

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## JOB 25-31

Once, a journalist was assigned to the Jerusalem Bureau. She rented a flat that overlooked the Wailing Wall. Every day she noticed at the Wall the same old Jewish fellow, praying vigorously. *The journalist could smell a story...*

One day she met him, and asked, “You come to the wall daily. How long have you been doing this, and what do you pray?” The man replied, *“I’ve been to the Wailing Wall everyday for 25 years. In the morning I pray for world peace - go home, have a cup of tea - come back to pray for the eradication of disease.”*

The journalist was amazed. “How does it feel to come to this place every day for 2½ decades and pray?” The old man said sadly, *“Like I’m praying to a wall.”*

That’s how Job felt about his prayers. Job was asking why he’ been struck by calamity, but God didn’t answer. Job felt like he was talking to a telephone pole.

Job asked to know *why* – but God stayed silent.

Job was demanding to know *why* – but God remained silent.

Job was screaming to know *why* – but God remained silent.

Job was pounding his fist and *daring God to tell him why* – but God was silent.

**It was like Job was praying to a wall...** but God was watching, and listening, and preparing to respond... God will pay Job a visit, soon enough, but when God is ready - not when Job says jump. In the meantime, Job struggles in the silence.

And here's the problem when a person chooses not to speak... *you can draw the wrong conclusions.* When my wife doesn't speak to me – I assume, *“Oh no, what have I done? If my son isn't talking - I think, “Oh no, what has he done?”*

Silence is difficult to interpret. You can draw the wrong conclusions...

Which remind me of Earl and Diane at the county fair - Earl wanted to ride in a stunt plane for \$50. Earl said to his wife, *“Honey, I really want to ride in that plane.”*

Diane replied, *“Earl, you know money is tight. \$50 is 50 dollars.”*

This went on for years and years. Diane always answered, *“\$50 is 50 dollars.”*

One year Earl asked, *“Diane, I'm 75 years old. If I don't go up soon I'll never have the chance.”* *“Earl, \$50 is 50 dollars.”* Well, the stunt pilot overheard their conversation, so he offered a deal. If they could remain silent the entire flight, there would be no charge. But if one of them squealed they'd owe him \$50.

Well, the pilot tried every twist and roll he could think of to get the couple to scream. Not a peep. After landing he told Earl, *“Wow, how did you do it?”*

Earl said, *“It wasn't easy. I almost screamed when Diane fell out of the plane, but \$50 is 50 dollars.”* **You can draw false conclusions in someone's silence.**

And Job is the classic example... *He concluded God saw him as his enemy... He accused God of having wronged him... He felt God had abandoned him...*

Sadly, tonight we're going to watch Job grope a while longer in the silence and in the darkness... Remember, the book of Job was probably the first biblical book penned. That means that Job is *without a Bible* – **he never read the first two chapters of Job** – yet Job tries his best to make some sense of his mess.

Tonight we're in chapter 25. It's Bildad's turn to speak. He talks for just six verses – then for the next six chapters Job vents his pain and frustration.

Verse 1 “Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said: “Dominion and fear belong to Him (meaning God); He makes peace in His high places.

Is there any number to His armies? Upon whom does His light not rise?”

God lights the world for everyone. Who doesn't benefit from His grace?

“How then can man be righteous before God? Or how can he be pure who is born of a woman?” Job is a mere mortal. Job is human... God is divine.

Who is Job to think he can carry on a conversation with the Almighty?

“If even the moon does not shine, and the stars are not pure in His sight, how much less man, who is a maggot, and a son

of man, who is a worm?" The moon shines a light into the dark night. The stars are suns that light up deep space.

Yet God is not impressed with the moon or stars. Both pale in comparison to His glory. The Almighty is infinitely greater than any part of His creation.

And compared to the radiance of the stars... man is a maggot, a worm.

Why would God give Job the time of day? Obviously, hidden from Bildad was God's love for Job, and the exalted position God gave to man after his creation.

It's interesting this is Bildad's third and final speech to Job. The third counselor, Zophar, remained quiet. If Zophar made a final speech it was never recorded.

In the end none of the three men were able to **pin a sin** on Job. They hurled all kinds of accusations at him - but like Jell-O on a wall - their charges never stuck.

Chapter 26, "But Job answered and said: "How have you helped him who is without power? How have you saved the arm that has no strength? How have you counseled one who has no wisdom? And how have you declared sound advice to many? To whom have you uttered words? And whose spirit came from you?" Job disagreed with their words. They were no help. Their "sound advice" was dribble.

In chapter 26, Job compares the wisdom God demonstrated in creation with the wisdom of his "counselors." Job 26 is a very, very provocative chapter.

In this chapter we glean some details of the creation we find nowhere else.

Keep in mind the book of Job is the first Bible book written. It was authored by Moses, probably before he compiled Genesis. Its contents pre-date Moses.

Job is an old book and it records some cryptic and intriguing creation details.

Verse 5 "The dead tremble, those under the waters and those inhabiting them."

In the Old Testament the abode of the dead was known as *Sheol*. In the New Testament it's called *Hades*. Today it's inhabited by the spirits of unbelievers.

And Sheol or Hades is a frightful place. People there don't party – they tremble.

Notice *where* Sheol is located? "Under the waters" – throughout the Bible the sea has evil connotations. And here we learn why. It's mingled with hell.

In **Revelation 13** the Beast, or Antichrist, is seen coming out of the sea.

In **Revelation 9** demons arise from the sea to destroy a third of mankind. When the storm kicked up on the **Sea of Galilee**, and tried to drown Jesus, He rebuked the sea. Jesus spoke to the sea as you would speak to a demon.

In **Micah 7** we're told our sins are buried in the deepest parts of the sea.

And finally, in the **New Earth** – the ultimate perfection - there is no sea.

*Throughout the Scriptures the sea has a seamy, sinister reputation.*

In Matthew 12 when Jesus predicted His death and resurrection He said, “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” In the fish’s belly, Jonah was at the bottom of the sea – at the heart - or center of the earth.

Likewise when Jesus died He went to Sheol to preach to those held captive.

Obviously, Sheol or Hades is not some Atlantis – a literal underwater world.

Sheol exists in another dimension – the spiritual realm. Yet apparently, the coordinates of Sheol overlap with the sea. The spirit world is also underwater.

I have a serious book in my library entitled, “[The Bible and the Bermuda Triangle.](#)” It theorizes the existence of dimensional warps – or corridors – between the physical and spiritual realms that rise up out of the sea.

Jesus spoke of “[the gates of hell.](#)” These could be actual areas on an oceanic map where the spiritual and physical worlds mingle and overlap.

The earth’s deepest oceans are the Puerto Rican Trench in the Caribbean – *aka the Bermuda Triangle* - and the Marianas Trench off the coast of Guam in the South Pacific – *aka the Devil’s Triangle*. Both areas are famous for the mysterious, supernatural phenomena that occur in their

waters. Is it possible that some of the strange reports might be the result of demonic activity around the gates of hell?

Perhaps... but Job's point is this, **all evil trembles at God's presence.**

Verse 6 **"Sheol is naked before Him, and Destruction has no covering."**

Revelation 9 names the angel of the bottomless pit – the king of Hell – as **"Abaddon"** or **"Destruction."** Job is saying the king of Hell trembles before God.

**"He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing."**

Remember these are the words of a man who lived 4000 years ago. He never saw a telescope. How does he know the earth is suspended over empty space?

Yet his description of the cosmos would fit nicely into any of today's textbooks on astronomy. In fact, a modern astronomer would be hard pressed to come up with words that said it any better. God **"hangs the earth on nothing..."**

And compare the accuracy of Job's description with creation myths of the ancient cultures. When you do, it's obvious Job was divinely inspired.

The **Egyptians** said there was an egg, in a primeval sea. It hatched a sun-god, who had four sons. Through their rivalries with each other the world was created.

The **Greeks** said the earth was held up by the arms of a giant named Atlas.



The **Hindus** taught the earth rested on the back of three elephants, which stood on the shell of a tortoise, that swam along in a primeval ocean.

In contrast, Job's statements are astonishing in their astronomical accuracy.

Here's another interesting thought before we leave verse 7... **"He stretches out the north over empty space."** God gave the earth a northward projecting axis that points toward the North Star. This gives the Earth its orientation in the starscape.

Thus, anywhere on the planet - north is above or up - south is below or down.

Psalm 75 suggests God's throne in heaven is in the north. **"Exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the judge."**

By leaving out the north – it's implied that God resides there. Not that God is a Yankee – *heaven forbid*. Everybody knows God is a Southern gentleman. If we get to heaven and God says, **"Hi, youzz guys..."** I'll be really disappointed.

Just as hell is in a parallel dimension at the earth's core – heaven could be situated above. Is this why compasses point north? They point us to heaven.

Verse 8 **"(God) binds up the water in His thick clouds, yet the clouds are not broken under it."** When we studied the pre-flood era we noted evidence that before the deluge the earth was surrounded by a global vapor canopy. Thick clouds



shrouded the earth, and shielded us from the sun's harmful radiation.

This allowed people to live long lives. It also turned the Antideluvian world into a tropical paradise. **"(God's) thick clouds"** may be the pre-flood atmosphere.

**"(God) covers the face of His throne, and spreads His cloud over it. He drew a circular horizon on the face of the waters, at the boundary of light and darkness."**

Here's another amazingly accurate insight for a man living 4000 years ago.

The ancients thought the world was flat. But Job says God **"drew a circular horizon on the face of the waters."** Job understood that the earth is a sphere.

The Bible taught the Earth is round millenniums before Christopher Columbus discovered the New World. It's another proof of the Bible's supernatural origin.

**"The pillars of heaven tremble, and are astonished at His rebuke. He stirs up the sea with His power, and by His understanding He breaks up the storm."**

Not only do the dead in Sheol tremble before God - so does heaven.

**"By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent."**

Here's another creation detail. God's Spirit **"adorned the heavens."** Remember the Holy Spirit appears in Genesis 1:2, **"The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over**

the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light."

Study this picture... the earth is "without form and void." Isaiah 45:18 says God made nothing without form and void. Perhaps it became that way when Satan fell.

The earth is covered by the evil sea and the Spirit is brooding over the waters.

When according to Job, "His hand pierced the fleeing serpent." The devil is in the stormy waters trying to stop God's creative work. Suddenly the Spirit of God pierces him and causes him to flee. Then God says "Light" and there was light.

Psalm 89:9-10 paints the same picture of creation - a battle between God and the sea serpent occurs. He breaks "Rahab" – *the proud Leviathan* - into pieces.

Ancient tales from the Canaanites, and Babylonians, and even the American Indians, talk of the Creator slaying a sea serpent - then using his pieces as the stuff of creation. These are bizarre myths, but might contain a kernel of truth.

We know from Job, *His Spirit adorned the heavens by piercing the serpent.*

"Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways..." All the knowledge, from all the brightest minds, in every field of study – are just "the edges of God's ways."

Man's knowledge of the universe is still infantile compared to the mind of God - its romper room chatter – nursery rhymes – in contrast to the mysteries of God.

The basic building blocks of tomorrow's science are still today's secrets.

“Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, and how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?” The most brilliant theologian knows but a faint *whisper* compared to the *thunder* of who God truly is!

Chapter 27 “Moreover Job continued his discourse, and said: “As God lives, who has taken away my justice, and the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter, as long as my breath is in me, and the breath of God in my nostrils, my lips will not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit.” Job will never lie.

That's why he'll never say that his calamity was caused by his sin.

He continues, “Far be it from me that I should say you are right; till I die I will not put away my integrity from me. My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go; my heart shall not reproach me as long as I live.” Job clings to his innocence.

“May my enemy be like the wicked, and he who rises up against me like the unrighteous...” Job's friends have accused him of wickedness. Here he turns the tables and hopes God will treat them like wicked men. They need to be judged.

“For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he may gain much, if God takes away his life? Will God hear his cry when trouble comes upon him? Will he delight himself in the

**Almighty? Will he always call on God?"** Job is refusing to be a hypocrite. He'll never admit to a sin when his confession would be untrue.

**"I will teach you about the hand of God; what is with the Almighty I will not conceal."** Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar wanted to teach Job about God.

But they're the ones in need of the truth. Job needs to teach them.

The rest of chapter 27 takes a strange twist. Job contradicts what he said in chapter 24 – that God doesn't always charge the wicked with wrong – criminals often get away with their crimes. It's as if he recants his thoughts in chapter 27.

Like many human beings, I think Job is struggling with his theology. He knows life is unfair. Circumstances are not always just – *but he wishes they were.*

It would be easier if *good were always rewarded and evil always punished.* Everyone would know right where they stood with God at all times.

Faith would never be required. Grace would never factor into the equation.

The bothersome truth that life doesn't always make sense is what makes it so difficult to navigate... God would never score well in High School literature. He writes the story of our lives in fragments and with incomplete sentences.

In the rest of the chapter Job says God does judge the wicked...

“Surely all of you have seen it; why then do you behave with complete nonsense?” Sin is nonsense when you know it brings God’s judgment.

Verse 13, “This is the portion of a wicked man with God...”

Job describes how God treats the wicked. They die violently while their families starve. Their enemies loot their possessions. Their housing is taken away.

Terror overtakes him. He’s swept away by a hurricane. He’s mocked by men.

This is the way life should work. *But this was not what happened to Job.*

Job is struggling with his theology. He wants to believe in a kindergarten theology, but his life experiences have not supported those conclusions.

Job knows there must be more. He needs to dig deep to find the answers he seeks. And it causes him to observe that all God’s treasures are discovered through digging and exploration. What’s true spiritually is true naturally.

If God has buried in the earth items of great value, why wouldn’t He bury wisdom and insight that can only be discovered through mining for truth.

In chapter 28 Job highlights man’s capacity and curiosity for exploration.

"Surely there is a mine for silver, and a place where gold is refined.

Iron is taken from the earth, and copper is smelted from ore. Man puts an end to darkness, and searches every recess for

ore in the darkness and the shadow of death. He breaks open a shaft away from people; in places forgotten by feet they hang far away from men; they swing to and fro.” Silver, gold, iron are valuables -precious commodities - but they don't fall in our lap – we have to go get them.

We search dark places - venture to far-away locations. We dig deep, and sink shafts in the earth, to get at what's precious. Likewise superficial understandings – *how life appears* – may not lead us to the truth. We might have to dig deeper.

“As for the earth, from it comes bread, but underneath it is turned up as by fire; its stones are the source of sapphires, and it contains gold dust.” A field of wheat seems docile and harmless, but dig below the dirt deep enough - and you'll find a boiling molten fire brewing in the center of the earth and jewels forged by that fire.

There's much to be gained by going beyond a *prima facie* understanding of a matter. The phrase *prima facie* is Latin for “first sight” – the obvious meaning.

Sometimes there's a deeper truth that has to be searched out and mined.

This is often true of the Bible. A good study will mine the Scriptures for those spiritual, hidden nuggets. Sometimes there's an insight just below the surface.

Verse 7 “That path no bird knows, nor has the falcon's eye seen it.” The falcon was renowned for its vision - but man digs in places the falcon has never seen.

“The proud lions have not trodden it, nor has the fierce lion passed over it.

“He puts his hand on the flint; He overturns the mountains at the roots. He cuts out channels in the rocks, and his eye sees every precious thing. He dams up the streams from trickling; what is hidden he brings forth to light. But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?”

Mankind’s exploration of nature is prolific, but where do we dig for wisdom?

“Man does not know its value, nor is it found in the land of the living.” Wisdom is not found in nature – it’s a product of supernatural forces. God forges wisdom.

“The deep says, 'It is not in me'; and the sea says, 'It is not with me.'

It cannot be purchased for gold, nor can silver be weighed for its price.

It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, in precious onyx or sapphire.

Neither gold nor crystal can equal it, nor can it be exchanged for jewelry of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral or quartz, for the price of wisdom is above rubies. The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, nor can it be valued in pure gold.

Verse 20 "From where then does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding? It is hidden from the eyes of all living, and concealed from the birds of the air." The source of wisdom is hidden from men *and falcons*.



Especially on NFL draft day...Falcons are notoriously stupid birds.

“Destruction and Death say, 'We have heard a report about it with our ears.’” Death hears about wisdom, but neither death or destruction produce wisdom.

Chapter 28 also illustrates the difference between knowledge and wisdom.

In Job’s day, and in ours, man has know-how. Job says men mine silver and refine gold, but lack wisdom. Today we split atoms - put men on the moon - but can’t solve social ills like teen pregnancy, drug abuse, racial prejudice...

We also lack wisdom. Sadly, even break-throughs can backfire. Technology has good and evil uses. Science can create new ways to cause destruction. That’s why Job says, *Death hears of wisdom, but doesn’t possess wisdom.*

Knowledge is the accumulation of facts. Wisdom is the ability to use those facts for *our good* and *God’s glory*. And wisdom comes only from God.

Verse 23 “God understands its way, and He knows its place. For He looks to the ends of the earth, and sees under the whole heavens to establish a weight for the wind, and apportion out the waters by measure.” God isn’t limited to a superficial view. He sees below appearance to the nature and reality of life.

Here’s a great quote, “I have a point of view. You have a point of view. God has view.” Our view of reality is always colored by our perspective. But God sees life as it truly is.

This is why God alone is the author of truth and ultimate reality.

Verse 26 “When He made a law for the rain, and a path for the thunderbolt, then He saw wisdom and declared it; He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out.

And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.' Real wisdom is found by respecting the Lord.

Chapter 29, “Job further continued his discourse, and said: Oh, that I were as in months past, as in the days when God watched over me...” The implication is that God no longer watches over him. That God has *rejected* and *neglected* Job.

Job is reflecting back on the good ole days. When all was warm and well...

“When (God’s) lamp shone upon my head, and when by His light I walked through darkness; just as I was in the days of my prime, when the friendly counsel of God was over my tent; when the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were around me...” I’m certain Job recounted these days with tears. There’s emotion in these memories. He’s thinking back on kids that are now dead.

“When my steps were bathed with cream, and the rock poured out rivers of oil for me!” What a picture of ease and prosperity. *Steps bathed with cream.*

"When I went out to the gate by the city, when I took my seat in the open square..." Job was a leader in the community – one of the city elders.

Job was like EF Hutton - when he spoke people listened.

Job describes the respect he received... Verse 8 "The young men saw me and hid, and the aged arose and stood; the princes refrained from talking, and put their hand on their mouth; the voice of nobles was hushed, and their tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth." Here's another expression that originates in Scripture.

And here's why Job was so respected... he delivered the poor, the fatherless, the helpless, the widow, the blind, and the lame. He even broke the wicked.

Verse 14 sums up Job's career, "I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban." And notice Job's retirement plan in verse 18, "Then I said, 'I shall die in my nest, and multiply my days as the sand.'"

In essence, I was ready to grow old gracefully. I had a nice nest with a nice nest egg. A wonderful retirement was in place until God upset the apple cart.

Job reminds me of the man who works a lifetime building a retirement for him and his wife – only to find within weeks of quitting that he or his wife has cancer.

God has his ways of reminding His people that this world is not our home. He doesn't want us getting too content in the here and now... *Just ask Job...*

In verse 21 Job recalls how men were awed by his counsel. Job always had the final word. Verse 25, “I chose the way for them, and sat as chief...”

But that was then... whether days or months ago... it seemed like decades.

Chapter 30 is **now**. “But now they mock at me, men younger than I, whose fathers I disdained to put with the dogs of my flock.” Kids of men I wouldn’t let watch my sheep. My sheepdogs were more reliable. Now their kids mock me.

In verses 2-8 he describes the worthless men who make fun of him.

Verse 9, “And now I am their taunting song; yes, I am their byword.” Job is the butt of every joke. “They abhor me, they keep far from me; they do not hesitate to spit in my face. Because (God) has loosed my bowstring and afflicted me, they have cast off restraint before me.” Job describes the torment he endures...

Verse 13 “they promote my calamity.” Verse 16 “My soul is poured out...” “Days of affliction take hold of me...” Verse 17 “gnawing pains take no rest.”

Verse 18 “By great force my garment is disfigured; it binds me about as the collar of my coat. He has cast me into the mire, and I have become like dust and ashes.” Here’re verses 18-19 in the NLT, “With a strong hand, God grabs my shirt. He grips me by the collar of my coat. He has thrown me into the mud.” Hey, Job accuses God of grabbing him by the shirt and throwing out of his own house.

It reminds me of what Rodney Dangerfield once said, “The other day, the dog went to the door and started barking. I went over and opened it. The dog didn't want to go out. He wanted ME to leave.” Like Rodney, Job got no respect.

In verse 20 Job, like the Jewish man at the Wailing Wall, says he feels he’s been praying to a wall. “I cry out to You, but You do not answer me...”

Job has poured out his heart – while God has been stone silent.

As *terrible* as Job’s suffering was it would’ve been *tolerable* if God had just given him an explanation. I’ve found the best pain reliever by far isn’t Tylenol or Demoral – it’s an explanation. If we know why we tend to rise to the occasion...

It’s like going to the doctor to get a shot... I hate shots - but if I’m told the reason for the shot I can accept it - endure it - even be thankful for it!

But if I’m given a series of shots without being told their reason I won’t be as tolerant! I’ll get downright ugly and upset. I’ll pound my fist down on the counter and demand to know why. And that’s what Job begins to do! He pounds his fist.

In chapter 30-31 his attitude deteriorates. Job makes statements he’ll later regret. He launches verbal salvos *to God* and *about God* that are out of line.

Verse 20, “I stand up, and You regard me. But You have become cruel to me; with the strength of Your hand You oppose me. You lift me up to the wind and cause me to ride on it; You spoil my success. For I know that You will bring me

to death, and to the house appointed for all living.” Job accuses the gracious God in heaven of cruelty. He calls God a murderer. He’s been trying to kill him.

As we’ve said, “In asking why Job loses his way.”

Pain has a peculiar way of distorting our perspective – even our theology. Physical and emotional pain scrambles our thoughts, and clouds our minds.

This is why we shouldn’t hold a sufferer to what they said while in the midst of great pain. Just let them air it out. It’s probably the pain talking not your friend.

Don Baker writes, "Pain speaks a strange language - it plays funny tricks on us. It makes us think things, say things, even believe things that are not true.

When pain bores its way through human flesh and into the human spirit and just sits there and hurts and hurts - the mind becomes clouded and the brain thinks strange thoughts like God is dead, He's gone fishing, He doesn't care."

Sadly, Job’s severe pain is starting to color his perspective.

Verse 24 "Surely He would not stretch out His hand against a heap of ruins, if they cry out when He destroys it. Have I not wept for him who was in trouble?

Has not my soul grieved for the poor? But when I looked for good, evil came to me; and when I waited for light, then came darkness.” God has let me down.

“My heart is in turmoil and cannot rest; days of affliction confront me. I go about mourning, but not in the sun; I stand up in the assembly and cry out for help.

I am a brother of jackals, and a companion of ostriches. My skin grows black and falls from me; my bones burn with fever.” Disease racks his physical body.

Job sums up his condition in verse 31, “My harp is turned to mourning, and my flute to the voice of those who weep.”

There’s no doubt, Job is singing the blues.

Remember since chapter 27 Job has been sorting out his theology... *Yes, God judges the wicked. But I’m not wicked. I hold to my innocence. I’m digging deeper. There’s got to be another explanation for my calamity. Yet God refuses to tell me.*

In chapter 31 he returns to what he knows for sure – his innocence.

Verse 1 “I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?” Here Job becomes a great example for every man here tonight.

Guys, “Sexual sin begins in the *head* long before he ends up in the *bed*.”

The key to resisting temptation is controlling your thoughts – *and the gateway to the mind is the eyes*. When it comes to sex, men are visually stimulated.

This is why we have to guard our eyes. Job made a deal with his eyes – a covenant. He promised his eyes he’d never steer them in a lustful direction.

Every man in this room needs to make a covenant with his eyes. You’ve got to establish *boundaries, curfews, time constraints, and disciplines* for your eyes.



Allow you eyes free access to roam, and you're headed for shipwreck.

70% of television shows feature sexual content - 20% of adults in America view some form of pornography each week – pornography is one click away for us all.

Eyes are like stomachs. To stay in shape you don't feed a stomach whatever is in the fridge. You choose appropriate foods. Likewise, you don't feed your eyes with whatever is on the cable. Make a covenant – create a good eye-menu.

Hey, if you never *look* you'll never *lust*. Like Job, cut sin off at the source.

Verse 2 “For what is the allotment of God from above, and the inheritance of the Almighty from on high? Is it not destruction for the wicked, and disaster for the workers of iniquity? Does He not see my ways, and count all my steps?

If I have walked with falsehood, or if my foot has hastened to deceit, let me be weighed on honest scales, that God may know my integrity. If my step has turned from the way, or my heart walked after my eyes, or if any spot adheres to my hands, then let me sow, and another eat; yes, let my harvest be rooted out.”

Job is saying, “*If I've sinned in anyway let me reap the consequences.*”

Job is going to clean out all his closets. He's taking a personal inventory of his heart. He's going to go through his personal life, social life, and business life – if there's a sin he's forgotten or overlooked he'll dig it up and take responsibility.

If my heart has been enticed by a woman, or if I have lurked at my neighbor's door, then let my wife grind for another, and let others bow down over her.

For that would be wickedness; yes, it would be iniquity deserving of judgment.

For that would be a fire that consumes to destruction, and would root out all my increase..." Job is saying if I'm unfaithful to my wife I deserve to get sacked with a big alimony payment. I failed to live up to my vows, so let her have my increase.

"If I have despised the cause of my male or female servant when they complained against me, what then shall I do when God rises up?

When He punishes, how shall I answer Him? Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One fashion us in the womb? Job sees he's no better than his servants. All men are equal. He has no right to mistreat them.

Here the Bible definitely sows the seeds that opposed slavery.

Job continues the litany of sins he could've committed. If I've mistreated the poor, or widow, or fatherless, or homeless – let judgment come upon me.

Notice verse 21, "If I have raised my hand against the fatherless, when I saw I had help in the gate; then let my arm fall from my shoulder, let my arm be torn from the socket." I'll have Tommy John surgery - never throw a fastball again.

“For destruction from God is a terror to me, and because of His magnificence I could not endure.” *Job hasn’t committed any of these sins because he fears God.*

Job continues, if he worships gold - or worships the sun or moon – verse 28, it “**would be an iniquity worthy of judgment, for I would have denied God who is above.**” If he rejoices in his enemy’s destruction – or doesn’t open his doors to the stranger or traveler – he’s also willing to accept what’s coming to him...

Verse 33, “**If I have covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding my iniquity in my bosom, because I feared the great multitude, and dreaded the contempt of families, so that I kept silence and did not go out of the door...**” In all these sins and indiscretions if Job is guilty he’s willing to embrace his punishment.

But that’s his dilemma. He’s already suffered severely and he’s not guilty...

Verse 35 “**Oh, that I had one to hear me! Here is my mark. Oh, that the Almighty would answer me, that my Prosecutor had written a book!**”

Job wants to know why his calamity has come upon him. He wants a reason, an explanation – and he wants it in written brief. If God is against him – if God is his prosecutor - he wants to be served the proper legal paperwork.

“**Surely I would carry it on my shoulder, and bind it on me like a crown...**” At this point if Job got his explanation he’d be so elated he’d treat it like a trophy.

Here's one more round of introspection. "I would declare to Him the number of my steps; like a prince I would approach Him. If my land cries out against me, and its furrows weep together; if I have eaten its fruit without money, or caused its owners to lose their lives; then let thistles grow instead of wheat, and weeds instead of barley." Job is saying, if I'm guilty of unethical business practices, may thistles and weeds grow in my fields instead of wheat and barley...

Verse 40 closes the section... "The words of Job are ended."

In chapter 32 another man takes the stage. His name is... *Who?* Elihu.

Job needed a reminder of who God is... And Elihu reacquaints Job with God's greatness and His glory. He will prepare Job for God's appearance in chapter 38.