

Job 38:1, Then  
the Lord answered  
Job out of a  
whirlwind

וַיַּעַן יְהוָה  
אֶת־אִיּוֹב מִן  
הַסְּעָרָה



**The “Problem” of Evil and Suffering in the Presence of an All-knowing, All-good, All-loving, and All-powerful God (50):  
Job 38:1-7: From the whirlwind and creation of the earth  
to second-personal love and joy**

<http://www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html>

# Philosophical/Theological/Doctrinal & Spiritual Edification

## Bible Doctrines

- Eschatology
- Thanatology
- Ecclesiology
- Israelology
- Dispensationalism
- Doxology
- Hodology
- Soteriology
- Hamartiology
- Natural Law
- Anthropology
- Angelology
- Pneumatology
- Christology
- Paterology
- Trinitarianism
- Cosmology
- Theology Proper
- Bibliology

### Prolegomena: P.R. - 27

- Hermeneutics
- Linguistics
- Epistemology
- Metaphysics
- Reality -Logic 32, Truth 32

## Broad and deep understanding of BD

What view of God does the following give us?

1. Philosophical Realism – metaphysical data only
2. Biblical data only.
3. Philosophical-Realism and all biblical data

Apart from the philosophical realism, consider the view of God and of the various doctrines we are left with. What can we trust to guide us to reality/truth? PR! Logic!

Jesus Christ was the consummate philosophical realist.

**1 Corinthians 2:9** but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And *which* have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him.

Enough BD to be overcomer

**1 John 2:14**, "you are strong, and the word of God abides in you"

Lacks BD, DV

Luke 2:49 Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" cf. 1 John 2:13 for baby believers knowing God the Father.

▪ Jesus Christ, 'Ehyeh, Esse, Ultimate Reality, Exod. 3:14; Jn 1:1; 8:57-58; John 17:5.  
Colossians 1:17, *And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together (συνέστηκεν).*

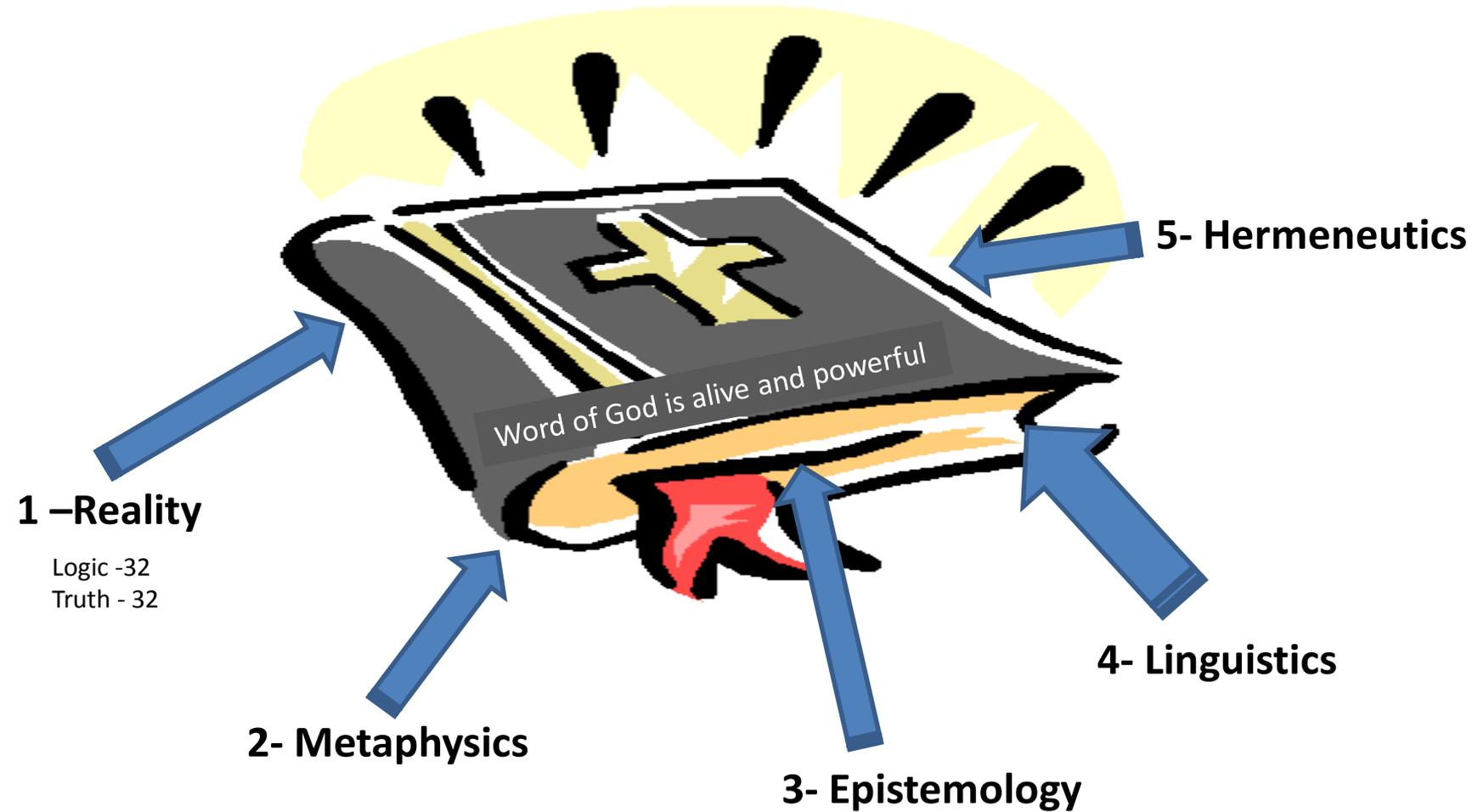
Young adult - Level 2- Doctrinal conceptualization -  
Systematic understanding of -- God's Word/Truth, e.g. .  
Matthew 4:4 *But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'*"

### Baby believer - Level 1 -

- Limited to isolated Bible verses
- Unable to apply doctrine or divine viewpoint to *all* the issues of life
- Jesus Christ, Luke 2:40 *And the Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom (σοφία); and the grace of God was upon Him.*

# Foundations: Philosophical Realism (27)

Everyone brings presuppositions to the Bible—and they should!



## Foundations: Philosophical Realism (27)

1. Only Philosophical Realism (logic, CT, TT) can help us clarify Scripture teachings, especially on metaphysical claims.
2. The Bible never defines some of the most important metaphysical claims. It just gives us the raw data. Hence, philosophical realism is required! The only other options would be mysticism or irrationality.
3. Without metaphysics, the Christian can neither understand nor defend the Trinity.

## Foundations: Philosophical Realism (27)

4. Without metaphysics, the Christian cannot understand free will, let alone 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> order will, determinism, predestination, et al.
5. Without metaphysics, the Christian cannot understand God's timelessness, the eternality of God, which is required for omniscience and immutability.
6. Without metaphysics, the believer has no clue about Esse.
7. Without metaphysics, the believer is reduced to incoherency with regard to the omnipresence of God (without becoming a panentheist), the omniscience of God, and the omnipotence of God. By the look of things by way modern Christian attitude, it seems like these things really do not matter. True?

## Foundations: Philosophical Realism (27)

8. Without metaphysics the believer is left with human and animal features in God.
9. The only objective system for understanding all of the data in the Bible is philosophical realism.
10. Only philosophical realism can give the believer the transcendent tools (like 3 undeniable laws of logic, CT, TT, ) he needs for biblical and doctrinal objectivity.
11. Without philosophical realism, the believer is unable to distinguish between what is epistemological properly basic (rationally warranted) and irrationality (illogical, incoherent, mystical, or fideistic).

# Job 38:1-7



# DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

1. Job 38:1-7 overview. Job 38 is a treasure trove of scientific data on the earth not contained in the Genesis narrative. We will spend a lot of time with this material when we get to cosmology. Apart from a few comments (e.g., Psa. 93:1; Gen. 1:1-2), this time through the focus will be on what God is teaching Job regarding suffering. However, for those who are interested I have included the following scientific data contained in the chapters before us in Job:
  - a. Setting up Earth's interior and surface features for the needs of advanced life (38:4–16)
  - b. Establishing an abundant, stable water cycle with water in all three states: vapor, liquid, and ice (37:3–21; 38:22–38)
  - c. Fine-tuning Earth's (gradually slowing) rotation to the precise rates for various life-forms throughout terrestrial history (38:4–6, 12–14)

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- d. Balancing the oceans' and continents' depths/heights, sizes, shapes, distributions, and movements for civilization's emergence and survival (38:4–11, 22–30).
- e. Providing varied terrestrial habitats that allow diverse and abundant species to thrive (37:5–17; 38:22–30)
- f. Engineering different kinds of cosmic dark stuff and placing each kind in the exact locations and abundances for the benefit of all Earth's life (38:19–21)
- g. Fixing the precise amounts and kinds of precipitation, cloud cover, and lightning strikes to benefit diverse life-forms (37:3–18, 21; 38:22–30, 34–38)

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- h. Shaping and timing Earth's starry environment for the benefit of each life-form on Earth throughout terrestrial history (38:7, 12, 19, 31–33).
- i. Setting all the laws and constants of physics at specific levels to facilitate fulfillment of divine purposes for the cosmos in relation to humanity (37:5–38:38)
- j. Endowing birds and mammals with the capacity to form uniquely meaningful relationships among themselves and with humans (38:39–39:30)

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- k. Endowing humans with unique capacities to engage in an array of meaningful pursuits and relationships with each other, with other creatures, and with their Creator (37:7, 13–24; 38:1–39:30)
  
- l. Equipping ten species of birds and mammals for humans' benefit in the development and sustenance of a global, technologically advanced civilization (38:39–39:30)

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

2. Job 38:1, Then the Yahweh<sup>1</sup> answered Job . . . וַיַּעַן יְהוָה אֶת־אִיּוֹב

- a. After 37 chapters of traumatic suffering (and PTG), Job is now ready to receive the *answer* to his fervent prayer:

Behold my תָּו (taw, x, mark, signature, last word),  
Behold, Shaddai answer me!  
(הִן־תָּוִי שֹׁדַי יַעֲנֵנִי), Job 31:35.

<sup>1</sup> Yahweh, יְהוָה is genderless noun in the Hebrew as is 'Ehyeh, אֶהְיֶה.

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- b. However, God's עֲנָה (answer) was not the עֲנָה (answer) that Job ever expected. Consider the fact that Job was given no details concerning his suffering in relation to Satan's activities.
  
- c. After 3,000 years and even with all of the insights from the rest of the Word of God, God's answer is lost to most Christians and even professional theologians. No, the answer is not in the power or knowledge of God. All five men understood the unimaginable power and knowledge of God.

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- d. God's answer is His love and care, cf. Job 38:1-7.
- e. While there can be no doubt that the divine speeches describe God's unimaginable power and knowledge, that is neither God's key point or a solution to Job's problem—which was bringing him into a second-personal love relationship with Him.

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- f. Job's problem was solved by God bringing him into a second-personal relationship with God through suffering. Nothing else is greater or even important for the believer to understand. Note that Job was never told that the sufferings were inflicted by Satan. It really did not matter if the sufferings under the sovereignty of God were either from His formal cause or His efficient cause.

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- g. The single most difficult doctrine for believers to grasp in their lives is how all suffering is encompassed by the love of God to move the believer into a second-order, third order, fourth order . . . Good, and bring him into a second-personal love relationship with God.

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- h. It is in suffering that the believer has the greatest opportunity to become more open to the reciprocal love of God, and therefore God is able to move in closer to the believer in which the believer becomes φίλος θεοῦ, James 2:23.
- i. Suffering provides the greatest catalyst for the believer to become more integrated and move up the ladder is the various orders of Good and in his love relationship with God.

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

3. Consider the vast amount of doctrinal knowledge Job had of God and the spiritual life, yet he remained deficient in second-personal love for God.
  - a. Job understood the immanence and transcendence of God. God is both immanent (existing and operating everywhere within his creation) and transcendent (existing and operating beyond his creation without limitation). In today's terms, we would say that God exists beyond the cosmic space-time dimensions to which humans are restricted, making *physical* contact with God impossible, and yet God remains simultaneously and continuously in proximity to every person and thing within cosmic space-time dimensions.

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

Job 7:18: You [God] examine them [every person] every morning and test them every moment.

10:12, You [God] gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit.

10:14, If I sinned, you [God] would be watching me.

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

24:23, His [God's] eyes are on their [every person's] ways.

28:24, [God] views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.

9:11, "When he passes me, I cannot see him; when he goes by, I cannot perceive him"

23:8-10, "If I go to the east, He [God] is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him. When He is at work in the north, I do not see Him; when He turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of Him. But He knows the way that I take"

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- b. Job acknowledged his inability to pass life's tests without God's help.
  - ✓ He spoke of his need for a divine Advocate (9:33–34; 16:19–21), a Redeemer (19:25–27), to stand before God in his behalf.
  - ✓ With wisdom that could have come only from the Holy Spirit, Job declared that God in His mercy would provide “the pledge” divine justice demands (17:3).

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- c. Job understood, however, that regardless of external circumstances or the state of his physical health, God had predetermined the exact length of his life.
  - ✓ “A person’s days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed” (14:5; Psa. 139:16).

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- d. Job recognized that even a single second of life on Earth is a miracle of God.
  - ✓ “In His hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind” (12:10).

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- e. Both Job and his friends embraced the belief that God is omnipotent, and omniscient (Job 5:9–10; 9:4, 10, 19; 10:10–12; 11:7–9; 12:7–10, 13; 21:22; 23:13; 26:14; 28:12–28; 33:12–13; 34:10, 13–15; 36:5, 10, 22–26, 31; 37:4–5, 23).

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

f. Job understood God's grace and redemptive plan,

9:2, "How can mere mortals prove their innocence before God?"

9:14, "How then can I dispute with him?"

9:28-29, "I know you will not hold me innocent. Since I am already found guilty, why should I struggle in vain?"

14:4, "Who can bring what is pure from the impure?"

15:14, "What are mortals, that they could be pure?"

19:25–27, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

g. Job understood issues related to testing—like trusting God (faith-rest drill).

16:19-21, . My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God; on behalf of a man he pleads with God as one pleads for a friend.”

13:15, “Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him.”

23:10, When He has tested me, I will come forth as gold”

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- h. However, Job and his friends, all underrated the nature of God's love. They miscalculated the love and care of God that existed within His power and wisdom. They thought that God's power and knowledge worked in legalistic ways rather than loving and caring ways.
- i. The single most difficult and most important doctrine to grasp is the reality of reciprocal love and joy found a second-personal relationship with God which is gained and enhanced through the trials of life.
- j. While we cannot all get this now, what a blessing to know about this blessed resource.