I. Introduction to the Book of Job

A. A book of poetry needs to be treated as such.

1. The “Staging” of Job is easily recognized.

B. An accurate “Hermeneutic” is needed to understand Job.

1. The big picture – the proverbial forest – can be missed by staring a tree.

C. The Gospels are the best preparation for reading Job.

1. Jesus is a poet when He uses parables which paint pictures.

2. “What did Jesus literally mean in that parable?” is a question that misses the point. Ditto with Job.

D. The shortest course in Hermeneutics in the Bible is Romans 2:28 and 29

II. Chapter 1 poetically paints the picture of Job in the land of Uz as of all men, everywhere.

A. Have you ever considered that you too live in the land of Uz?

1. Every married couple lives on the same street: Reality Lane, Planet Earth.

B. “To err is human,” may well be true; but, “To be human is to live in Uz.”

1. Most parents can say, “I just want my children to be happy.”

a. Job reminds us that Uz is on the wrong planet for that.

2. Job teaches that joy and happiness are more than two different words.

a. Job’s joy is not (ultimately) earth-bound. Uz is not his “home.”

III. Chapter 1 reminds us that “The Devil is in the details” is not true in Biblical poetry.

A. Prosperity Theology can get a lot of mileage out of chapter 1.

1. Large families, large fortunes are the indicators of sound faith.

B. Grace appears in an interesting poetic form in chap. 1. Can you find its expression?

IV. “And then there’s Satan.” Chapters 1 and 2

A. Did C.S. Lewis write 1:6-12? Echoes of THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS are heard.

1. Echoes of Matthew 4 are heard here too.

B. The theology of Satan does underpin the dialog.

1. Satan is limited in power and place.

2. Satan is “Alive and Well on Planet Earth.”

a. The majority of church attenders do not agree.

1. Evil is an illusion: Christian Science

2. Evil can be eliminated or controlled: Humanism

b. “I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul: ”Invictus

3. Satan’s presence dispels the idea that self-control is possible.

V. The Theology of Righteousness is rightly “declared” in Chapter 2.

A. The term in Greek is “dikaiosune,” which means a “declared” righteousness.

1. Is your righteousness before God declared or is it earned?

B. Romans 3 is needed to rightly interpret Job and him being a righteous man.

C. Romans 4 is needed to rightly interpret Job in the person of Abraham.

1. We all need to be children of Abraham even if we are named Job.

VI. To walk through our journey on Earth we need a coat of armor.

VII. To walk out of Hell we need a coat of righteousness.