

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

JOB

Lesson 33

Biblical-Literacy.com

© Copyright 2006 by W. Mark Lanier. Permission hereby granted to reprint this document in its entirety without change, with reference given, and not for financial profit.

Why Do Bad Things Happen
To Good People?

Why Is Life Often Unfair?

Who Wrote Job?

- Unknown
- Date of Authorship – Unknown
 - Ancient indicators
 - Dead Sea scrolls: paleo–Hebraic script
 - Babylonian similarities

*I will Praise the Lord of Wisdom –
“Babylonian Job”*

Once I behaved like a lord, now I have become [wretched] ... My affliction increases, right I cannot find. I implored the god, but he did not turn his countenance.... I looked backwards ... like one who [did evil] ... like such a one I have become. Yet I myself was only thinking of prayer.

Job's Text

- Most Difficult Poetry In OT
 - 110 Unique Words
 - Perhaps A Missing Segment (26 – 27)
 - LXX Is OFF
- Hybrid Book
 - Poetry?
 - Prose?
 - Historical?

Job - Canon

Placement The Issue:

- After Poetry (Song Of Solomon)
- Codex Alexandrinus – B/Wween Psalms And Proverbs
- Peshitta – After Deuteronomy
- Pre-psalms
 - Jerome & Church Fathers
 - Council Of Trent (1546)

Themes?

- The problem of human suffering
- Justice and consistency of God
- Limitations of the finite mind
- God is bigger than we think

A Word About Inerrancy

- Scripture Is The Word Of God Without Flaw In What It Claims To Be.
- Be Careful Reading The Dialogues
- Issues of History
- Location

The Story

- Prose Prologue (1 – 2)
 - Intro Job

Job and His Daughters

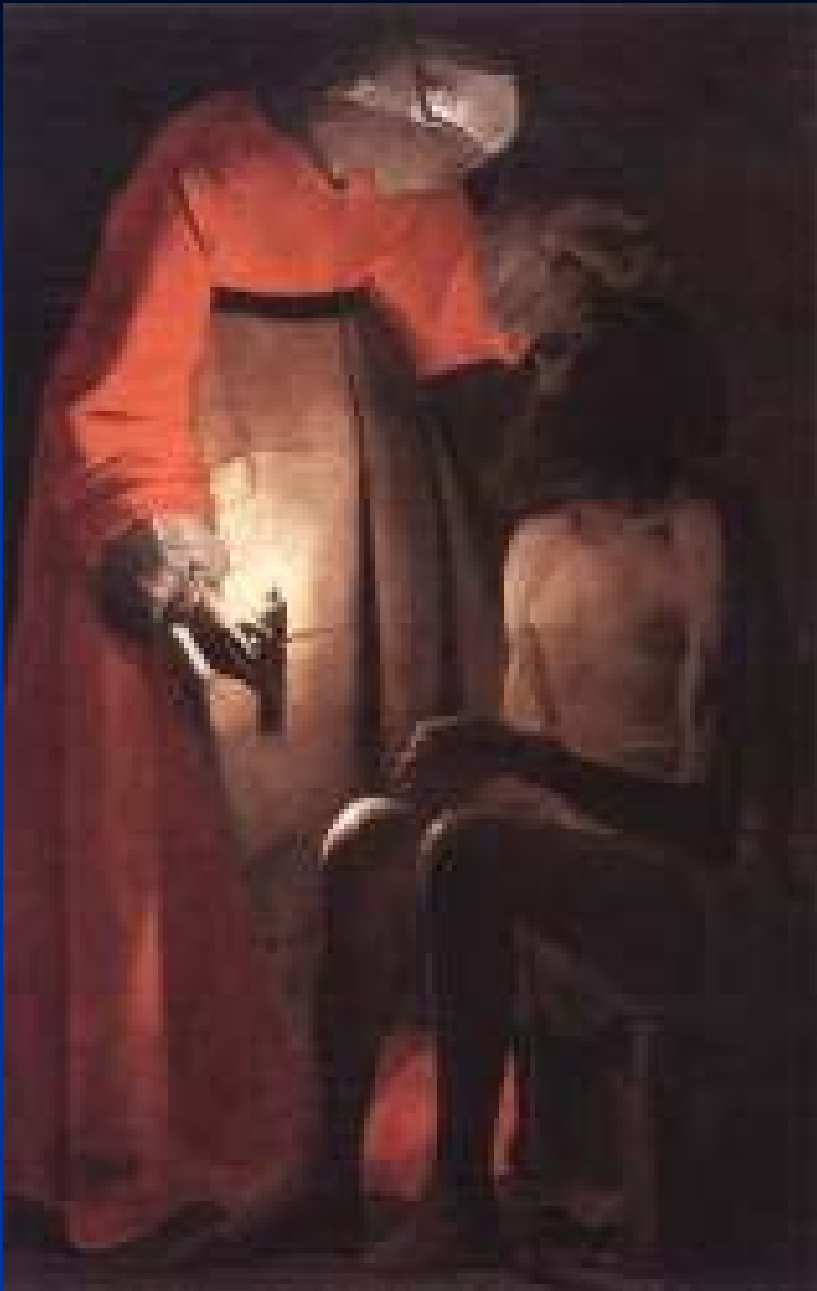
Wm Blake, 1795 Nat'l Gal. of Art, Wash. D.C.



The Story

- Prose Prologue (1 – 2)
 - Intro Job
 - Test # 1
 - “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. Yahweh gave and Yahweh has taken away; may the name of Yahweh be praised.” (1:21)
 - Test # 2

Job Mocked By His Wife



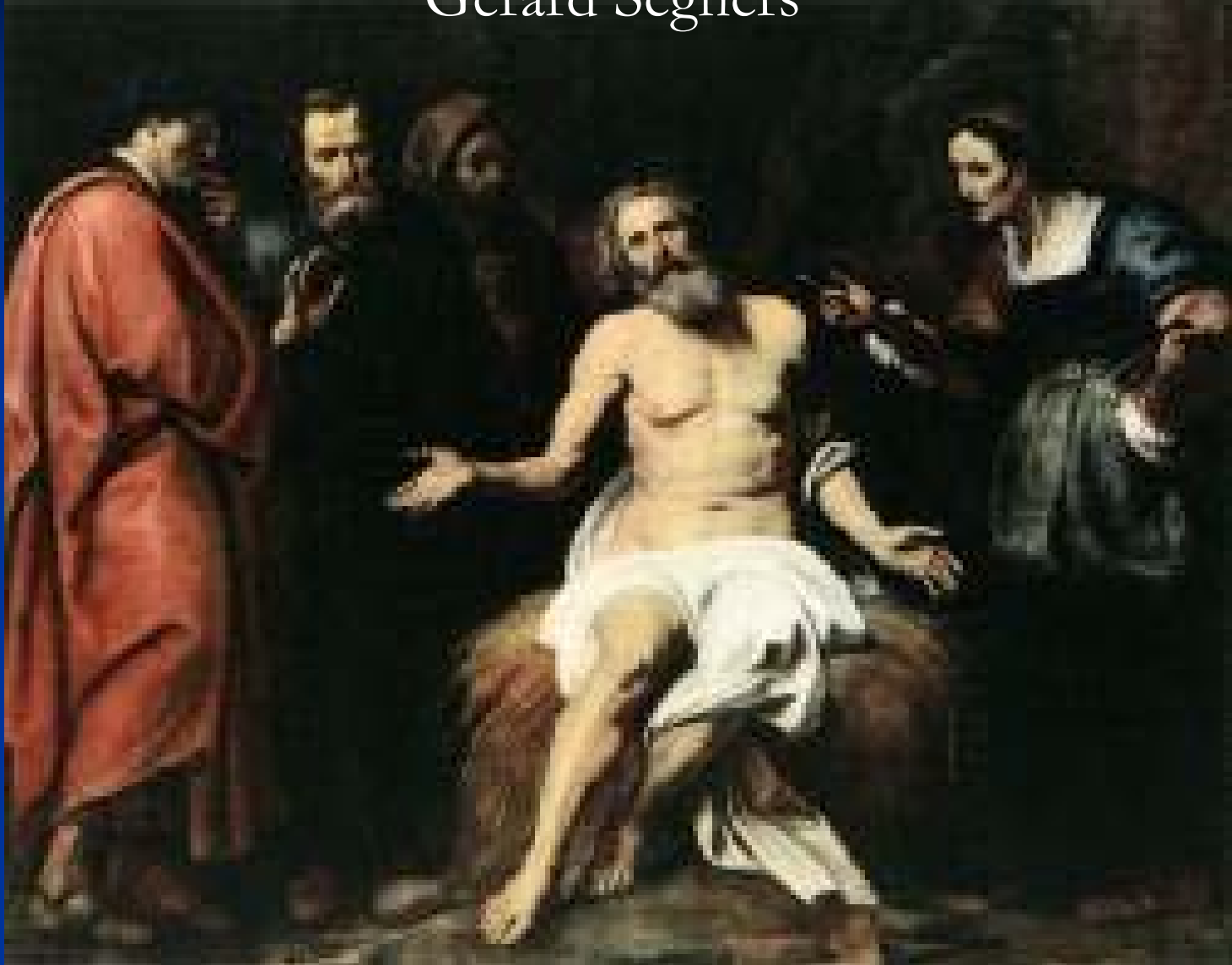
Georges La Tour
1630s

The Poetry Dialogue

- Friends?!

The Patient Job

Gerard Seghers



The Poetry Dialogue

- Friends?!
- Deserving or undeserving?
- The young fourth
- God's Response:
 - Yahweh C-X's
 - Who can question?
 - Job's humility and repentance

The Prose Epilogue

- God to the Friends
- Intervening prayer of Job
- Restoration of Job

Job and His Family Restored to Prosperity – Blake 1821



Points For Home

1. Evil Is Real
2. Life Is Not Always “Fair”
3. Answers To Evil / Unmerited Suffering
Not
 1. Readily Available
 2. Easily Understood
4. God Is God And He Is In Control