



# THE EXHORTER'S CALL

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## THE MESSAGE OF JOB

Many people, layman and scholar alike, are fascinated by the book of Job but have difficulty in determining its message. The question of human suffering arises within its pages, yet for many there appear to be few answers. Job opens with a heavenly scene that has been seriously misapplied in relation to the spotless character of God. In fact, many resign themselves to the conclusion that the Book of Job simply describes the capriciousness of an Almighty God! Heaven Forbid! God is certainly sovereign, but not capricious. The theme of Job is simply the same as the rest of Holy Scripture...the promise of a Redeemer.

In *Job 1:5* we find Job performing the service of a priest for his family in the offering of sacrifices for sin; although he himself is not of priestly lineage. This is evidence suggestive of a pre-covenant time and indeed there are scholars of the opinion that Job may be the oldest book of the Bible. I do not think it is an accident that this verse immediately precedes *Job 1:6-12* and sets the stage for Satan's appearance.

Satan admits that he has been "walking up and down" in the earth and in *1 Peter 5:8* we're told that Satan walks the earth "*seeking whom he may devour.*" It is for this reason that God interrogates him as to his intentions in verse 8. Many people erroneously come to the conclusion that God is actually suggesting that Satan attack Job! God is not offering up Job to Satan as if he had never considered attacking him; but rather, God knew full well what Satan had been up to. When God asks Satan if he has "considered" Job, He is actually accusing him of "considering" Job as a target; a man who is described as a righteous servant of the LORD, a man that God truly loved!

God knew that Satan had made his appearance before the court of the LORD to challenge God's protective hedge over Job's life. In a pre-covenant time, there was no "legal" entitlement to this protection for Job. Satan, the Accuser and "god" of this fallen world (*2 Corinthians 4:4*), was challenging God's benevolent relationship with Job. Without an intermediary between a holy God and sinful man, we are helpless within the world and at the mercy of Satan; as the following events that befell Job indicate.

Job may have opened the door to this attack through fear in *Job 3:25* "*For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.*" The Bible tells us in *Proverbs 29:25* "*The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*"

The fear contained within a man invites all kinds of catastrophe into his life, but Job later set his eyes on what became the turning point of his victory: Jesus Christ, the promised intermediary between God and man. In *Job 19:25* we are assured that God will establish the necessary "legal" protection and not forsake us to the hand of Satan: "*For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.*"



שִׁמְאֵלֹּוּ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַיִם

Yē-rū-sha-lf-im ←--- Shalom' ←--- Sha-alū



## SH'MA Y'ISRAEL

*Isaiah 53:1 "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?"*

Scripture is replete with incidents where the Jewish people failed to believe in the promises of God. This is not an indictment of the Jews alone, but is a resounding evidence of the fallen nature of sinful man.

In the Christian New Testament *Matthew 16:13-17* records that "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, *Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias (Elijah); and others, Jeremias (Jeremiah), or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ (Meshiach/Messiah), the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*"

The Sh'ma is the taken from Deuteronomy (D'varim) chapter 6 and is the creed that establishes that "the Lord our God is One Lord." Sh'ma means "to hear" with a special emphasis on "to perceive." The conflict that arises between Judeo-Christian hermeneutics is the emphasis on "One." Taken as an ordinal number, it means that God is God alone; the One True God, and so He is, as is accepted by both Jew and Christian alike. However when taken as a descriptive adjective, "One" indicates a state of being in harmonious unity, as the triune manifestation of God through the power of the Godhead; an interpretation accepted by Christians and Messianic Jews alone.

In the passage above, Jesus (Himself a Jew) presents this apparent conundrum to His fellow Jew and disciple, Peter. Note that Jesus commends Peter's insight by referring to him as "Simon bar Jonah." Simon is simply a Greek rendition based upon the Hebrew "Sh'ma." Clearly, Peter "perceived" something extraordinary! "Bar" obviously means "son of," but was Peter the son of Jonah? Not in a natural sense, but the meaning of Jonah is "dove." What is the significance of this?

*Luke 3:22 "And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased."*

Here is a scripture containing the manifestation of God in unity: Father, Son, Spirit. In fact, the expression "Simon bar Jonah" reveals that Peter "perceived as a son of the Spirit of God!"

Flesh and blood cannot reveal this...but the Spirit of God can. If you struggle with determining who Jesus really is, whether you are Jew or Gentile, please ask the LORD to speak to your heart before deciding.

Who hath believed our report?



## Ecclesiastes 1:18

“For in much wisdom *is* much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.”

### THE LIMITS OF REASON

King Solomon, considered the wisest man to ever have lived, penned these words centuries ago. Solomon was blessed by the LORD, but led astray by a lust for women and fell into their idolatrous ways. Solomon came to the realization that despite his great intellect, he was helpless to control or to master his sinful nature. The more he learned as he applied himself to the increase of wisdom and knowledge, the more he recognized that all was vanity and man was hopelessly lost within the world.

It is the heart of man that is faulty, not his lack of education and reason. *Jeremiah 17:9* confirms that the heart of man is exceedingly deceitful, desperately wicked, and its depths of depravity cannot be rationalized by man. Ironically, it was the selfish pursuit of knowledge that left man trapped in his fallen state in the first place. After the encounter with the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, the spirit of man that once dominated his nature was placed in subjection to his newly reprobate mind and sinful flesh. Following this spiritual “death” man was separated from intimate spiritual fellowship with his Creator and forced to rely on the limited abilities of the mind alone as his only mechanism for insight into his world.

Man’s original design of well-balanced acuties was not enhanced by rebelliously increasing his mental knowledge of good and evil. Rather, they were disproportionably reduced at the expense of his harmonious spiritual perception. Man is no longer able to accurately perceive that which is not immediately verifiable to the physical senses or logically deduced. Those who ignore the redemptive work of Christ Jesus and put their trust solely in the intellect, reason, science, and/or philosophy unknowingly perpetuate a defective state by which no man can be saved. Only the Creator can restore man to his full potential. Will you accept Jesus into your life today and discover what it is that you’ve been missing?

**Rick Wagnon** is a born-again Spirit-filled believer that was saved eternally and securely by the grace of God, through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. His father was a full-time pastor that raised Rick with a solid foundation of faith, knowledge, and hunger for God’s Word. Rick’s professional background has been in law enforcement, protective security, and anti-terrorism; serving as a supervisor and trainer in these fields. Recently he transitioned to the field of public health preparedness to coordinate disaster response training. He also performs additional duties related to intelligence, security, planning, and logistics. Rick is married to a beautiful, loving wife of faith and blessed with two fine sons that love the Lord. He has served as a church trustee, usher, children’s church teacher, and itinerate guest speaker. Rick believes in living as a bold witness for Christ, loves to worship the Lord, and is available for special speaking engagements in your area.

