

Women's Bible Study

This powerpoint
follows Lessons 9
and 10

AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF
THE BOOK OF JOB

AND THE LORD
Blessed
JOB

Elizabeth Bagwell Ficken

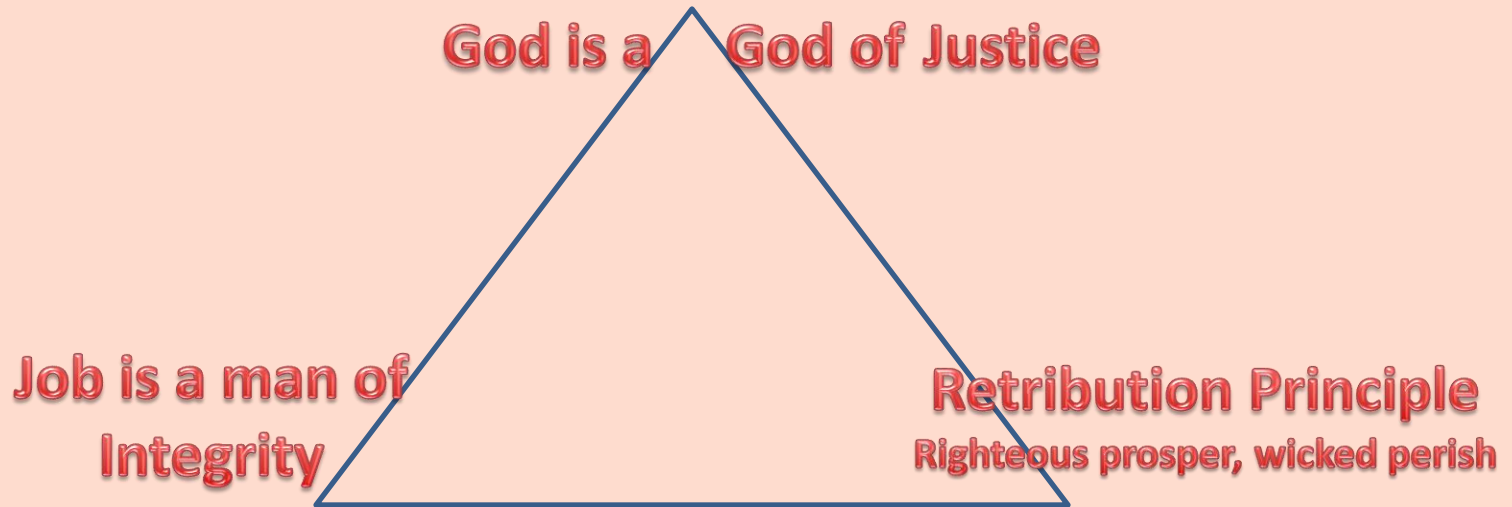
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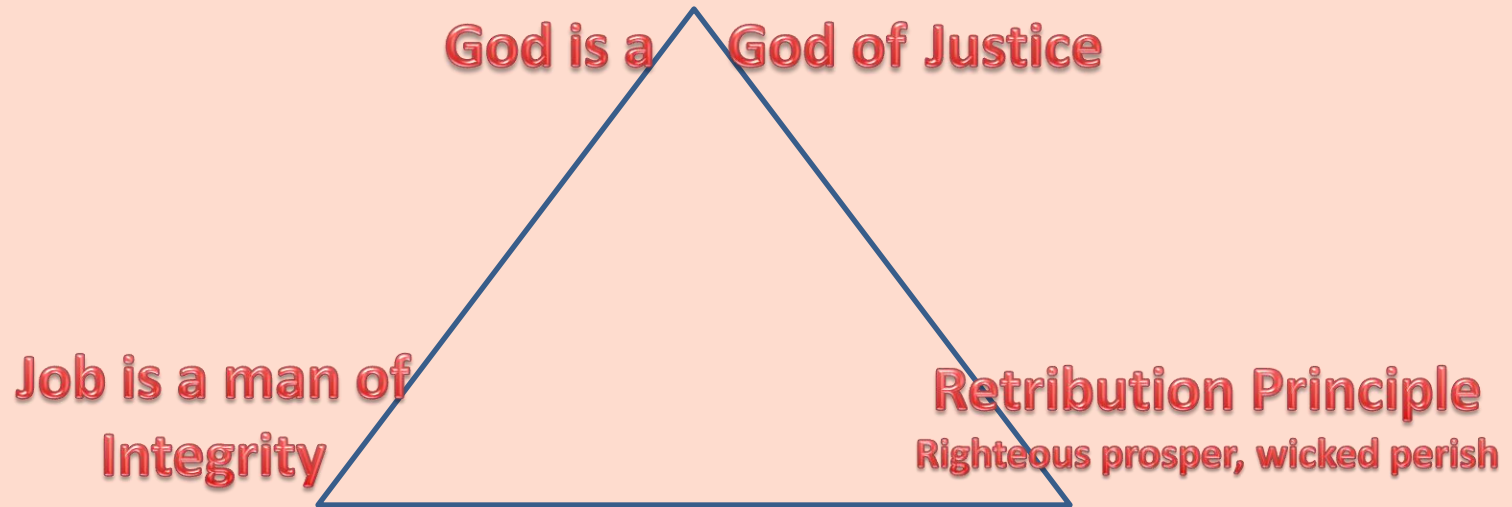
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- The book of Job attempts to hold all 3 ideas simultaneously, but Job's experience puts something in jeopardy. Job and his friends assume "one of the treasured ideas must be abandoned".

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

- Eliphaz was the first to bring up the Retribution Principle.

Job 4:7-9 ⁷ "Remember now, who *ever* perished being innocent? Or where were the upright *ever* cut off? ⁸ Even as I have seen, Those who plow iniquity And sow trouble reap the same. ⁹ By the blast of God they perish, And by the breath of His anger they are consumed.

- “Job, you have counseled many in similar circumstances and you should take your own advice. Trust in your piety- the Retribution Principle will hold; it is the wicked who perish. Yet from God’s perspective no mortal is righteous; Job appeal to God and accept His discipline.”- John Walton

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

- **JOB** replies and will maintain his position and defend his **integrity** until his last words.
- ^{CSB} **Job 6:29** Reconsider; don't be unjust. Reconsider; my righteousness is still the issue.
- ^{NKJ} **Job 6:29** Yield now, let there be no injustice! Yes, concede, my righteousness still stands!
- ^{NLT} **Job 6:29** Stop assuming my guilt, for I have done no wrong.

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Job 8:3 Does God pervert justice?

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Bildad’s worldview: The moral universe is founded upon the principle of retribution; any deviation from that would be injustice, and God and injustice are mutually incompatible terms.”

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- ***The Problem:** Job's innocence and his complaint at God's treatment of him imply that God is treating him unjustly. (7:12, 17-18 20)*
- *The whole principle of retribution is now called into question.*
- *"To Bildad, the doctrine of retribution is so foundational to his world-view that he has actually perceived the death of Job's sons and daughters as God's punishment (for their sins); Bildad does not know that he is deceiving himself. Bildad does not acknowledge that to deny the universal applicability of retribution is NOT to deny the righteousness of God." - Clines*

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- Job will defend his own righteousness. He will point out inconsistencies about the retribution principle, but still believes that God works according to the retribution principle.
- Job will begin to question the point depicting God's justice. **Job 7:11-12** In Job's perspective, God is treating him unjustly.
- What Job will wrestle with is this: *How can God NOT work STRICTLY according to the principle of retribution and still be counted just?*

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

- Walton shows the stages of thought that Job was processing regarding God's justice and the RP.
 - 1) If God is just, the RP is true.
 - 2) If the RP is true, it is the foundation of how the world works.
 - 3) If the RP is the foundation, one's experiences will be consistent with the RP
 - 4) If experience is not consistent with the RP, the RP is not the foundation.
 - 5) If the RP is not the foundation, the RP is not true.
 - 6) If the RP is not true, God is not just.

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- BUT GOD has revealed truth about Himself to us through His Word, through His Son, and through His Holy Spirit.
- “God gives the solution in His speech: the triangle is too simplistic and reduces God's policies to a narrow system in which justice is the foundational attribute and the RP is law. God does not choose one of the three elements of the triangle to defend – rather, He discards the triangle model as artificial and inadequate.” - Walton

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- ***What is the foundation for divine activity in the human realm?***
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- ***What is the foundation for divine activity in the human realm?*** What truth do we need to know about God – to place all our trust in Him?
- We need to know ***all*** about God.. as much as He has revealed of Himself to us.

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- **Exodus 33:18** ¹⁸ Moses said, "I pray Thee, show me Thy glory!"
- **Exodus 33:21-22** ²¹ Then the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand *there* on the rock; ²² and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by.
- **Exodus 34:6-7** ⁶ Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; ⁷ who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

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God is in Essence:

- Spirit
- Invisible
- Personal
- Living
- Eternal
- Infinite
- Unchanging
- Holy
- Self-existent
- Independent
- Omnipresent
- Omniscient
- Omnipotent
- Unity/ oneness / trinity/ Trinity

- The Attributes of God are:
- Righteousness
- Justice
- Truthfulness
- Loving
- Gracious
- Merciful
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Wise
- Compassionate
- Patient
- Sovereign
- Jealous

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- The tension in the triangle in the book of Job needs to be resolved by God.
- **To Job...** God will say: **Job 38:2** Who is this who obscures *My* counsel with ignorant words? God is telling Job – you don't know My purpose behind your suffering.

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- **To Job's friends, Job 42:7** After the LORD had finished speaking to Job, He said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "I am angry with you and your two friends, for you have not spoken the truth about Me, as My servant Job has. Now take seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer a burnt offering for yourselves. Then My servant Job will pray for you. I will surely accept his prayer and not deal with you as your folly deserves. For you have not spoken the truth about Me, as My servant Job has." ⁹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the LORD had told them, and the LORD accepted Job's prayer.

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- **Folly** – Hebrew: nabala – meaning villainy, vile, a disgrace. It is serious sin against God's standards.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

- Check yourselves and your perspectives.
- Do you assess your life and the lives of others according to the retribution principle?

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Homework this
week:

Lessons 11 and 12
(Lesson 11: each
person be prepared
to discuss assigned
color)

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