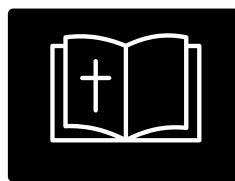


LESSON HANDOUTS

Notes
Infographics, if included



Genesis & Job, answers to the Big Questions of Life

An introduction to the authorship and dating of both books

Before everything else. . . .

- We are introduced to the protagonist of the story that fills the Bible, when it says, “In the Beginning, God” Gen. 1:1.
- From beginning to end it is **His Story**.
- The story begins with God creating a parenthesis in eternity to carefully craft a world.
- He then fills this world with living creatures and ultimately with one created in His image—mankind, male and female, to whom He assigns fulfilling work and with whom He will walk with in a perfect world.
- But an enemy was also there—Satan, the antagonist. Almost immediately he enters the scene.
- And God’s beloved creation turn against Him, believe Satan’s lie, and that sets up the plot, the storyline of the rest of the Bible.

Before we move on with the plot, the storyline

- I want to acknowledge that much has been written about the details of Creation.
- If those details are important to you, there are many resources online where you can check out, but we won’t be talking about them because for our study,
- The emphasis is not so much about the when and how of creation, **but about the Who**, the God who created is the God who, as the story goes along cares for, redeems, and ultimately restores his people and creation.
- As has been said, history is truly HIS STORY.
- And it’s a long story, so let’s get started.

As you start reading through the Bible

- You’ll begin reading in Genesis, which is what most people expect as we start reading through the Bible, but then after 3 days you jump into Job.
- **“What is going on!?”** You might ask.
- In most Bibles, the book of Job is close to the middle of the Bible, just before Psalms.
- However, in most chronological Bible reading plans Job is placed near the beginning of the book of Genesis.
- The chronology is important because.....

Instead of unrelated Bible stories, hopeful promises, and upbeat snippets

- When you read—the Bible in chronological, historical order—or put another way, in the order that the events truly happened in—
- The entire story of the God’s redemptive plan for his Creation will make more sense.
- When you understand the correct chronological order of God’s revelation to his people, God’s actions in response are more understandable.
- This is why it is extremely important to date and read Job correctly very early on because it teaches foundations truths that are important for our understanding of the Bible and BIG questions in life, that if we aren’t solid in

an understanding of them, we will always have problems.

- I'll get specific on them as we go into the questions, but let's first establish the timeline and authorship of Genesis and Job.

Reading the Bible with any system is better than not reading it at all

- But when you read it with Genesis and especially Job as you start and when you correctly UNDERSTAND how to interpret Job, which you'll learn in this series, you'll learn THREE incredibly important lessons:
- ONE—God's absolute right to do things, His control over all things in heaven and earth, people, Satan and his demons—this right is also known as His Sovereignty—He is King.
- TWO—a foundational reality we must grasp and that is our relationship with him is NOT a transactional one, where we can put expectations and demands on Him based on what we want or think we deserve. See lesson ONE.....
- THREE—there is a lot more going on in the spiritual world than we are aware of in ways both terrifying and ultimately comforting.
- And with this emphasis on the importance of what we will learn in this lesson, let's get into it by first establishing the authorship of both Genesis and Job.

A corrective, just in case

- In going over what I just said, in an effort to help us understand that, as the popular saying goes, "God is God and we are not,"
- I may have given the impression that God's control is that of an unfeeling despot.
- Nothing could be further from the truth, and we must always be assured that God's control over all events in our lives comes from a God who, in His very nature personifies love and who has our eternal BEST always in mind for us.
- No matter how challenging current circumstances might be, we have good God, who will ultimately right all wrongs, heal all pain, wipe away all tears, and bring us safely home.
- With that clarified, let's get into the lesson by first establishing the authorship of both Genesis and Job.

Genesis and Job have one author—Moses

- However, in both cases Moses is more of an editor than how we normally think of an author.
- An author creates the content, but in Genesis and Job the words are not originally his—the content was revealed from God.
- In addition, Moses had access to oral and written records of what happened prior to his life.
- We'll next look at a chart on the lengthy timelines of the early Biblical characters to illustrate how this is possible.
- Then we'll look at the traditional, geographical, and historical details that affirm Moses as the author of both books.

Timeline of the early Bible characters and the importance of oral history for our Bible—and how it shows that oral history is reliable.

Noah's son, Shem's grandfather knew the 1st man created.

Traditional confirmation of Moses' authorship

- Contemporary, anti-supernaturalist views dispute that Moses was the author of the book of Job and refer to it as a fictional, allegorical story by an unnamed author.
- Though there is no evidence of any sort for this view.
- However, thousands of years of history and tradition support that Moses was the author, that this quote from irc.org summarizes:
- *"Uniform Jewish tradition ascribed the book of Job to Moses and also accepted it as part of the true canon of Scripture. This ascription seems quite reasonable if Moses is regarded as the editor Moses most likely came into possession of Job's record during his forty-year exile from Egypt in the land of Midian (not far from Job's own homeland in Uz), and quickly recognized its great importance. . . It was probably similar to how he compiled and organized the primeval (of or relating to the earliest ages) records from which he has also given us the book of Genesis.*

[That being the case] the book of Job is probably the oldest book in the Bible.

- *It contains more references to Creation, the Flood and other primeval events than any book of the Bible except Genesis and provides more insight into the age-long conflict between God and Satan than almost any other book."*
<https://www.icr.org/books/defenders/2603>
- This is the view I believe is true.
- Just as later books in the Bible refer to other accounts of contemporary history being written using various sources and since we have ancient writings from other civilizations at that time, and earlier (e.g. the Gilgamesh epic), and Moses had access to all the learning of Egypt, it makes sense he would have read works available to him when he fled to Midian and afterwards.
- Following is additional evidence of Moses as author of Job and an early date for its content.

Geographical evidence for Moses' authorship of Job

- Biblical archeology and geography places Uz (where the book takes place) near Midian (as the previous IRC quote states)—where Moses spent 40 years after he fled Egypt.
- It was not an accident God sent Moses to the specific place where he would have heard the oral history of Job and perhaps had access to written documents of Job's story.
- His father-in-law was a "priest of Midian" and of the learned class.

Historical evidence on dating the book

- For Moses to be the author, the book needs to take place of prior to the time of the Exodus, during the time of the Patriarchs.
- ***That is what the book shows through the historical details of internal evidence because it describes a time that was—***
- Similar to the Patriarchal society described elsewhere in the Bible—a nomadic lifestyle of living in tents, wealth measured in herds of various kinds.
- Pre-law, as evidenced by Job's personal sacrifices for his family if they sinned.
- A time without formal priesthood or temple structure—referred to in any way.

- A time without an overall strong, central government, none mentioned.
- Our overall picture of Job is similar to how we would picture the world of Abraham, which would be consistent with the world presented in accounts of both of their lives.

More important than historical trivia

- Reading Job out of historical context or reading it as part of the poetical books has a very dangerous potential result—
- And that is for people, not only Biblical critics, but casual readers, to perhaps without thinking make Job into a fictional character who represents unjust suffering.
- That is NOT how the Bible presents Job and to think of him in that way robs the book of much of its power.
- Here is how the Bible confirms Job as a real individual....

Old Testament biblical confirmation that

Job was a real person

- ***The first is from Ezekiel***, a priest and exile from Israel who was deported from Israel to Babylon, prior to the fall of Jerusalem. In a passage where God is giving him a message about coming judgement he writes,
 - *Even if these three men—Noah, Daniel and Job—were in it, they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign Lord” (Ezekiel 14:14)*
- God speaks and Ezekiel repeats his words with the clear sense that these three are real persons, because—
- Daniel was his contemporary, a fellow exile to Babylon.
- Not only does Ezekiel consider Noah a real person, but the historical reality of Noah is verified by Jesus when he used him to illustrate how the world would be prior to his second coming in Matthew 24:37-38.
- Ezekiel places Job as a real individual alongside these other two, clearly taking him out of the realm of fictional character.

In addition, on dating

- The quote about Job from Ezekiel, also refutes a common falsehood about Job that it was written (along with many of the prophetic books according to anti-supernaturalist critics) AFTER the Babylonian exile.
- However, this couldn't be the case as Ezekiel as is unambiguously clear from his writings was written DURING the Babylonian exile.
- Job had to be written before it.
- This is not a trivial issue.
- Proper dating is a key factor that distinguishes between our view of books of the Bible as true history of God's dealings with people and fanciful musings on spiritual questions.
- Ezekiel isn't the only Biblical author who verifies that Job was a real person....

New Testament adds biblical confirmation that Job was a real person

- *As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. James 5:11*
- James cites Job in a way that assumes he is talking about a real person. His assertion here would not have any meaning if Job was simply a Jewish folk

tale written by an unknown person.

- In addition to this specific example, please note: ***The Bible is the best commentary on itself.*** Because of that we should expect that the various parts of the Bible agree with and comment on each other as these varied passages of Job do.

Summary and review of what we know about Job so far

- Based on tradition, Biblical confirmation, and the historical and geographical evidence we have, we will read Job believing that....
- He was a real person who lived about the time of the Patriarchs.
- What took place in the book were true events experienced by Job.
- The finished book was supernaturally revealed to, and perhaps using other records, and was then finally compiled into its final form by Moses.
- For us, it follows then that Job (as with all the Bible) *“was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right”* (2 Tim. 3:16, TLB).
- ***That is why we can use the books of Job and Genesis to answer the BIG, Foundational Questions of Life.***

What are the Big, Foundational Questions I’m referring to?

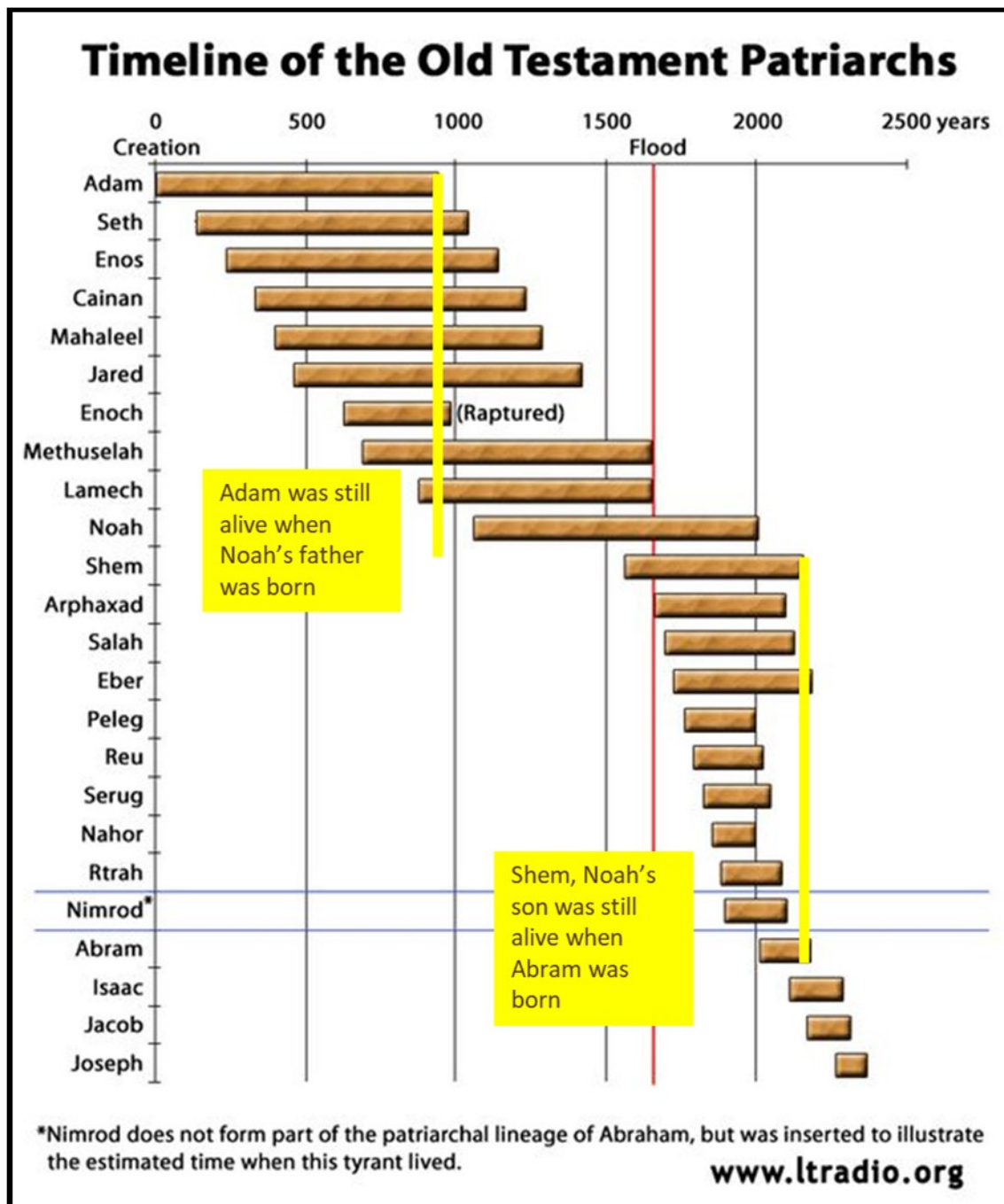
- **How did we get here?**
- **What went wrong?**
Sub question: Who is Satan and what power does he have?
- **Is there life after death?**
- **What about people who have never heard of Jesus?**
- **Why do innocent people suffer?**
- **How can we help people who are suffering?**

We will cover the first three in Part Two and then the second three in Part Three of our journey through the Bible in Chronological Order.

One thing to remember as we start

- These books give us answers, but we must acknowledge and I want to forewarn you—
- Not every answer will be the answer we want.
- It won’t be for the questions we ask and answer in Genesis & Job and it won’t be for many of the remaining books we look at in the remaining lessons.
- As it isn’t for our lives.
- But what we do get, and what Job got at the end of the book, isn’t the perhaps the answers we think we want or need, but better than that.
- God shows up. He did for Job and He will for us in every step we take in life and forever.

For notes from this lesson, related resources, and links to teaching materials go to www.bible805.com



This chart illustrates how the long lives of the Old Testament Biblical characters would have made oral tradition, the passing down of the actions of God in Creation, the Flood, and the early history of the human race and God's people realistic and reliable.

For More: This chart is discussed in the context of the Bible805 lesson on *The Old Testament, why we can trust it is the Word of God*, from the series on *How We Got Our Bibles*, see the following sites for more information, videos, podcasts, notes, PowerPoint slides and other resources on the lesson at www.Bible805.com and www.payhip.com/Bible805Academy.