” **v5,6** “Look around, take an inventory, you look for much and your production comes to little, you bring stuff home and I blow on it. Why? Because you are only taking care of your own stuff and not My stuff!” **v7-9** Must care for the things I care about and when you do I will be with you! **v12-14**

Zechariah: with a word for people who think the work is too much! “Your work will be finished... not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord... Who are you O great hindering mountain? Before My people you will become a plain and the final touches will be accompanied by shoutings of “Grace! Grace!”

Malachi: the guy with the word for the self guiding... “You refuse Me honor, you offer Me what is little or polluted, you call My ways worthless, you say they are wearisome, and you twist the truth... from the beginning you and your fathers have turned aside and tried doing My things your own ways, look what you did with the basic, the tithes... and you are cursed for it!” **1-3** “Then those who feared the Lord spoke out to one another and the Lord heard it and hearkened to it! If you will hear Me and fear My name again, the Sun of Righteousness will rise up with healing in his wings and you will grow up like a precious calf, and you will tread down your enemies... just remember My words!” **4**

And with that... we have finished the Old Testament!

Gospel Guns! Matthew: even IRS agents can be used by God... but we must be prepared for great changes in our lives! **Mark:** the freaked out kid who proves that restoration and second chances come to those who give the Lord time! **Dr. Luke:** a man of letters, and writer of Luke/Acts, who never mentioned himself! **John:** the man of former temper turned friend and apostle of Jesus! Ambitious and chastened! **Mt20.21** Beloved friend! **J13.23** Inner circle! **Mt 17.1, 26.37** First missionary team! **Acts 3.1-11** Writer of Gospel/Epistles/Revelation!

John the Baptist: God sends in the pioneers, rough and rugged, and they plow the way for Jesus! A man with convictions can capture the attention of a nation! No matter what the end position, power and grace: “I must decrease so He can increase!”

Mary: God can use young people to further His kingdom! The people have to be submissive to His will, whether they get it or not! We must let the Lord pave the way for us! She magnified the Lord in it all!

Lazarus, Mary and Martha: Proves that no matter how dead you are, Jesus can raise you up! Life comes into us by the spoken Word of God! Believing that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life is the key to your miracles! As busy as life may get, we must choose the best and take time to be with Him!

Judas: The devil will try to influence you no matter where you are in the role call! He will always use a divided heart desire to gain entrance! It's possible to be blind in God's presence, see His works and not get it! (He was called the son of perdition, child of damnation/hell! [**cp E2.2,3 5.6,7 Col 3.6,7**]). Betrays Jesus for... (?) **Mt 26** Gives him up w/false love... **v48** Realizes he has been deceived! **27.3** He repents and kills himself! **v5** (pre-crucifixion!) And goes to the dark-side of hell (hades v. Abraham's bosom)! **Lk16.22** While checking in, Jesus dies... **Mt 27.50** And descends into the lower parts of the earth **E4.9 (cp A2.31** Jesus not left there: hades) To preach to spirits in prison... **1P3.19,20** "Good news! Price has been paid... led captivity out as His captives..." **E4.8** Having blotted out the handwriting of offences against them, nailing it to His cross, and spoiling the principalities and powers and making a public show of their defeat! **Col 2.14,15** And where is Judas? Pre-blood-bought- salvation, all-men-dead-in-sins Judas? **Can't wait to hear Judas' love story!**

Not a universal salvation doctrine! This is the true flow of love toward every person who was dead in sins without any recourse... meeting the One God sent to earth for the salvation of men's souls... and... it applies to every pre-Cross human being regardless of infraction or the way they were used in history... for our sake!

Thomas: Had to see it to believe it! Such bravado! All gone in the face of the real deal! Many, "won't believe Him til I see... (?)" May die w/o believing, all defiance gone! Real faith is believing without seeing! Good news: Doubting Thomas used mightily in "Persian Church" (Iran) and "Church of the East" (India – where buried) – Proving once again...

Peter: What a mix! Bending reed to Rock! Peter was from Capernaum, on Galilee, married, partners with brother Andrew, James and John... Andrew heard John Baptist declare Jesus as the Lamb of God and he went and got Peter! He was always the first named of the Apostles, part of the inner circle, had the great revelation... "You are the Son!" Almost in the same breath, he takes Jesus aside to correct Him about His coming sacrifice and suffering! "Get behind me Satan, for you do not understand the things of God!"

(Peter never got rid of the Simon in him, but thankfully, Simon was never able to extinguish Peter!)

Peter walked on water and Simon sank! Peter was at the Transfiguration, Simon wanted to build houses! Peter went into the Garden to pray, Simon came out running! Simon went back to fish, Peter became the fisher of men's souls! Simon had been broken by fear, Peter emerged as the fearless Evangelist!

The Deacons! "Find seven of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom!" **A6.3** Apostles/Pastors needed help! **Stephen:** 1st selected/"did great wonders among the people"/enemies could not defeat his wisdom/1st martyr! **6.8-7.59** Proves life after death! "Saw Jesus..." **7.55** Minister in death! "Saul/Paul!" **8.1, 9.1-8 Phillip:** signed up w/Stephen-helper! Stephen dies/church finally on mission! **A1** On his way to Samaria to preach Christ **8.5** Listened to him as miracles flowed! **v6-8** Such a profound affect/Peter/John come! Phillip on the move again! **v26** Preaches to Ethiopian eunuch/baptizes/transported to Azotus! 30miles! **v39,40**

Paul... the guy who got it all! Jew/cream of the Pharisee crop/ covered in the dust of Gamaliel!

Appears at Stephen's stoning! **8.1** Paul charged up/heads up Christian persecution! On the way, struck down on the road, surrounded by light... "Why are you persecuting Me?" Only by complete surrender did he live: "Who are you Lord? What do you want me to do?" "Go into the city and wait... and he did... three days!" And God sent Ananias: "God sent me so you could receive your sight and receive the Holy Ghost... and he began preaching Christ there in the synagogue!" **9.17-22** He goes right to the Source for his download of scripture (3yrs)... Why he is enabled to pen most of NT! Meets with the guys in Jerusalem... and off on 1st of 3 High adventure tours! He preaches to known world: rich & poor, weak & powerful... then and now...

Paul... Was the best of the best but he had nothing compared to being chosen and fulfilled (filled-full)! He had been devoutly religious but now he was intimately connected! Can start out bad, self-deceived, but yielding to the Holy Spirit can give you a finish beyond dreams!

Paul could never have guessed his ending but he was willing to leave everything else behind to get it!

Without... Guys like Ananias, Barnabas, Silas... there are no Paul's! Without... Guys like Timothy, Titus, Philemon... there is no progeny! Without... Guys and gals like us... the story dies... and our stories need to be told... to all who will listen... until the day we die!