

JOB



Nº. 10.



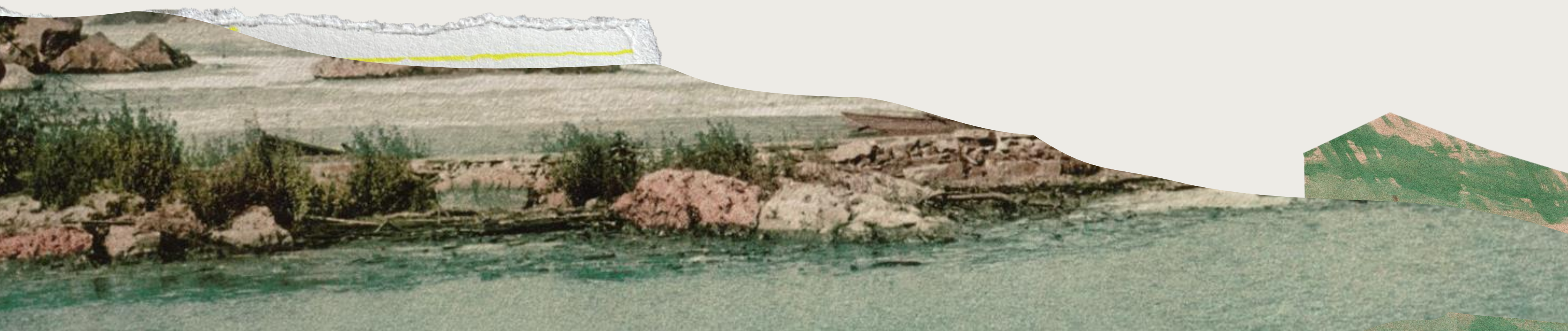
Wanneer hij zijne reis besluit,
Dan werpt de Zeeman 't anker uit

WHERE WE ARE

- God declared Job to be a righteous and blameless man.
- Satan challenged Job's motives, claiming he only served God because of God's blessings.
- Job lost his possessions, his children, and eventually his health.
- His three friends came to comfort him and sat silently beside him for seven days.
- Job finally broke the silence in chapter 3 by lamenting the day he was born.
- Eliphaz responded in chapters 4–5, suggesting that suffering usually comes because of sin.
- Last week, in chapters 6–7, Job answered Eliphaz. He defended his integrity, expressed the overwhelming weight of his suffering, and cried out to God with questions that many hurting people still ask today.

BILDAD SPEAKS & JOB RESPONDS

Job 8-10



BILDAD
DEFENDS
GOD'S
JUSTICE

8:1-7



“Then Bildad the Shuhite replied to Job:

2 “How long will you go on like this?

You sound like a blustering wind.

3 Does God twist justice?

Does the Almighty twist what is right?

4 Your children must have sinned against him,
so their punishment was well deserved.

5 But if you pray to God

and seek the favor of the Almighty,

6 and if you are pure and live with integrity,
he will surely rise up and restore your happy home.

7 And though you started with little,
you will end with much.”

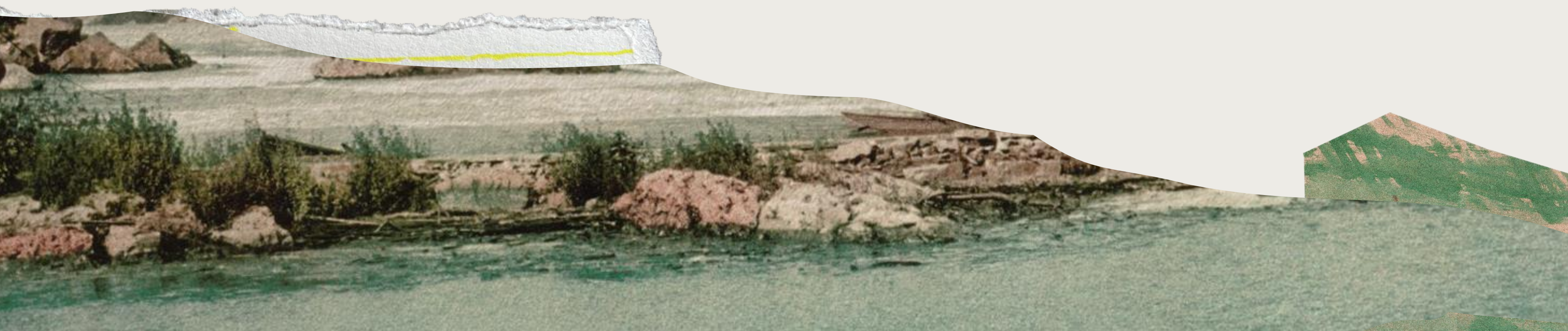
BILDAD DEFENDS GOD'S JUSTICE

- Bilidad's argument is built on incomplete information
- Compassion matters as much as correctness
- True theology can be wrongly applied

DON'T ASSUME YOU KNOW WHY SOMEONE IS
SUFFERING

LOOKING TO THE WISDOM OF THE PAST

8:8-10



“Just ask the previous generation.

Pay attention to the experience of our ancestors.

9 For we were born but yesterday and know nothing.

Our days on earth are as fleeting as a shadow.

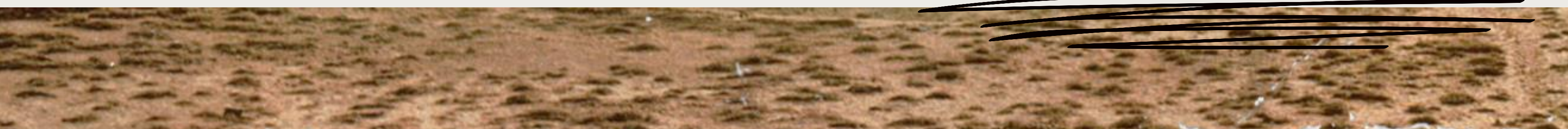
10 But those who came before us will teach you.

They will teach you the wisdom of old.”

LOOKING TO THE WISDOM OF THE PAST

- Tradition IS valuable
- Healthy theology always leaves room for humility before God's mysteries
- Jesus repeatedly challenged traditions that had drifted away from God's heart.

EVERY TRADITION MUST ULTIMATELY BE
TESTED BY GOD'S WORD—NOT THE
OTHER WAY AROUND



THE
ILLUSTRATIONS
OF THE
WITHERING
PLANT
8:11-19



“Can papyrus reeds grow tall without a marsh?

Can marsh grass flourish without water?

12 While they are still flowering, not ready to be cut,

they begin to wither more quickly than grass.

13 The same happens to all who forget God.

The hopes of the godless evaporate.

14 Their confidence hangs by a thread.

They are leaning on a spider’s web.

15 They cling to their home for security, but it won’t last.

They try to hold it tight, but it will not endure.

16 The godless seem like a lush plant growing in the sunshine,
its branches spreading across the garden.

17 Its roots grow down through a pile of stones;

it takes hold on a bed of rocks.

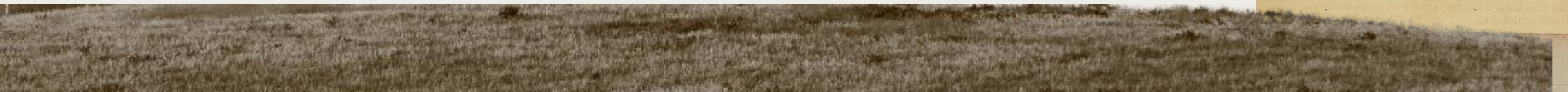
18 But when it is uprooted,
it’s as though it never existed!

19 That’s the end of its life,
and others spring up from the earth to replace it.”

THE ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE WITHERING PLANT



- Bildad's point: The wicked may appear successful for a while but eventually they collapse
 - Similarities with teachings of Psalm 1 and portions of Proverbs
 - The problem isn't the illustration...The problem is the target



BILDAD'S

FINAL

APPEAL

8:20-22



“But look, God will not reject a person of
integrity,

nor will he lend a hand to the wicked.

21 He will once again fill your mouth with
laughter

and your lips with shouts of joy.

22 Those who hate you will be clothed with
shame,

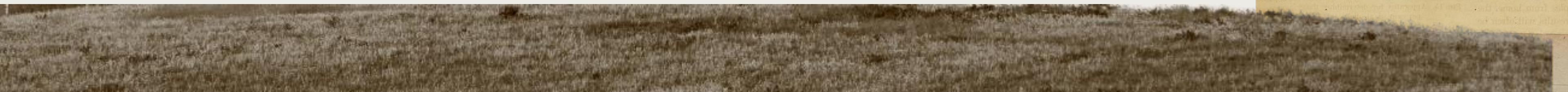
and the home of the wicked will be
destroyed.”

BILDAD'S FINAL APPEAL



- Both friends being with the assumption that suffering always has a direct moral cause
- Retribution theology isn't a formula
- God's ways are more complex than we often realize

TRUST GOD EVEN WHEN LIFE DOESN'T FIT
SIMPLE ANSWERS



JOB

AGRES...BUT

SEES A BIGGER

PROBLEM

9:1-4



“Then Job spoke again:

2 “Yes, I know all this is true in principle.

But how can a person be declared innocent in God’s sight?

3 If someone wanted to take God to court,[\[a\]](#)
would it be possible to answer him even once in a thousand
times?

4 For God is so wise and so mighty.

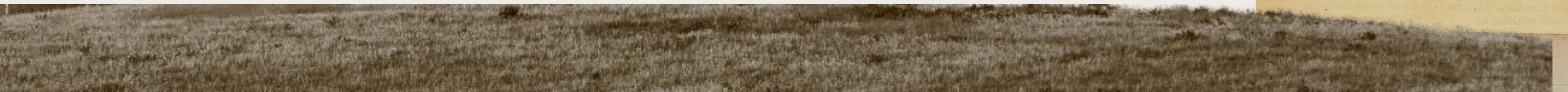
Who has ever challenged him successfully?”

JOB AGREES...BUT SEES A BIGGER PROBLEM



- Job is not denying God's justice
- Job realizes humanity needs someone to bridge the gap between God and sinful people

CHRISTIANITY IS NOT BUILT ON CONVINCING OURSELVES WE'RE GOOD ENOUGH. IT'S BUILT ON TRUSTING THE ONE WHO IS.



THE GOD WHO RULES CREATION

9:5-13



“Without warning, he moves the mountains,
 overturning them in his anger.
6 He shakes the earth from its place,
 and its foundations tremble.
7 If he commands it, the sun won’t rise
 and the stars won’t shine.
8 He alone has spread out the heavens
 and marches on the waves of the sea.
9 He made all the stars—the Bear and Orion,
 the Pleiades and the constellations of the southern sky.

10 He does great things too marvelous to understand.

 He performs countless miracles.

11 “Yet when he comes near, I cannot see him.

 When he moves by, I do not see him go.

12 If he snatches someone in death, who can stop him?

 Who dares to ask, ‘What are you doing?’

13 And God does not restrain his anger.

 Even the monsters of the sea**[b]** are crushed beneath his feet.”

THE GOD WHO RULES CREATION

- God's power is beyond human comprehension
- Job's circumstances have shaken his understanding but they have not destroyed his belief in God's majesty.
- Job recognizes that creation itself points to God's greatness

WHEN LIFE FEELS OUT OF CONTROL..THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE IS STILL ON HIS THRONE.



JOB FEELS

OVERWHELMED

9:14-24



“So who am I, that I should try to answer God
or even reason with him?

15 Even if I were right, I would have no
defense.

I could only plead for mercy.

16 And even if I summoned him and he
responded,

I’m not sure he would listen to me.

17 For he attacks me with a storm
and repeatedly wounds me without cause.

18 He will not let me catch my breath,
but fills me instead with bitter sorrows.

19 If it’s a question of strength, he’s the strong
one.

If it’s a matter of justice, who dares to
summon him[c] to court?

20 Though I am innocent, my own mouth would
pronounce me guilty.

Though I am blameless, it[d] would prove me
wicked.

“I am innocent,
but it makes no difference to me—
I despise my life.

22 Innocent or wicked, it is all the same to God.

That’s why I say, ‘He destroys both the
blameless and the wicked.’

23 When a plague[e] sweeps through,
he laughs at the death of the innocent.

24 The whole earth is in the hands of the
wicked,

and God blinds the eyes of the judges.
If he’s not the one who does it, who is?”

JOB FEELS OVERWHELMED

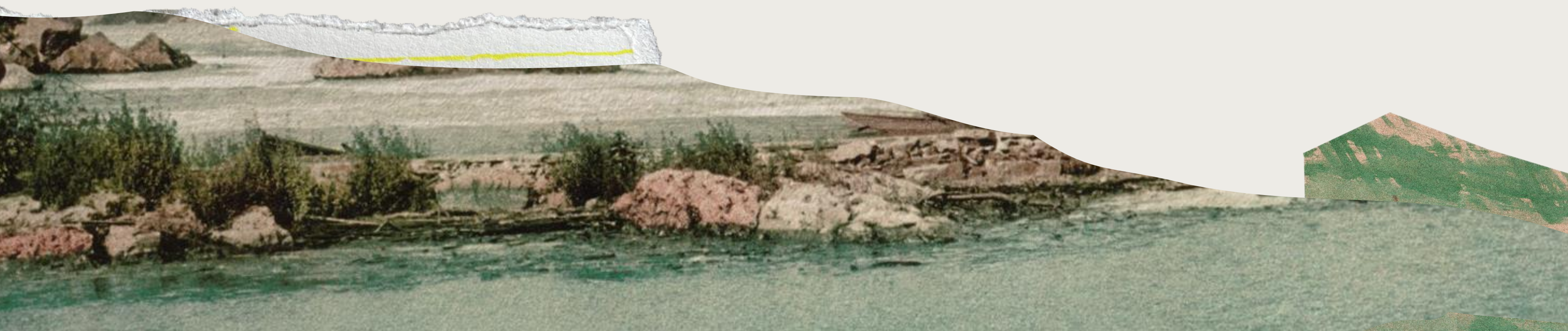
- Job is saying, even if he were innocent, he wouldn't know how to defend himself.
- Job is giving voice to human anguish.
- The book of Job allows suffering people to speak honestly.

GOD IS NOT THREATENED BY HONEST QUESTIONS. HE ALREADY KNOWS OUR HEARTS.



LIFE FEELS LIKE IT'S SLIPPING AWAY

9:25-31



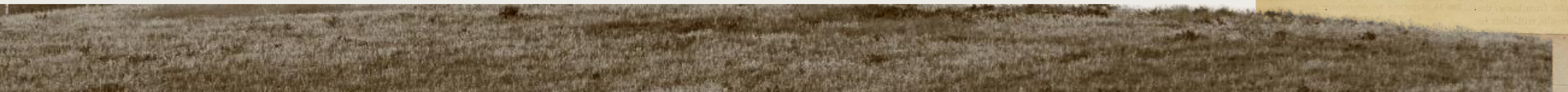
“My life passes more swiftly than a runner.
It flees away without a glimpse of happiness.
26 It disappears like a swift papyrus boat,
like an eagle swooping down on its prey.
27 If I decided to forget my complaints,
to put away my sad face and be cheerful,
28 I would still dread all the pain,
for I know you will not find me innocent, O God.
29 Whatever happens, I will be found guilty.
So what’s the use of trying?
30 Even if I were to wash myself with soap
and clean my hands with lye,
31 you would plunge me into a muddy ditch,
and my own filthy clothing would hate me.”

LIFE FEELS LIKE IT'S SLIPPING AWAY



- Notice the imagery...Each image communicates speed
- Hope doesn't deny pain. Hope trusts God in the middle of pain.

CHRISTIANS ARE NOT CALLED TO PRETEND
EVERYTHING IS OKAY. BIBLICAL HOPE IS
DIFFERENT FROM FORCED OPTIMISM.



JOB LONGS

FOR A

MEDIATOR

9:32-35



“God is not a mortal like me,
so I cannot argue with him or take him to trial.
33 If only there were a mediator between us,
someone who could bring us together.
34 The mediator could make God stop beating me,
and I would no longer live in terror of his punishment.
35 Then I could speak to him without fear,
but I cannot do that in my own strength.”

JOB LONGS FOR A MEDIATOR

Job has repeatedly acknowledged two truths:

- God is infinitely holy
- Humanity is infinitely limited

- Job doesn't know the name of the One he longs for...But we do.

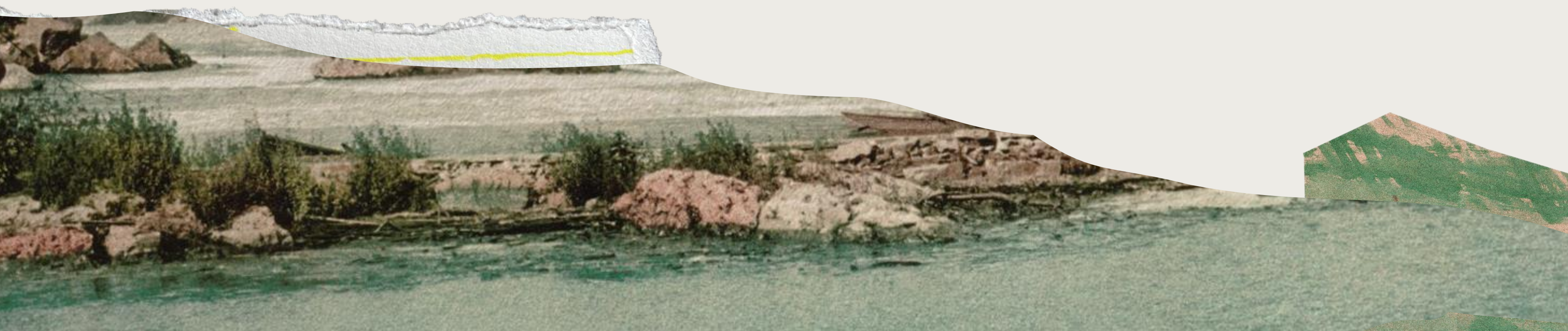
- Questions raised in the Old Testament often find their answers in Christ.

NO AMOUNT OF GOODNESS, EFFORT, OR RELIGION CAN BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN SINFUL HUMANITY AND A HOLY GOD.



HONEST PRAYER IN THE MIDDLE OF PAIN

10:1-7



“I am disgusted with my life.

Let me complain freely.

My bitter soul must complain.

2 I will say to God, ‘Don’t simply condemn me—
tell me the charge you are bringing against me.

3 What do you gain by oppressing me?

Why do you reject me, the work of your own hands,
while smiling on the schemes of the wicked?

4 Are your eyes like those of a human?

Do you see things only as people see them?

5 Is your lifetime only as long as ours?

Is your life so short

6 that you must quickly probe for my guilt
and search for my sin?

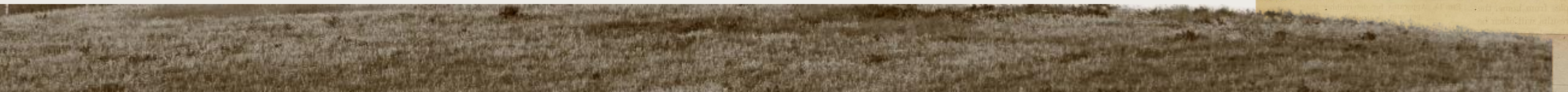
7 Although you know I am not guilty,
no one can rescue me from your hands.”

HONEST PRAYER IN THE MIDDLE OF PAIN



- There's a difference between criticizing God behind His back and pouring out your heart directly to Him
- God welcomes honest hearts

FAITH IS NOT PRETENDING TO UNDERSTAND
EVERYTHING. FAITH IS BRINGING EVERY
QUESTION TO THE ONE WHO DOES.



REMEMBERING

THE

CREATOR

10:8-12





“You formed me with your hands; you made me,
yet now you completely destroy me.

9 Remember that you made me from dust—
will you turn me back to dust so soon?

10 You guided my conception
and formed me in the womb.[\[a\]](#)

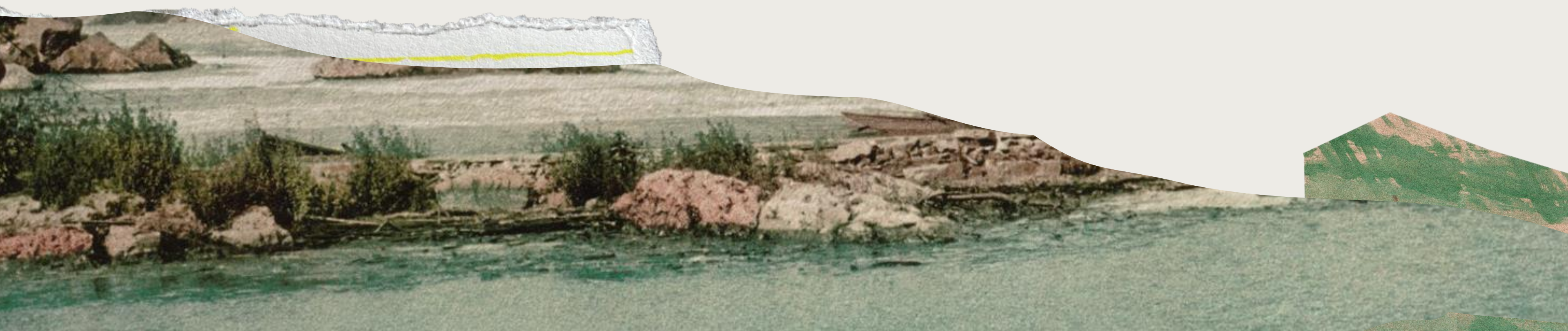
11 You clothed me with skin and flesh,
and you knit my bones and sinews together.

12 You gave me life and showed me your unfailing love.
My life was preserved by your care.

EVEN WHEN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE US
QUESTION GOD’S PURPOSES...OUR VALUE HAS
NOT CHANGED

WHEN GOD FEELS DISTANT

10:13-17



“Yet your real motive—
your true intent—

14 was to watch me, and if I sinned,
you would not forgive my guilt.

15 If I am guilty, too bad for me;
and even if I'm innocent, I can't hold my head high,
because I am filled with shame and misery.

16 And if I hold my head high, you hunt me like a lion
and display your awesome power against me.

17 Again and again you witness against me.

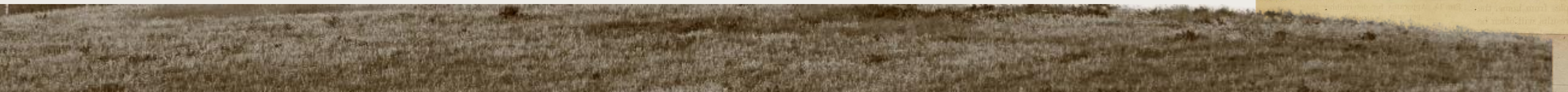
You pour out your growing anger on me
and bring fresh armies against me.”

WHEN GOD FEELS DISTANT



- This is the language of emotion. It is not a doctrinal statement that God literally hates Job.
- Job gives permission to express emotions many people are afraid to admit.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DOUBTING
GOD'S EXISTENCE AND STRUGGLING TO
UNDERSTAND HIS ACTIONS.



THE DEPTH OF JOB'S DESPAIR

10:18-22



“Why, then, did you deliver me from my mother’s womb?

Why didn’t you let me die at birth?

19 It would be as though I had never existed,
going directly from the womb to the grave.

20 I have only a few days left, so leave me alone,
that I may have a moment of comfort

21 before I leave—never to return—
for the land of darkness and utter gloom.

22 It is a land as dark as midnight,
a land of gloom and confusion,
where even the light is dark as midnight.””

THE DEPTH OF JOB'S DESPAIR

- Job's words echo ch. 3; Job has lost all understanding
 - Job cannot reconcile God's character with his experience.
- Job teaches us that Scripture doesn't rush people through grief.

HEALING DOESN'T COME IN ONE
CONVERSATION. IT TAKES TIME.



BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER



From Bildad:

Good theology can become harmful when it's applied without compassion

From Job:

Honest faith continues talking to God even when answers don't come

From God:

God's silence should not be mistaken for His absence



DISCUSSION & REFLECTION



1. Bildad repeatedly insists that suffering must be the result of sin. Why is that idea so appealing, and what important truth about suffering does the book of Job challenge us to remember?
2. Job continued to bring his questions directly to God instead of turning away from Him. What does that teach us about how we should pray during seasons of confusion or pain?
3. In Job 9, Job longed for someone to stand between himself and God. How does Jesus fulfill that longing for us today?
4. Think about someone who is going through a difficult season. What is one practical way you can offer compassion without feeling like you have to explain why they're suffering?
5. What truth from tonight's study encouraged or challenged you the most, and why?

