

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

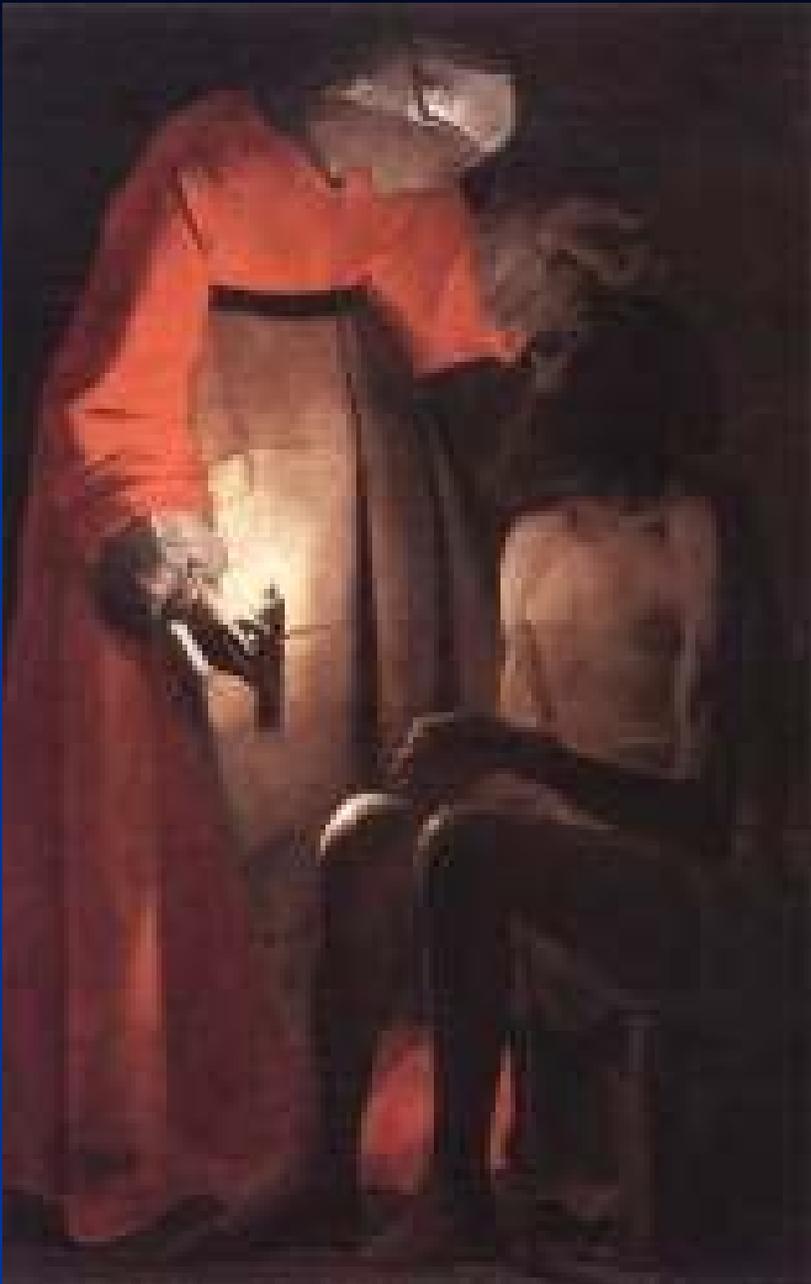
Wm Blake, 1795 Nat'l Gal. of Art, Wash. D.C.



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



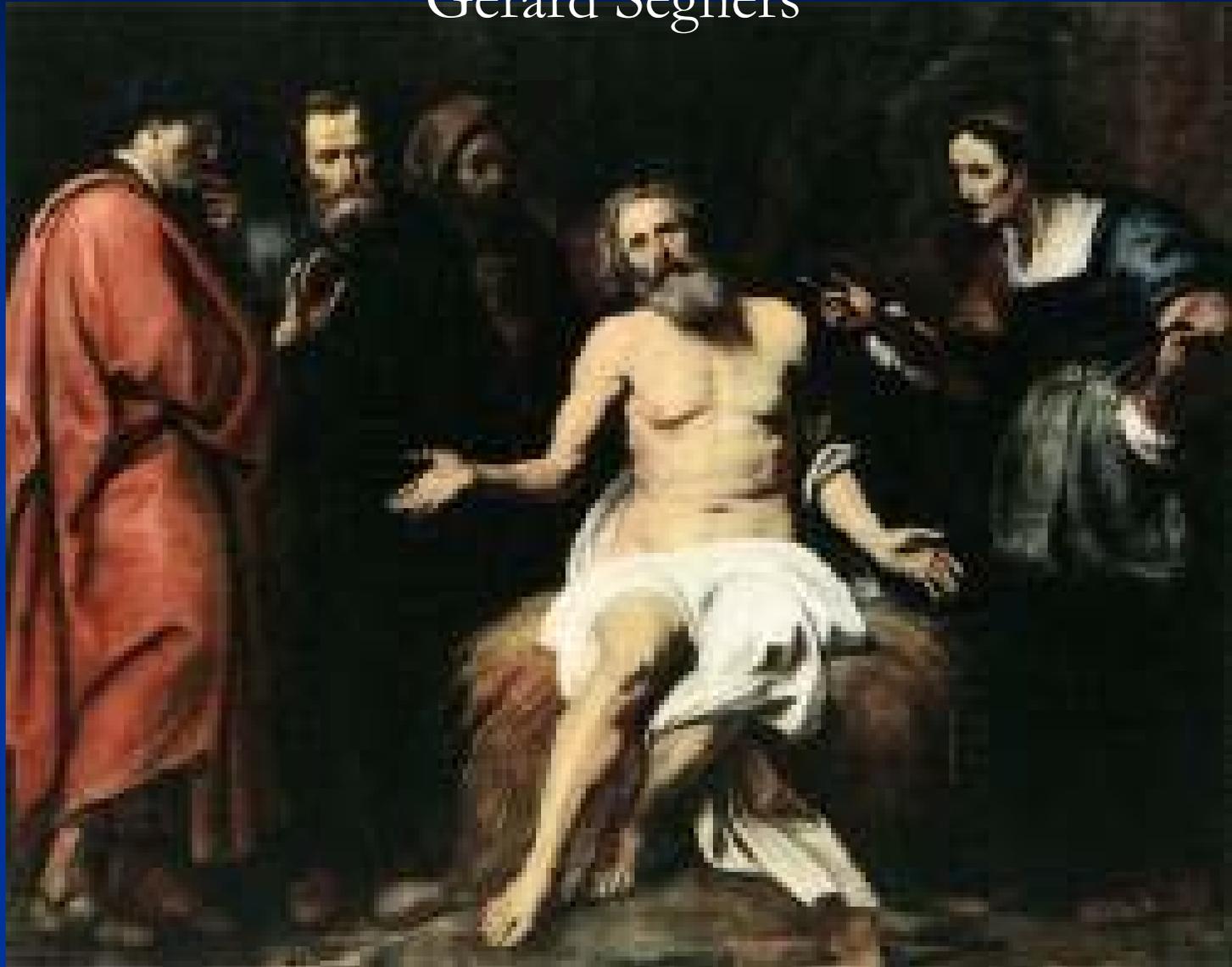
Georges La Tour
1630s

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