

# OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

## JOB

### Lesson 33

*Biblical-Literacy.com*

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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/Ween 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

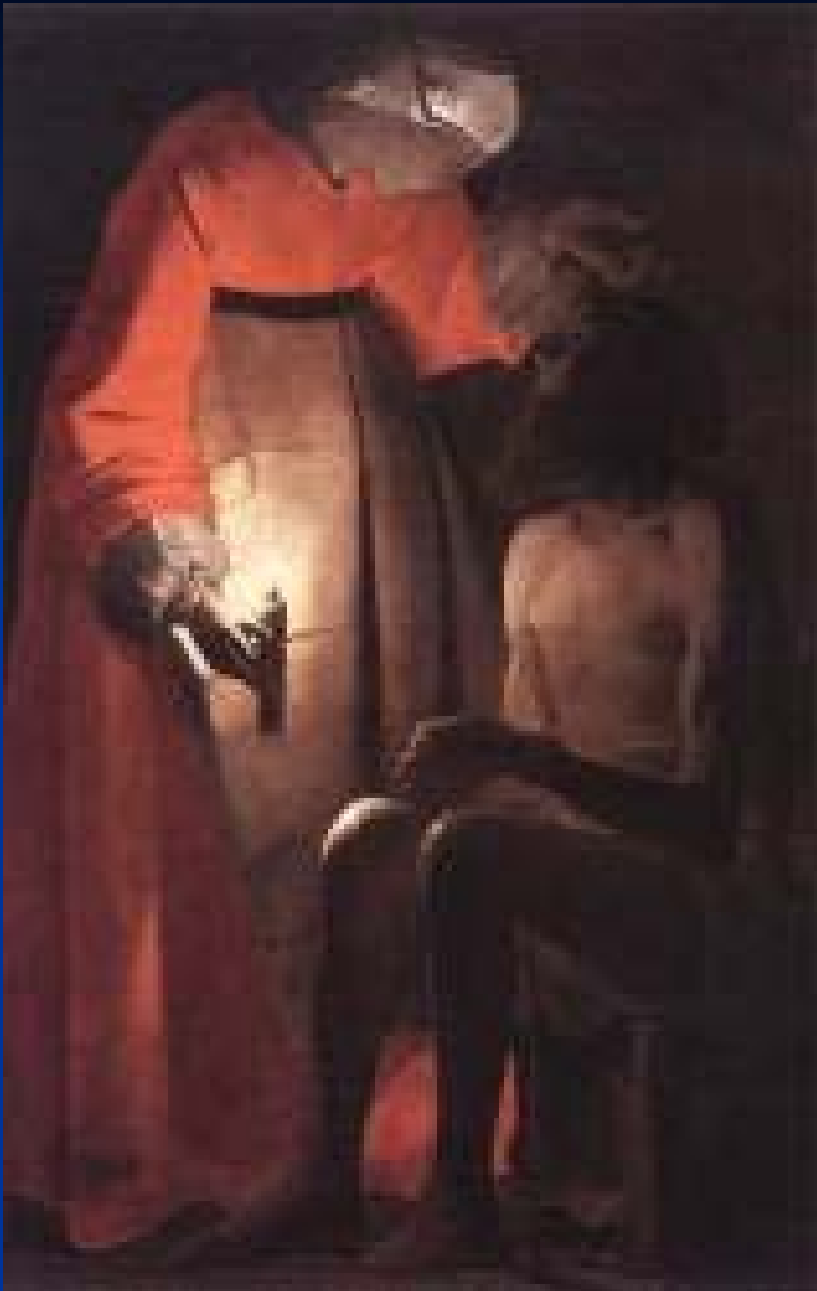
Wm Blake, 1795 Nat'l Gal. of Art, Wash. D.C.



# 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



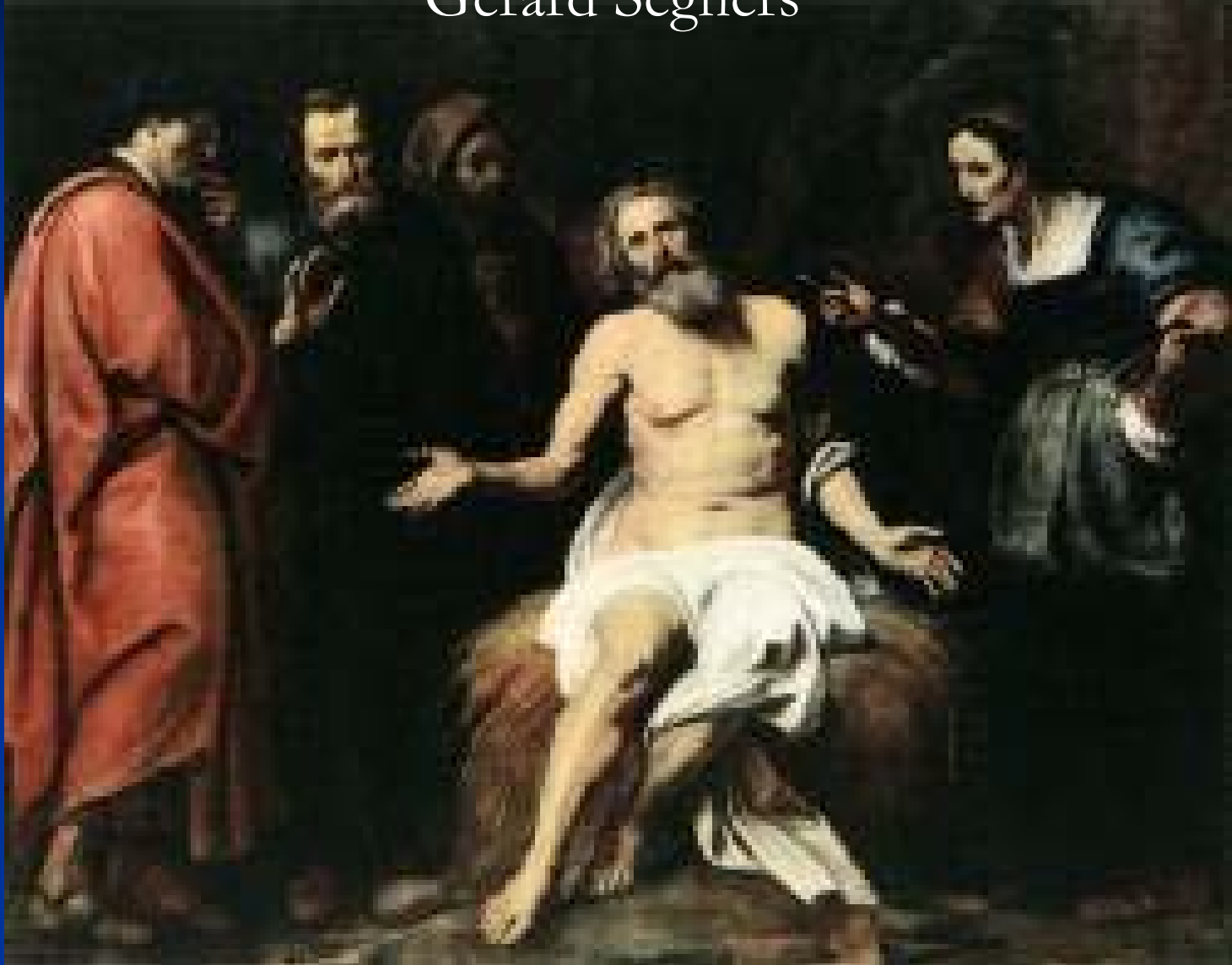
Georges La Tour  
1630s

# 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