



Welcome to
Rehoboth New
Life Center
Bible
March 29th
2016

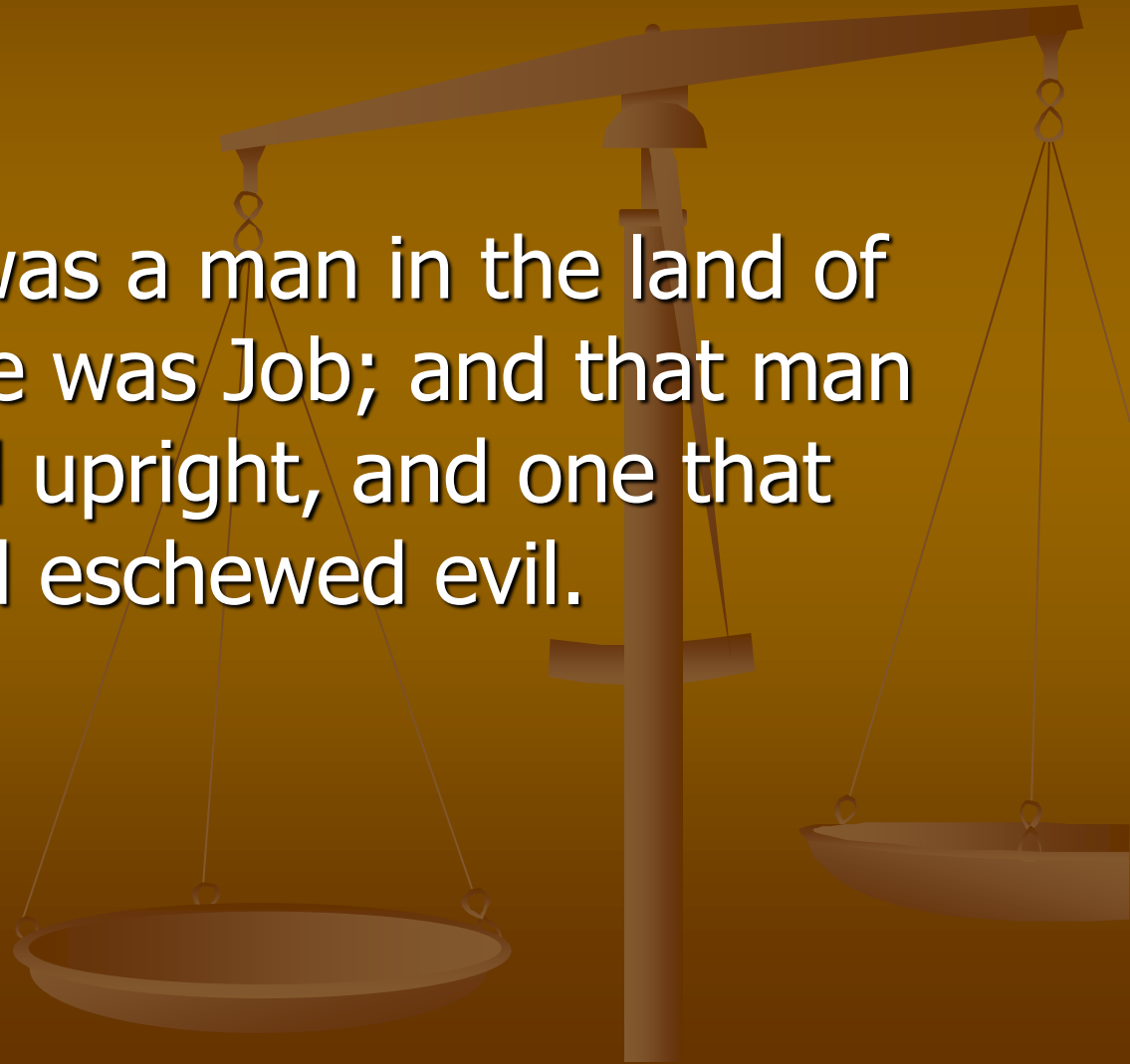


The Problem of Evil

Isaiah 45:7 I form the light, and create
darkness: I make peace, and create
evil: I the LORD do all these things.

A Perfect Man

- Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.



There Came a Day !



- Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.
- Job 1:7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

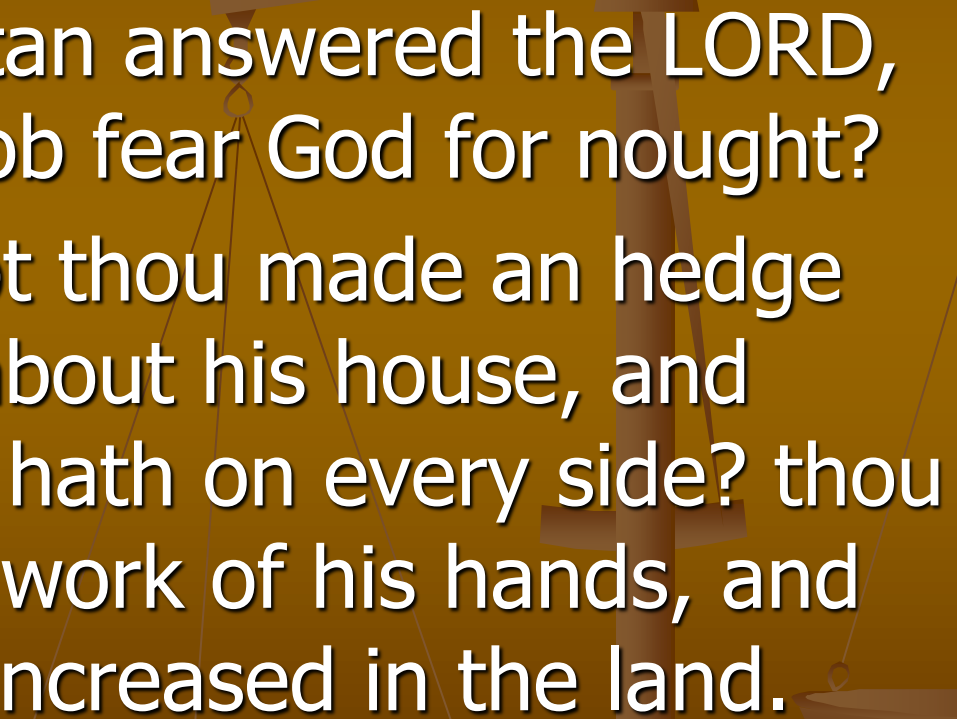
Consider Job ?

- And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?



"My servant Job shall pray for you."—*Job* xlii. 8.

The difference between worship and praise

- Job 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?
 - Job 1:10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.
- 

The removal of the Hedge



- Job 1:11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.
- Job 1:12 And the LORD said unto Satan, **Behold, all that he hath [is *Already*] in thy power;** only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

God is great, God is good,
so why do bad things happen?



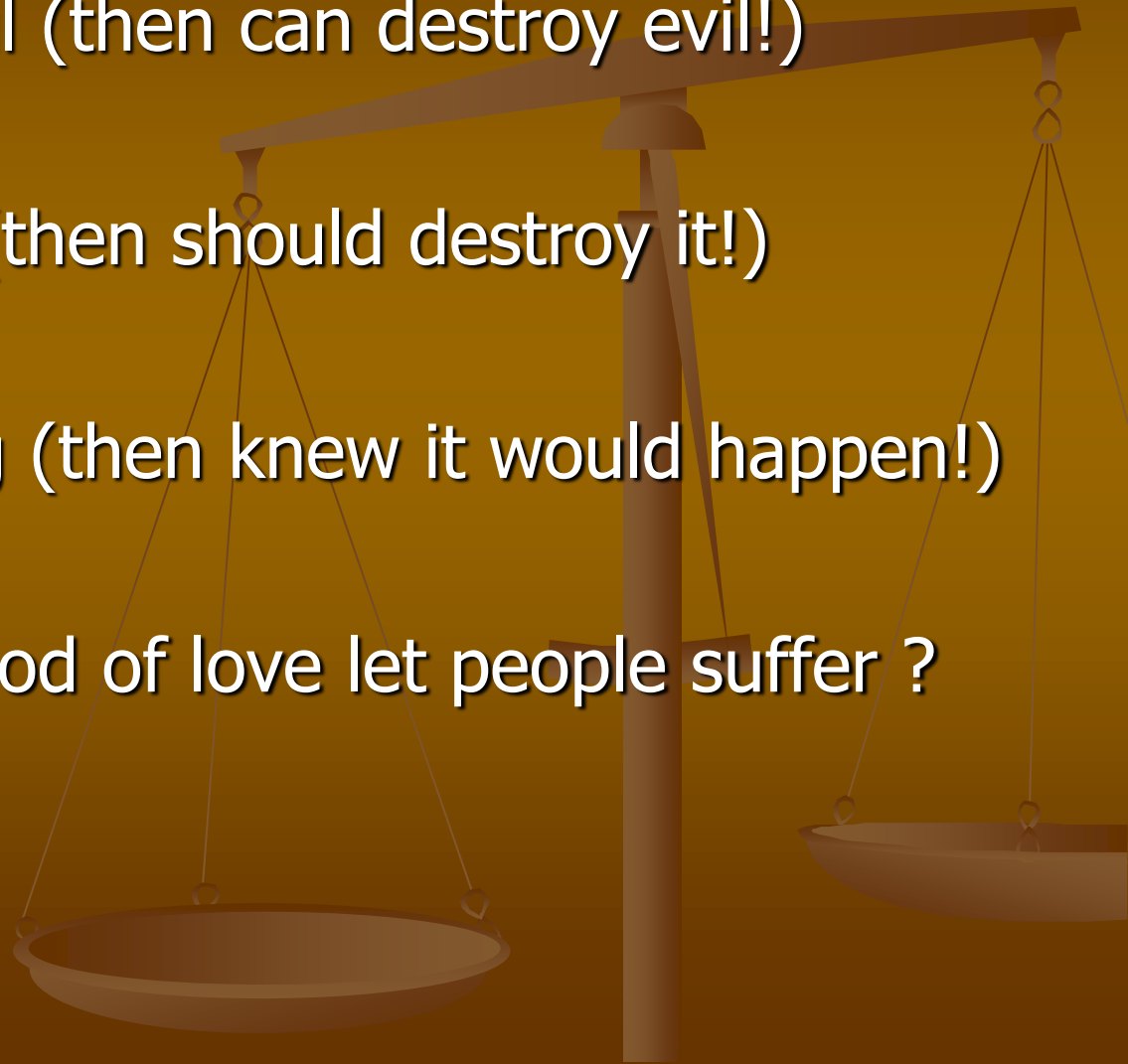
Evil, suffering and pain are very serious challenges to Christianity



- **Atheism** says no God, real evil
- **Pantheism** says real God, no evil
- **Theism** says real God, real evil

Problem for Christian theism =

- God is all-powerful (then can destroy evil!)
- God is all-loving, (then should destroy it!)
- God is all-knowing (then knew it would happen!)
- So why would a God of love let people suffer ?



The Triangle problem !

God is great



God is good

Yet Evil exists



Origin of Evil ?

- So where did evil come from?
- Did God create it?



■ And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, **it was very good**. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

■ Genesis 1:31





- God is absolutely perfect
- God created only perfect creatures
- one of the perfections God gave some of his creatures was the power of free choice

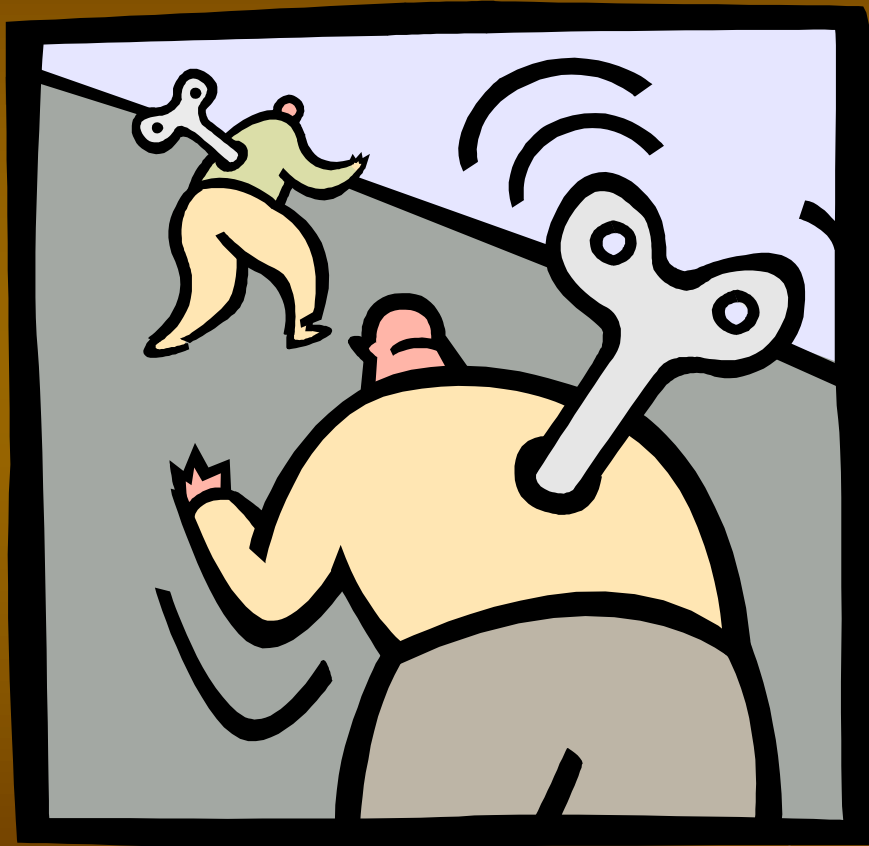


- ***God cannot force himself on anyone...***

- **forced "love" \neq love**

- **forced "love" = rape**

God is not a divine rapist.

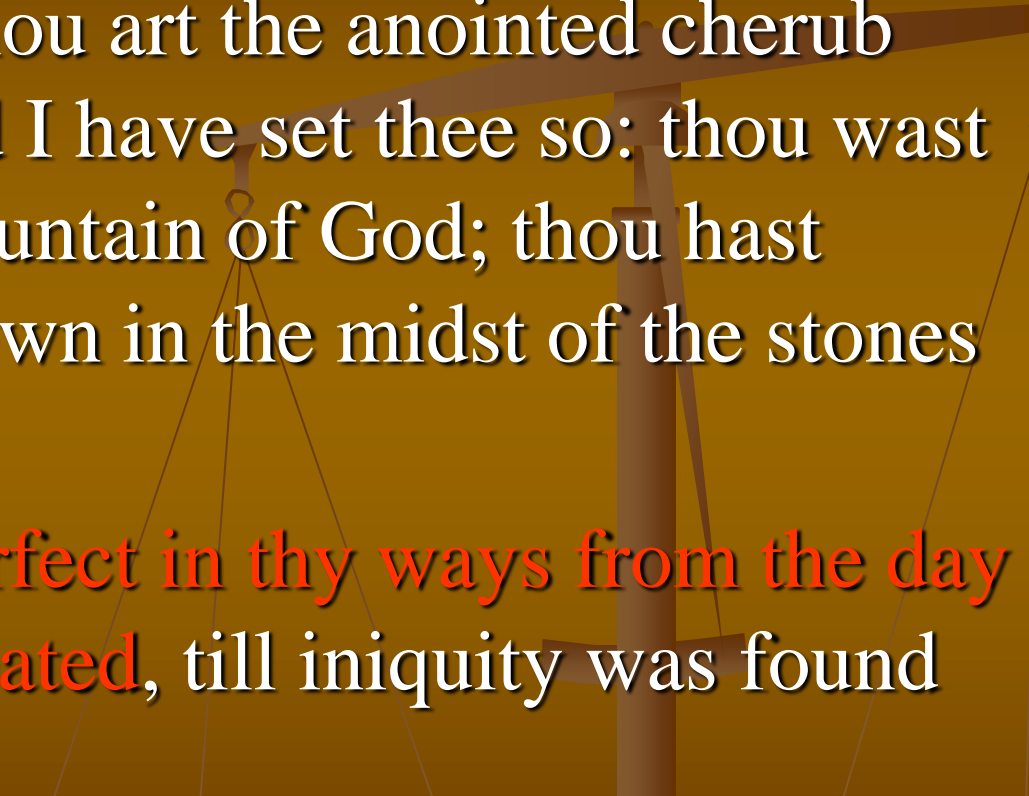


- Love has to be a free choice.
- Your free choice to respond to Gods Love .. Is so valuable to him
- That he paid a great price !

Which is more valuable to God ?



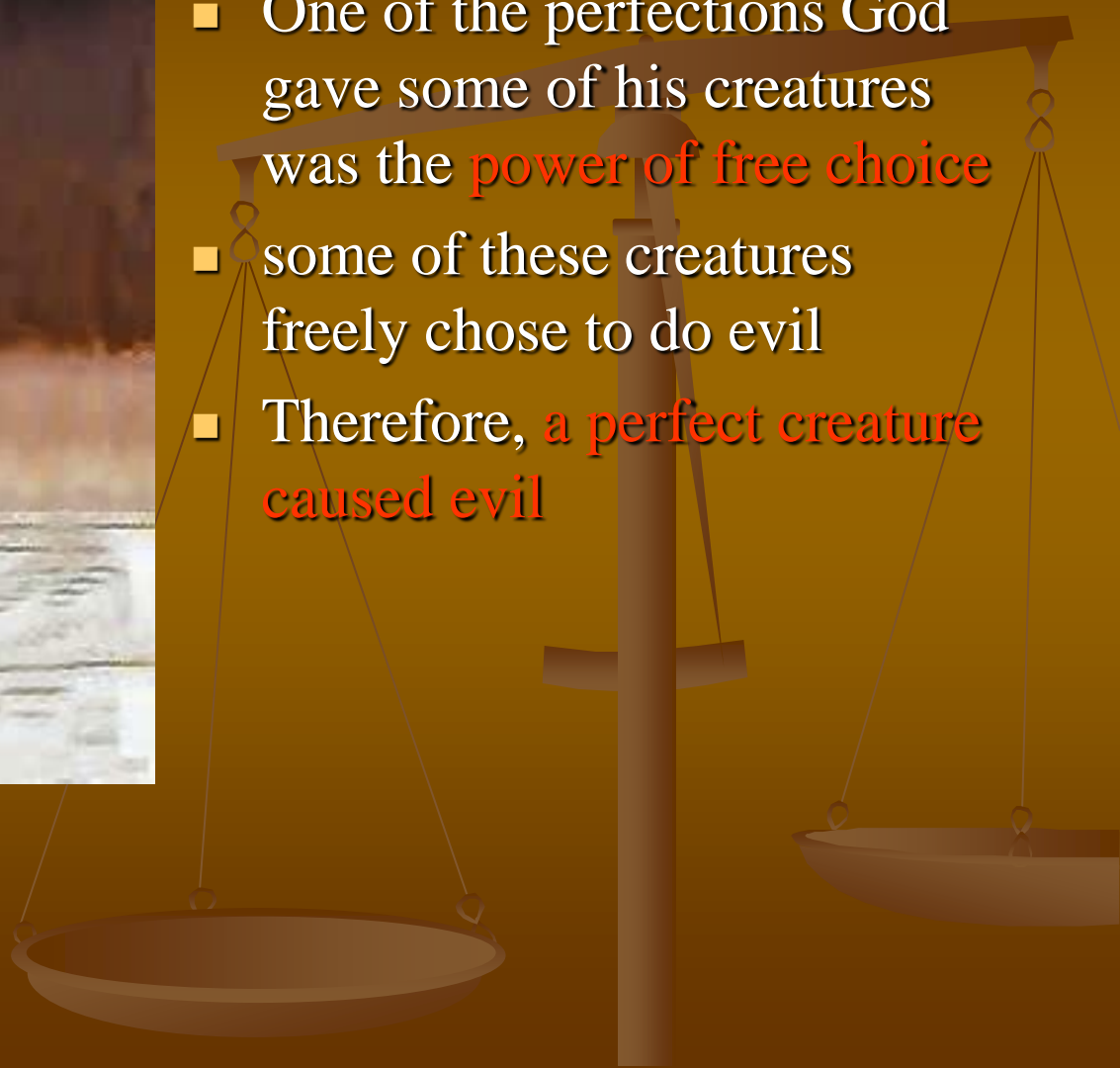
- 
- God is absolutely perfect
 - God created only perfect creatures
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 - some of these creatures freely chose to do evil

- 
- Ezekiel 28:14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.
 - 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

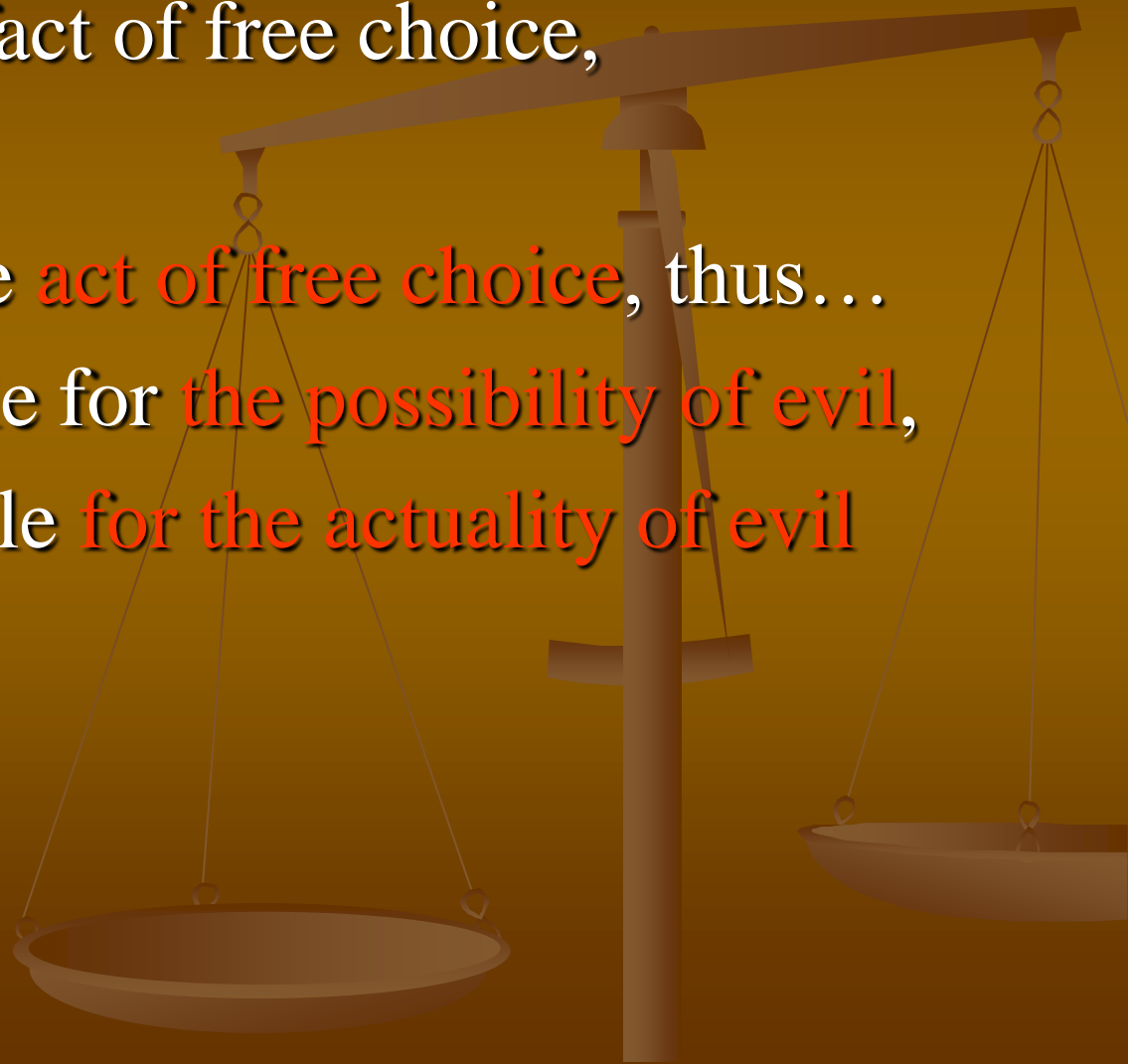
A Perfect Creature !



- One of the perfections God gave some of his creatures was the **power of free choice**
- some of these creatures freely chose to do evil
- Therefore, **a perfect creature caused evil**

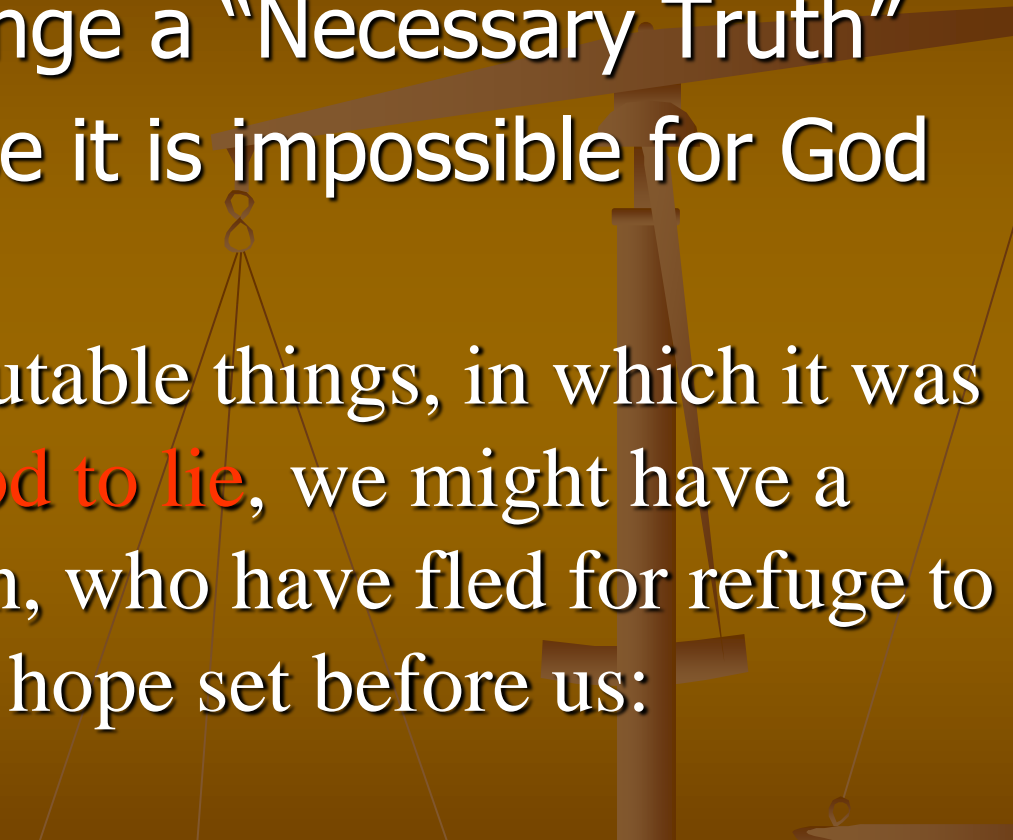


- God created the fact of free choice,
- Man performs the **act of free choice**, thus...
- God is responsible for **the possibility of evil**,
- We are responsible **for the actuality of evil**



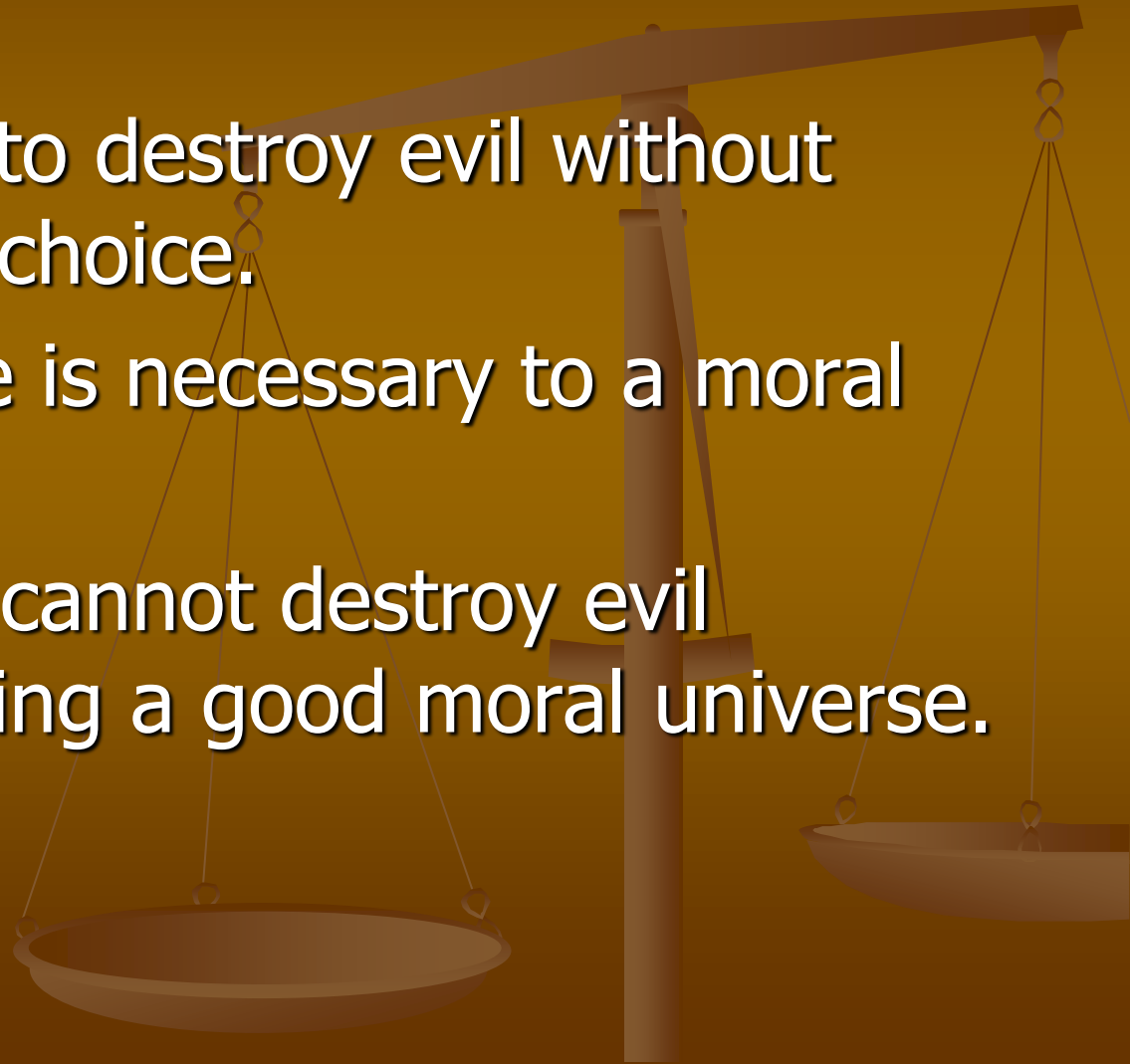
But cannot God just destroy Evil ?

Not Yet !

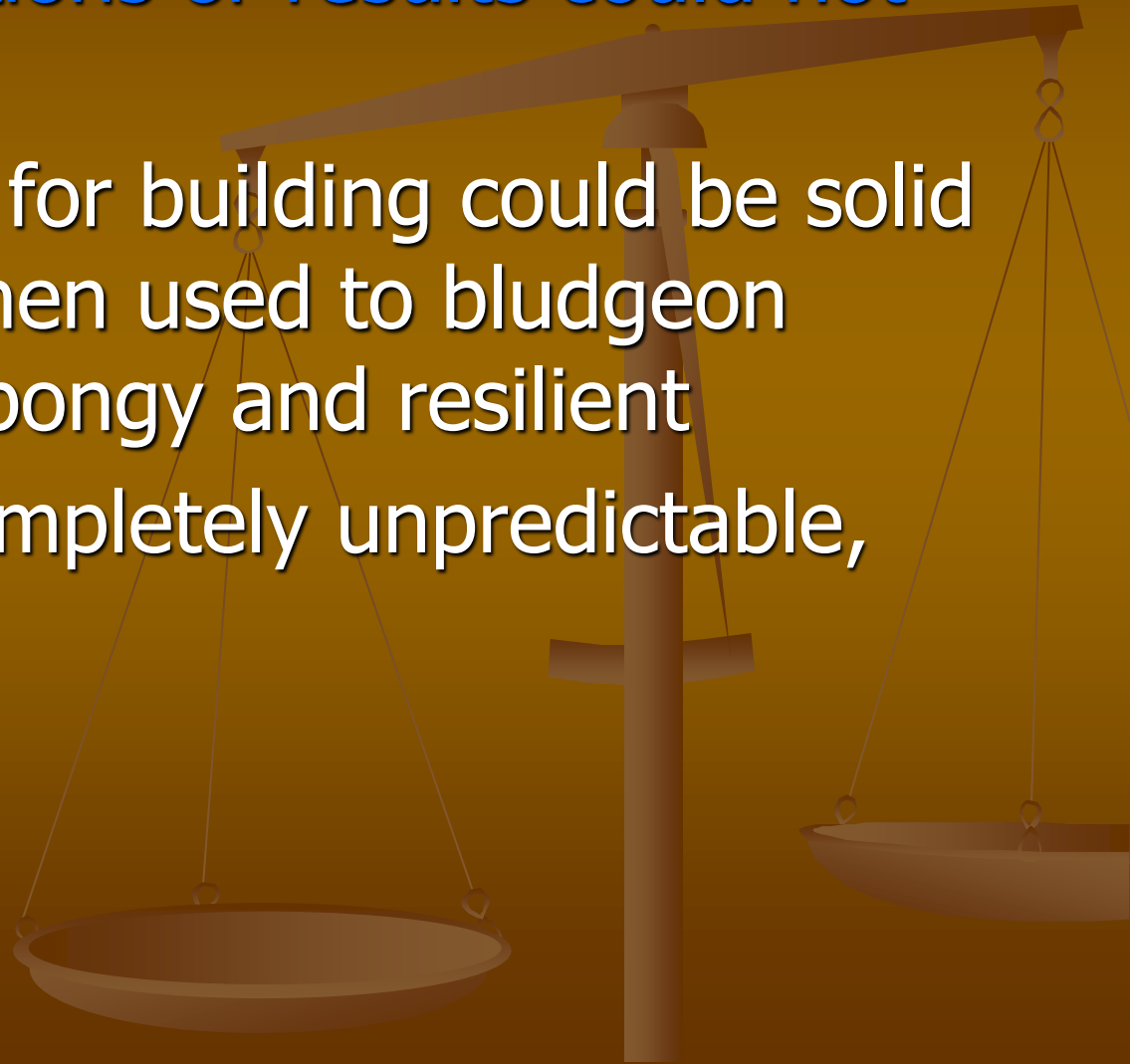
- God cannot change a “Necessary Truth”
 - Why ? Because it is impossible for God to LIE
 - That by two immutable things, in which it was **impossible for God to lie**, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:
 - Hebrews 6:18
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The truth about evil !

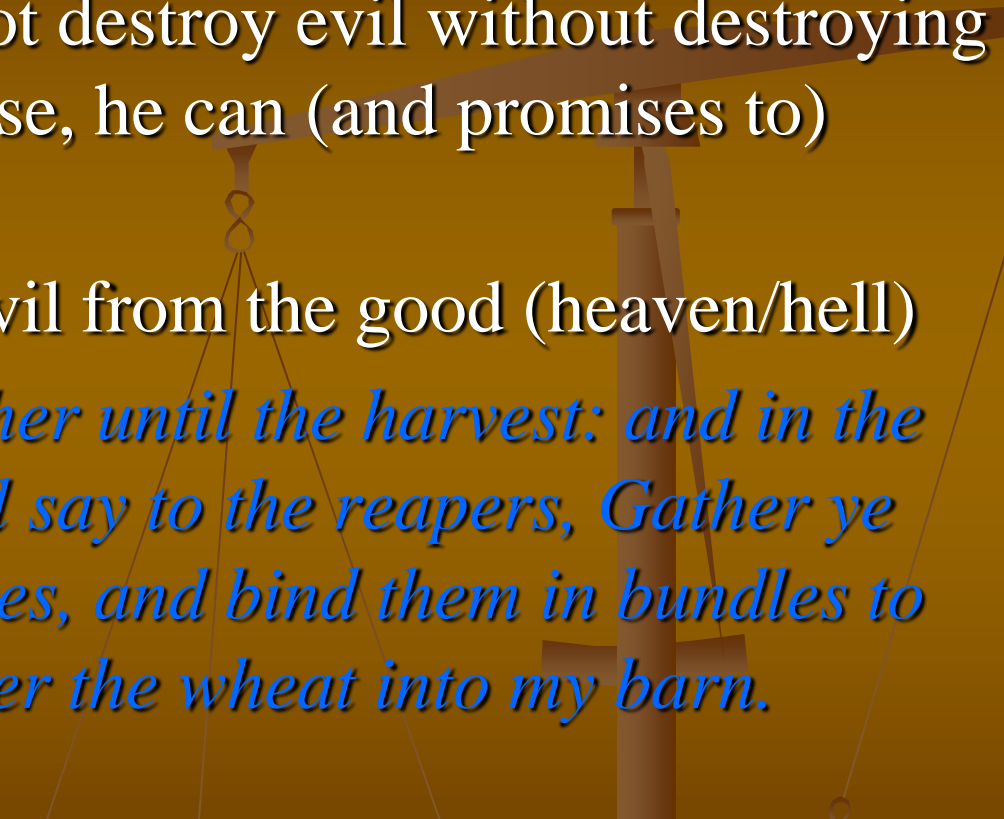
- It is impossible to destroy evil without destroying free choice.
- And free choice is necessary to a moral universe.
- Therefore, God cannot destroy evil without destroying a good moral universe.



- But He could have created a universe in which evil intentions or results could not occur!
- A hammer used for building could be solid and firm, but when used to bludgeon could become spongy and resilient
- The result? a completely unpredictable, unlivable world



The Good News about Evil

- Although God cannot destroy evil without destroying a good moral universe, he can (and promises to) overcome evil.
 - By separating the evil from the good (heaven/hell)
 - *Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*
 - *Matthew 13:30*
- 

The Good News about Evil

By separating the evil from the good (heaven/hell) the good can then go on to be absolutely good w/o any evil hindrances (and vice versa)

- *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: Matthew 25:41*
- *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*
- *Isaiah 11:9*

The Fire of God ?



- Job 1:16 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

Acts of God ?



- Job 1:9 And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

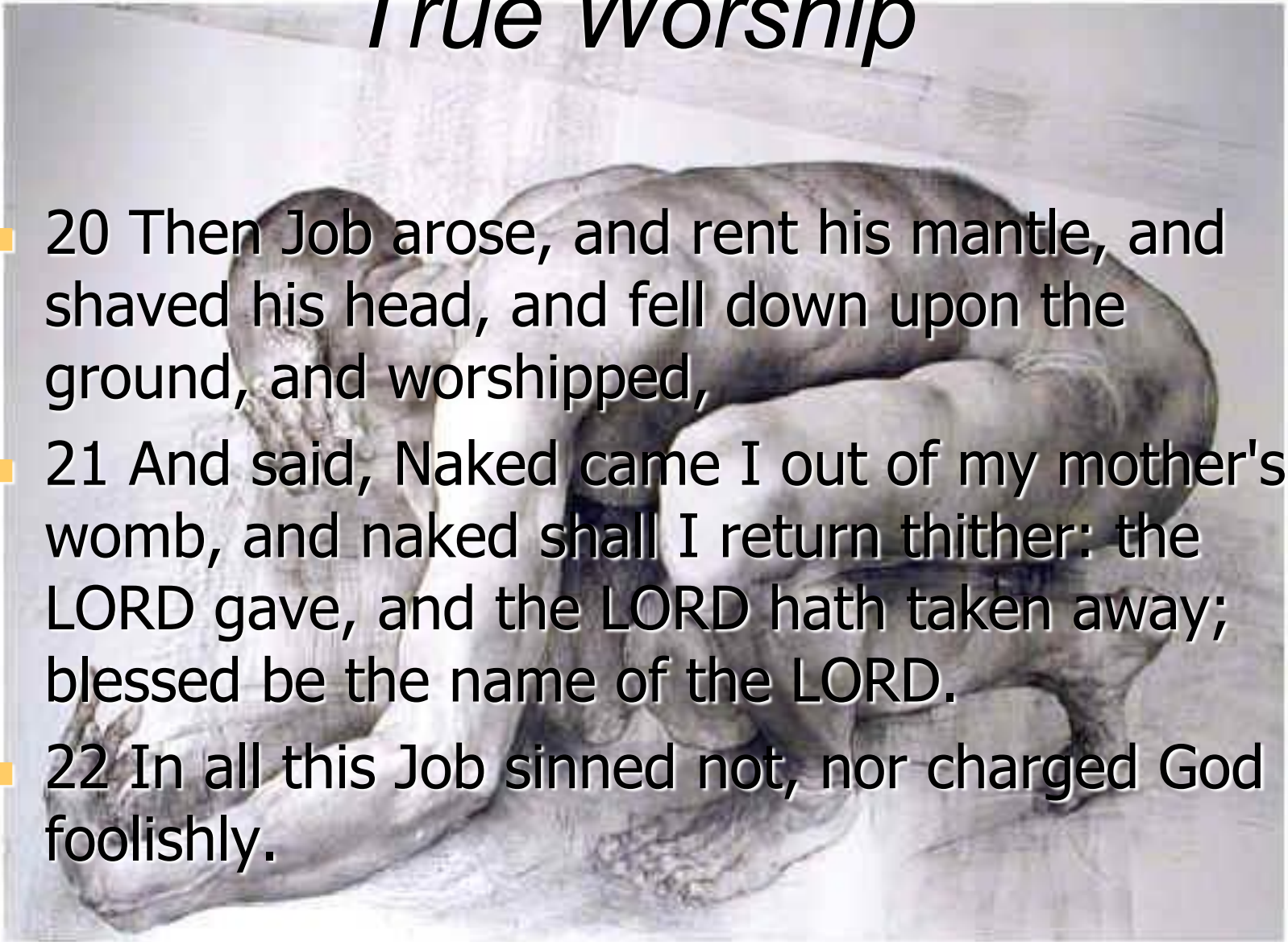
What is God Looking For ?



- John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

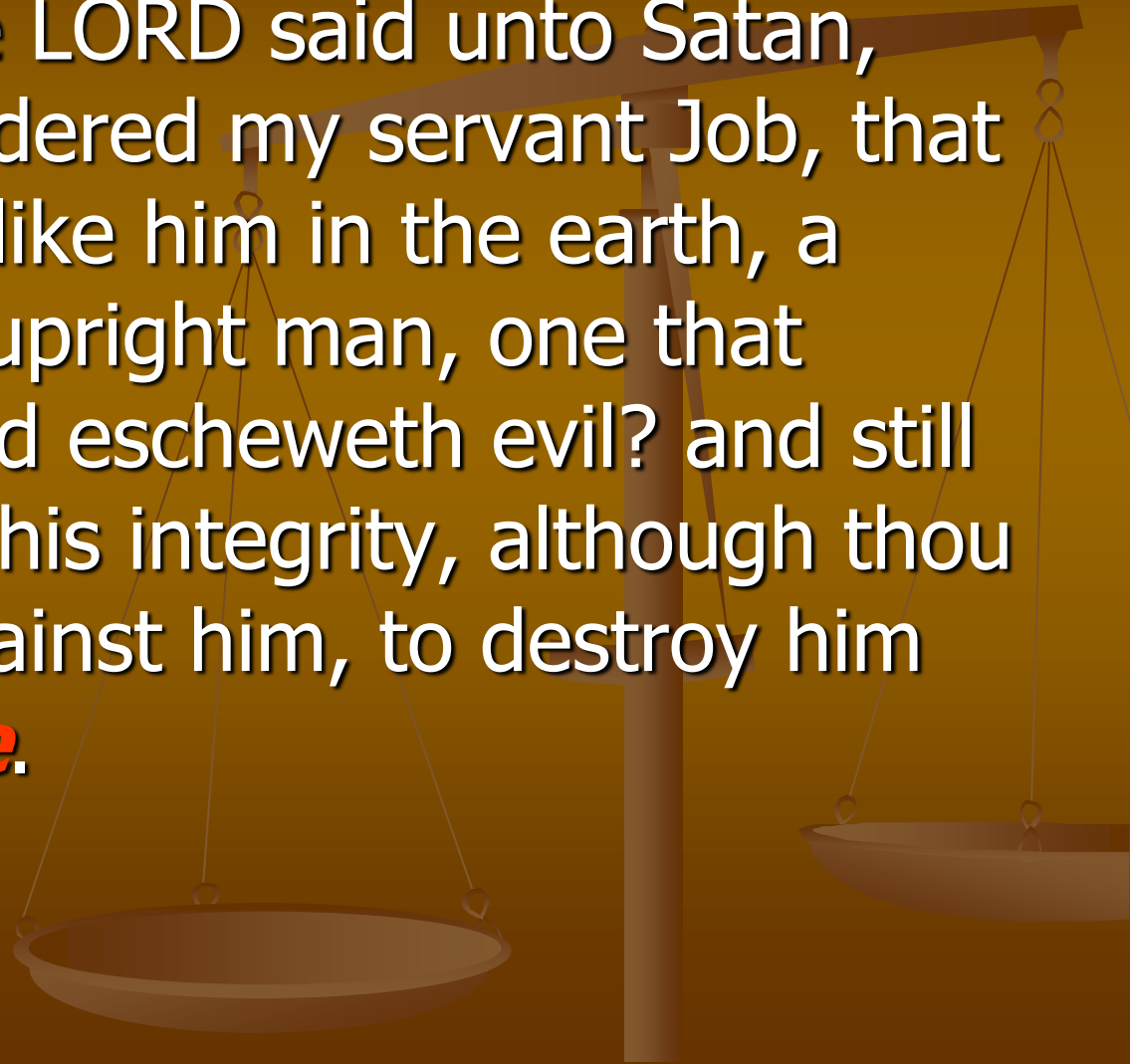
True Worship

- 20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,
- 21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.
- 22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

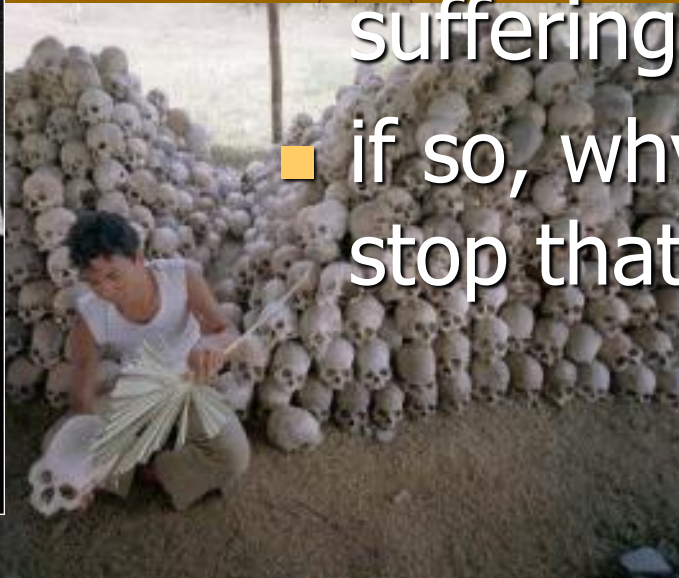
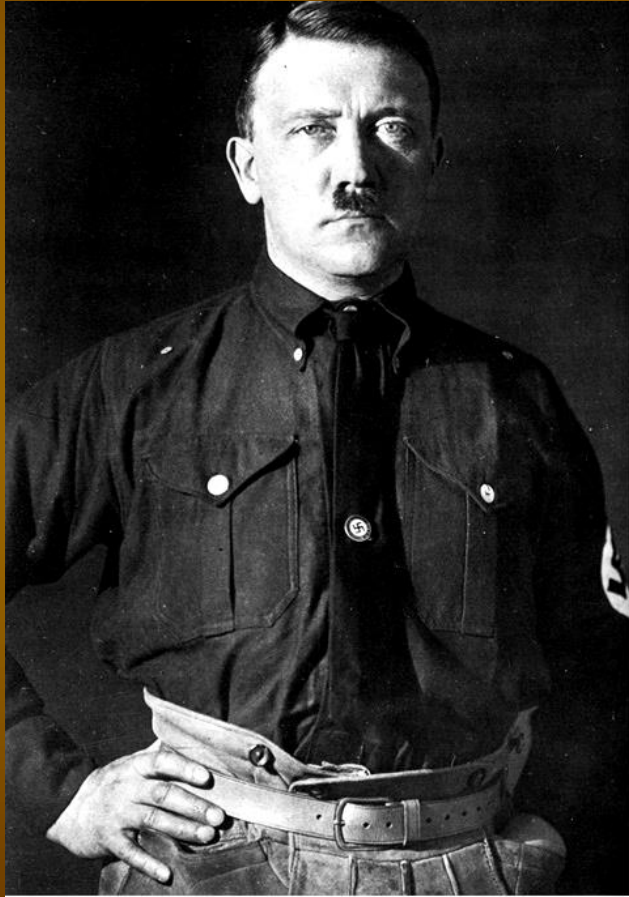


Without a Cause !

- Job 2:3 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that [there is] none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him ***without cause.***



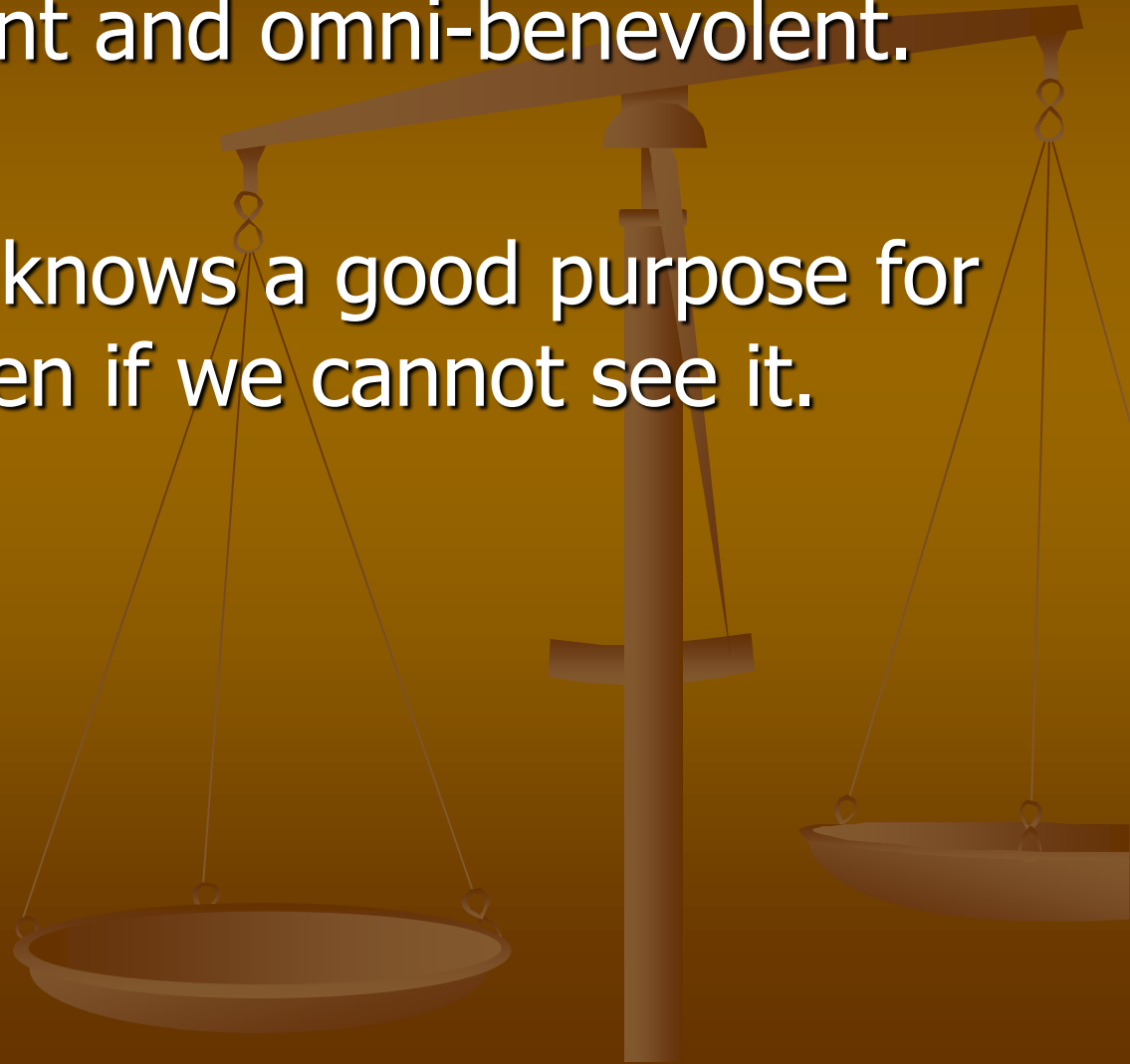
The Purpose Of Evil ?



- Maybe he didn't create it; maybe he won't destroy it, but isn't there useless suffering?
- if so, why can't God stop that???

The All Knowing God !

- God is omniscient and omni-benevolent.
- Therefore, God knows a good purpose for specific evils even if we cannot see it.



A painting depicting the infant Jesus lying in a manger. The scene is rendered in a style with visible brushstrokes and a rich color palette of reds, browns, and whites. In the upper right corner, a woman's face is partially visible, looking down at the child. The overall mood is solemn and tender.

“For God so Loved The world..”

“the very worst thing that ever happened in the history of the world ended up resulting in the very best thing that has ever happened in the history of the world.”



“That he gave”

- no one saw any good coming from that, but that ultimate evil resulted in **the ultimate good**
- reconciliation with God & life eternal

In The Beginning !

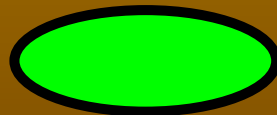
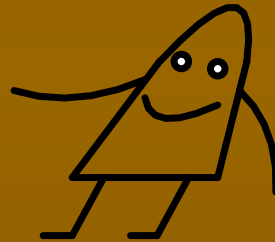


Flatland !

East of Flatland : The Garden

FLATLAND "GARDEN
OF EDEN"

FLATLAND ADAM



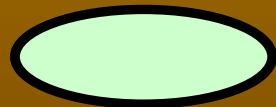
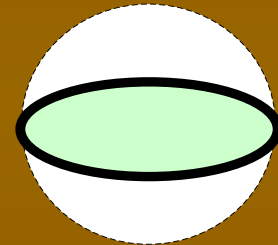
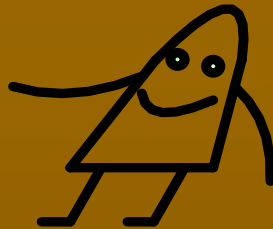
CIRCLE

The Garden Of Flatland

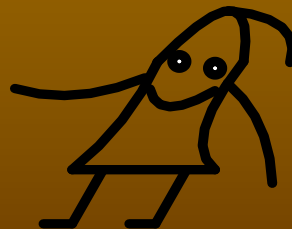
FLATLAND "GARDEN OF EDEN"

FLATLAND SPHERE

FLATLAND ADAM

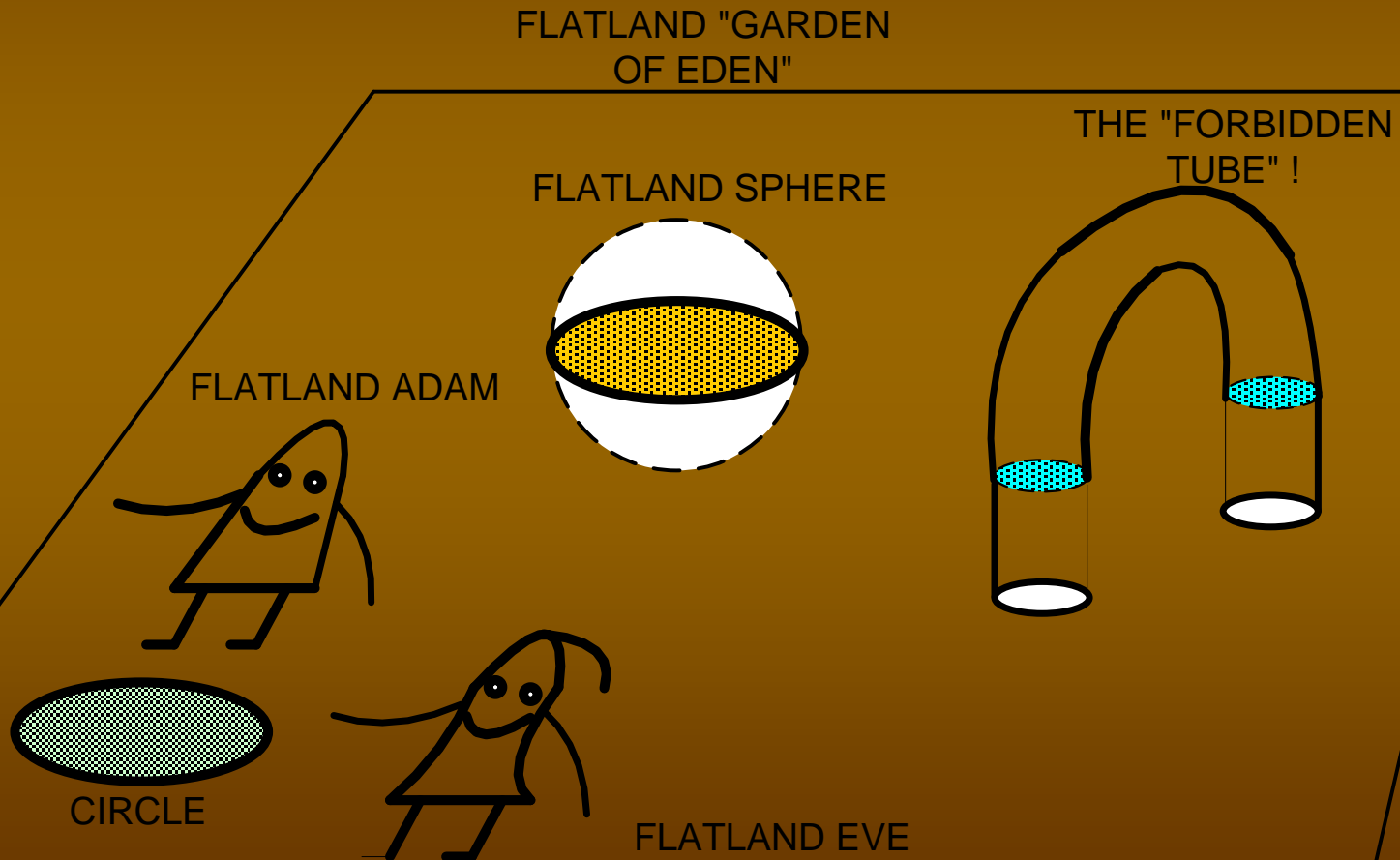


CIRCLE



FLATLAND EVE

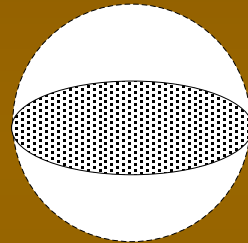
The Garden Of Flatland



The Garden Of Flatland

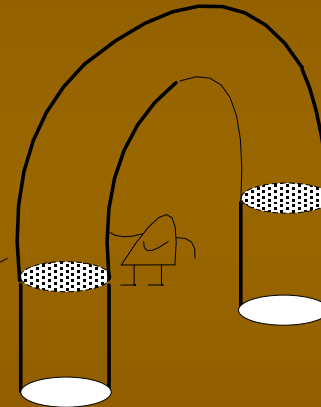
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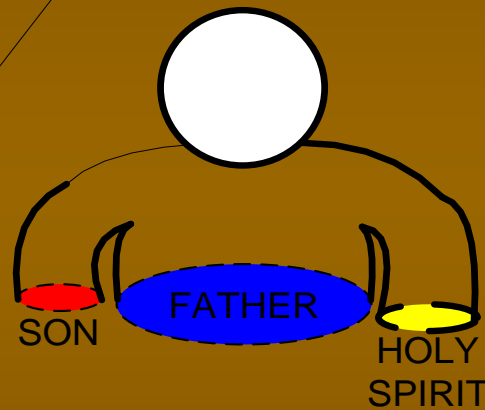
CIRCLE

THE "FORBIDDEN TUBE" !

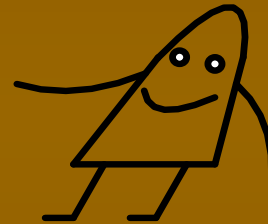


The Garden Of Flatland

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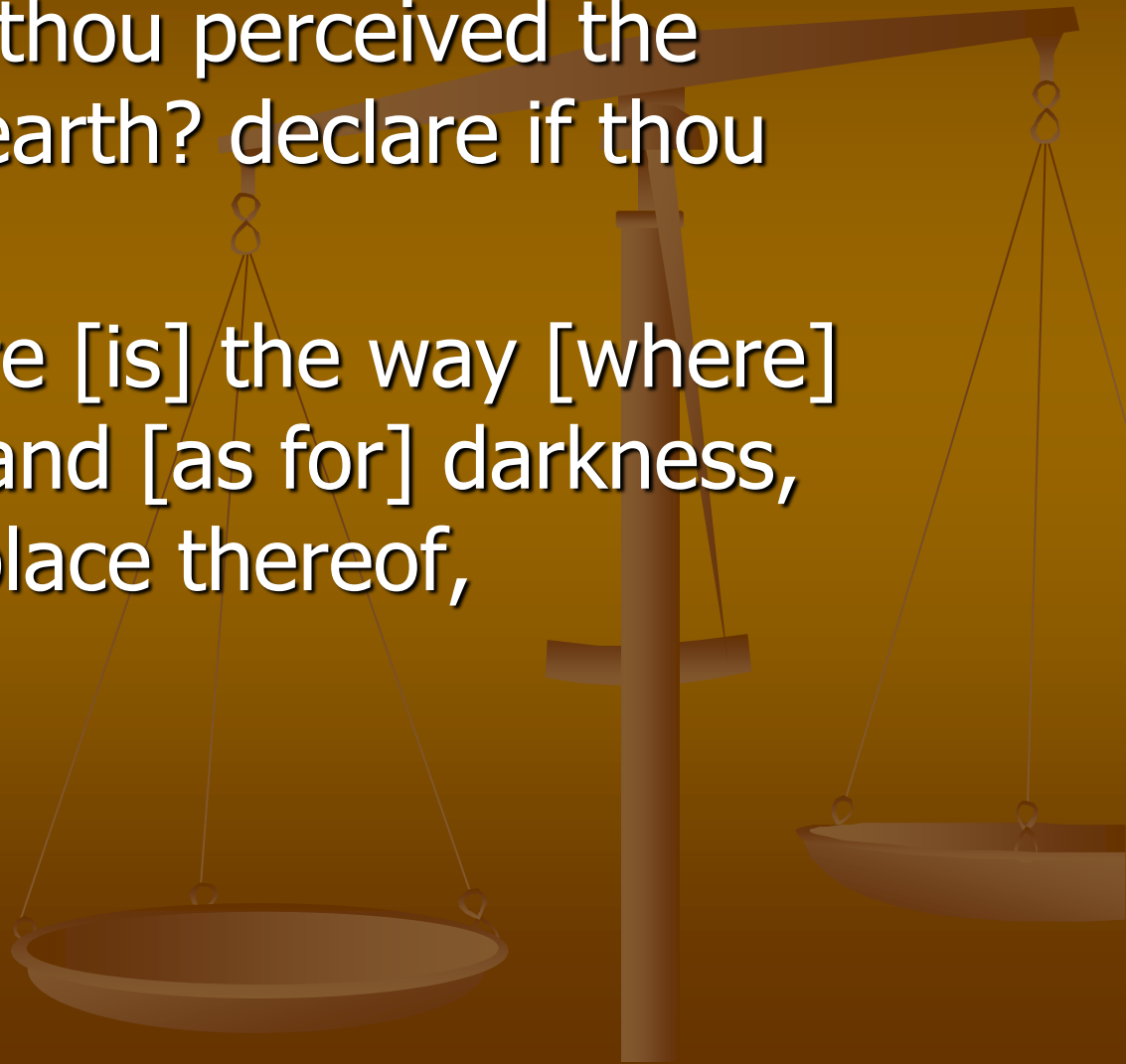


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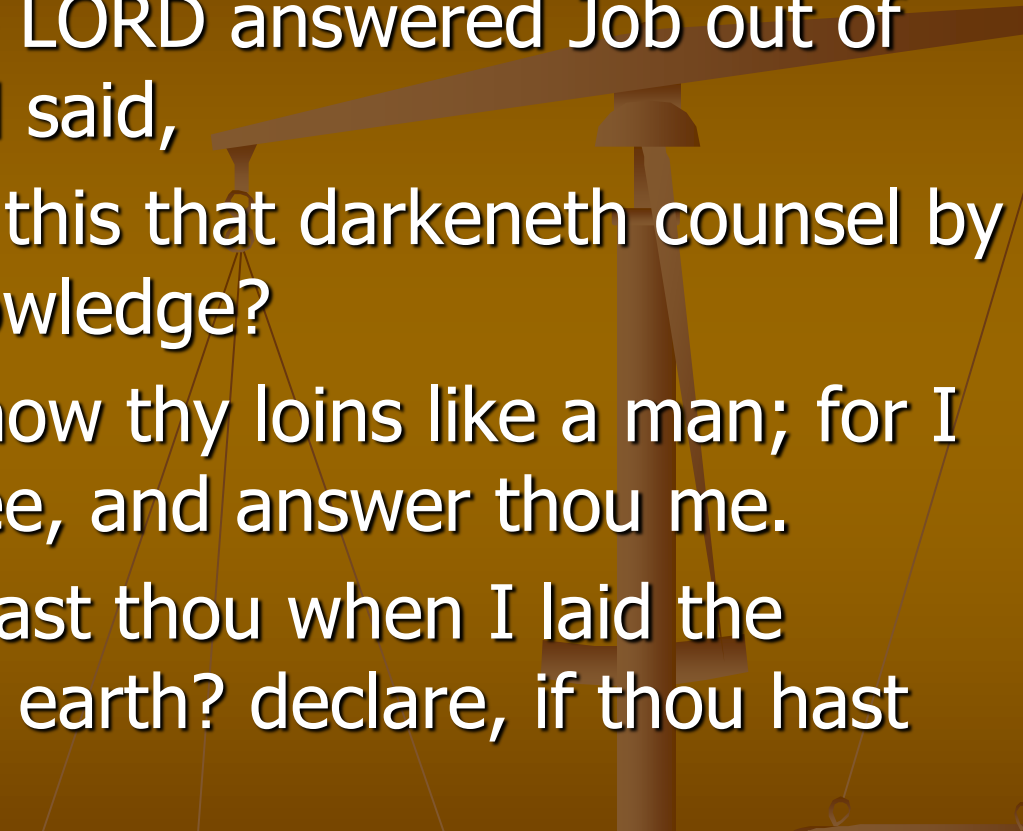


More simple questions

- Job 38:18 Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all.
- Job 38:19 Where [is] the way [where] light dwelleth? and [as for] darkness, where [is] the place thereof,

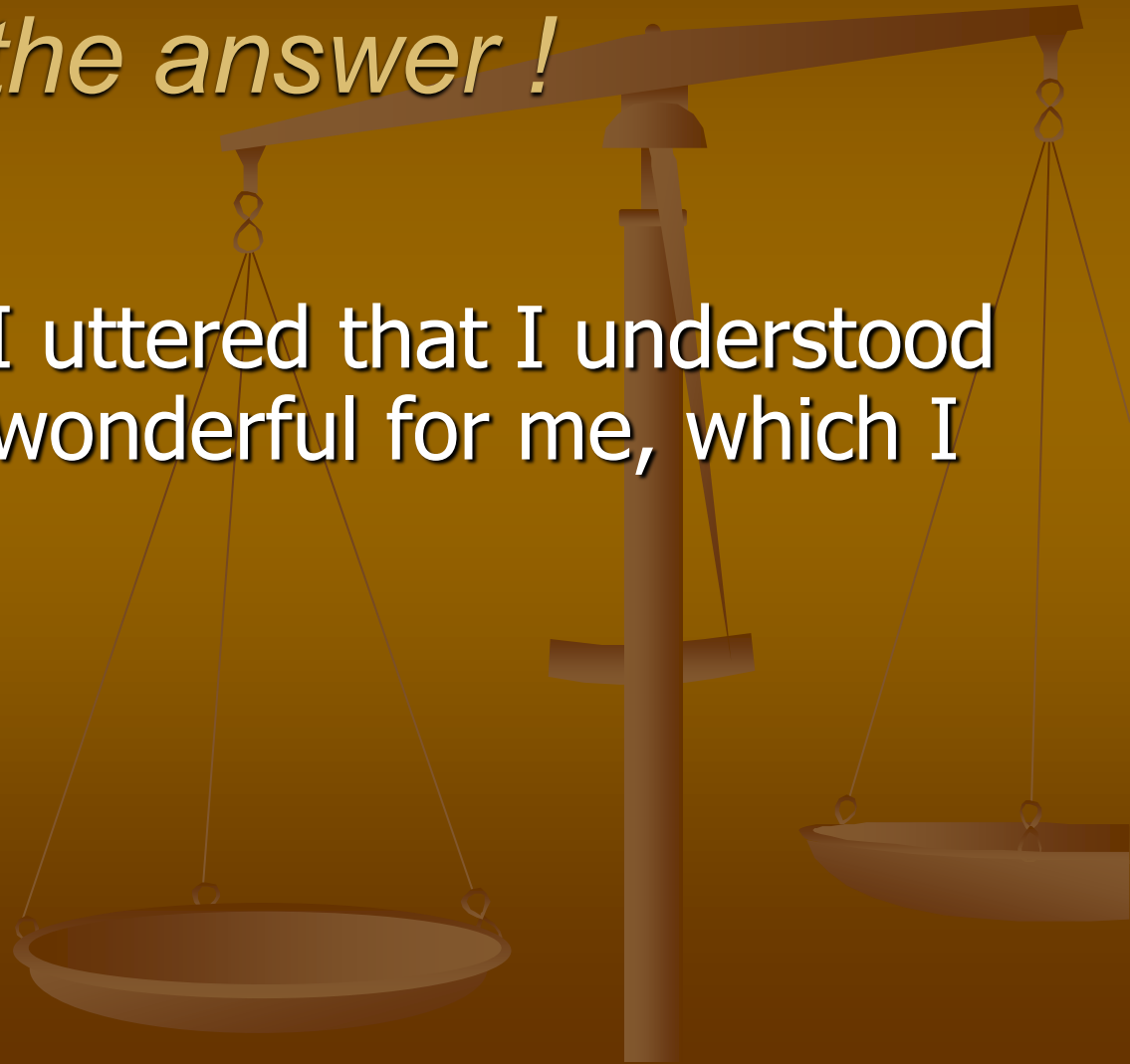


I understand that I do Not Understand

- Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,
 - Job 38:2 Who [is] this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?
 - Job 38:3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.
 - Job 38:4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.
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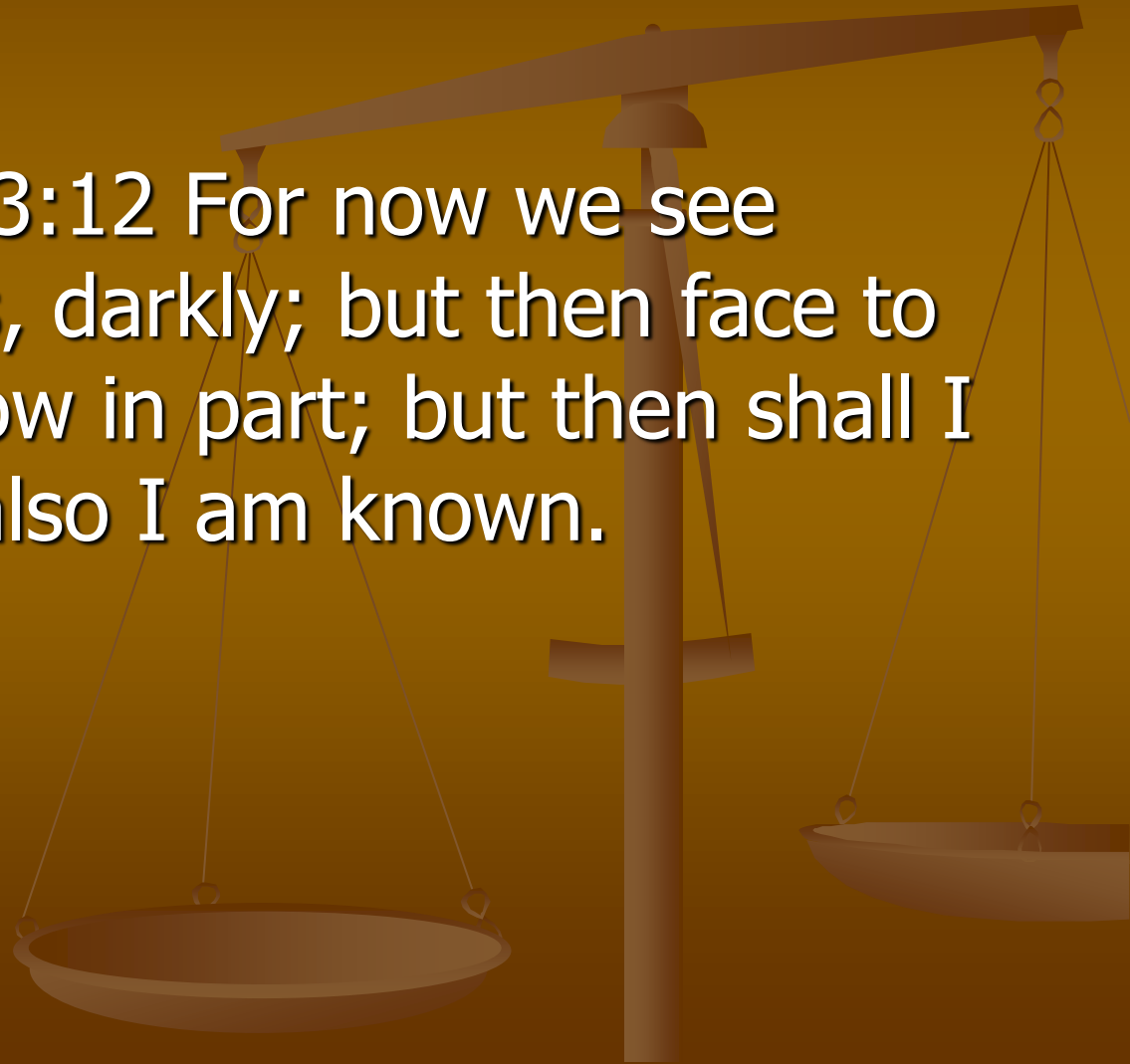
True Understanding and the answer !

- therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.



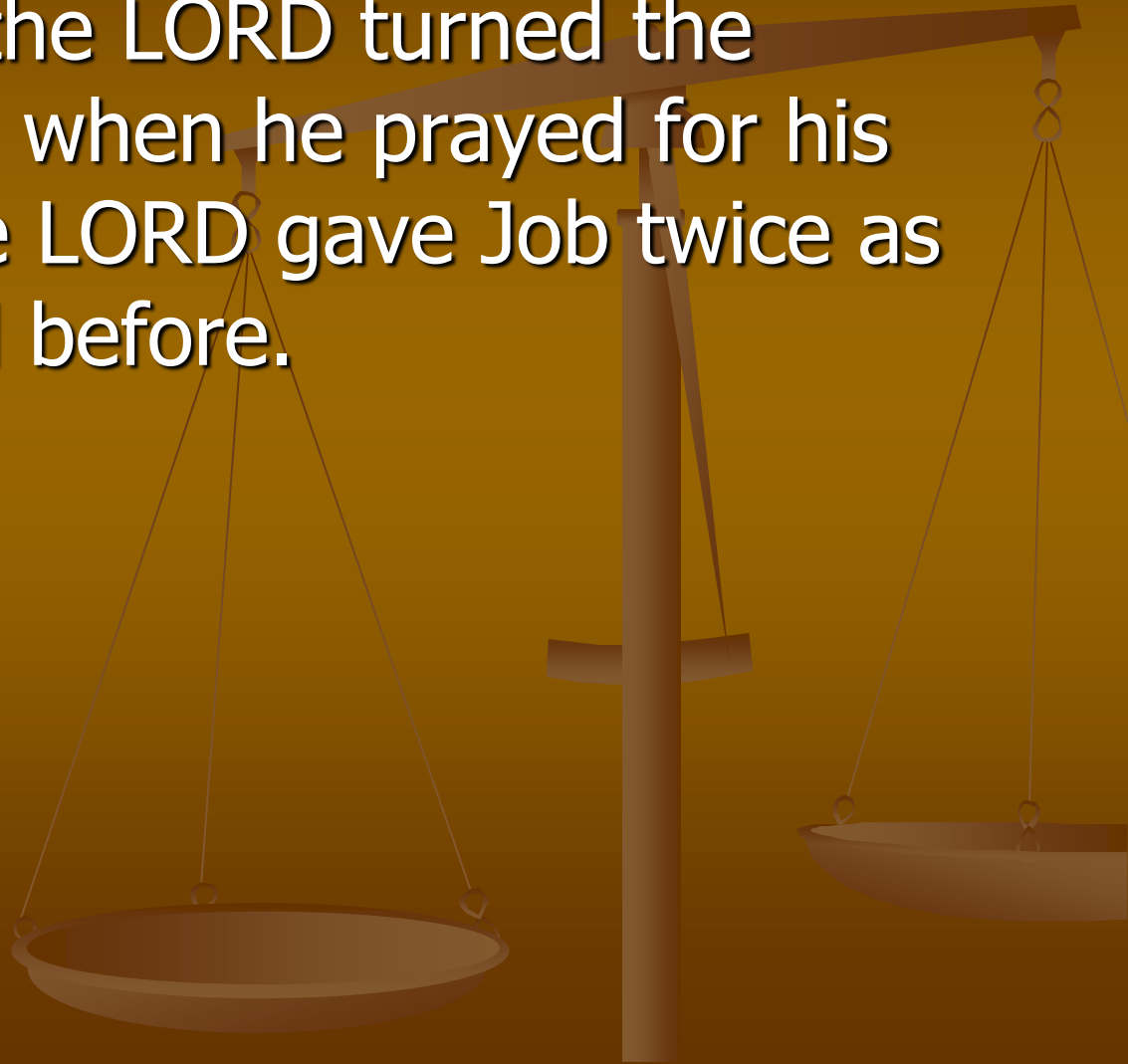
The Dark Glass !

- 1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.



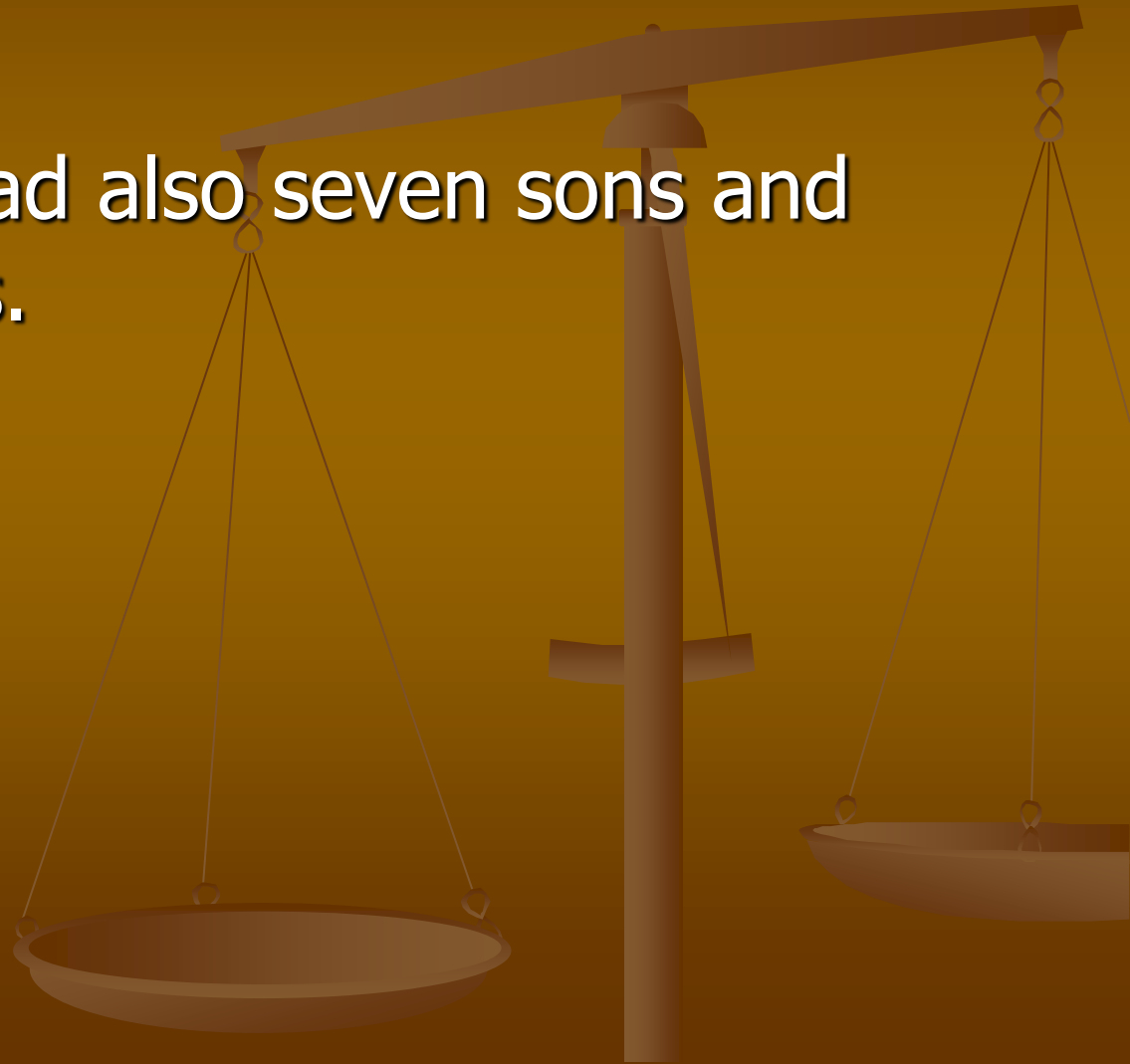
Restoration

- Job 42:10 And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.



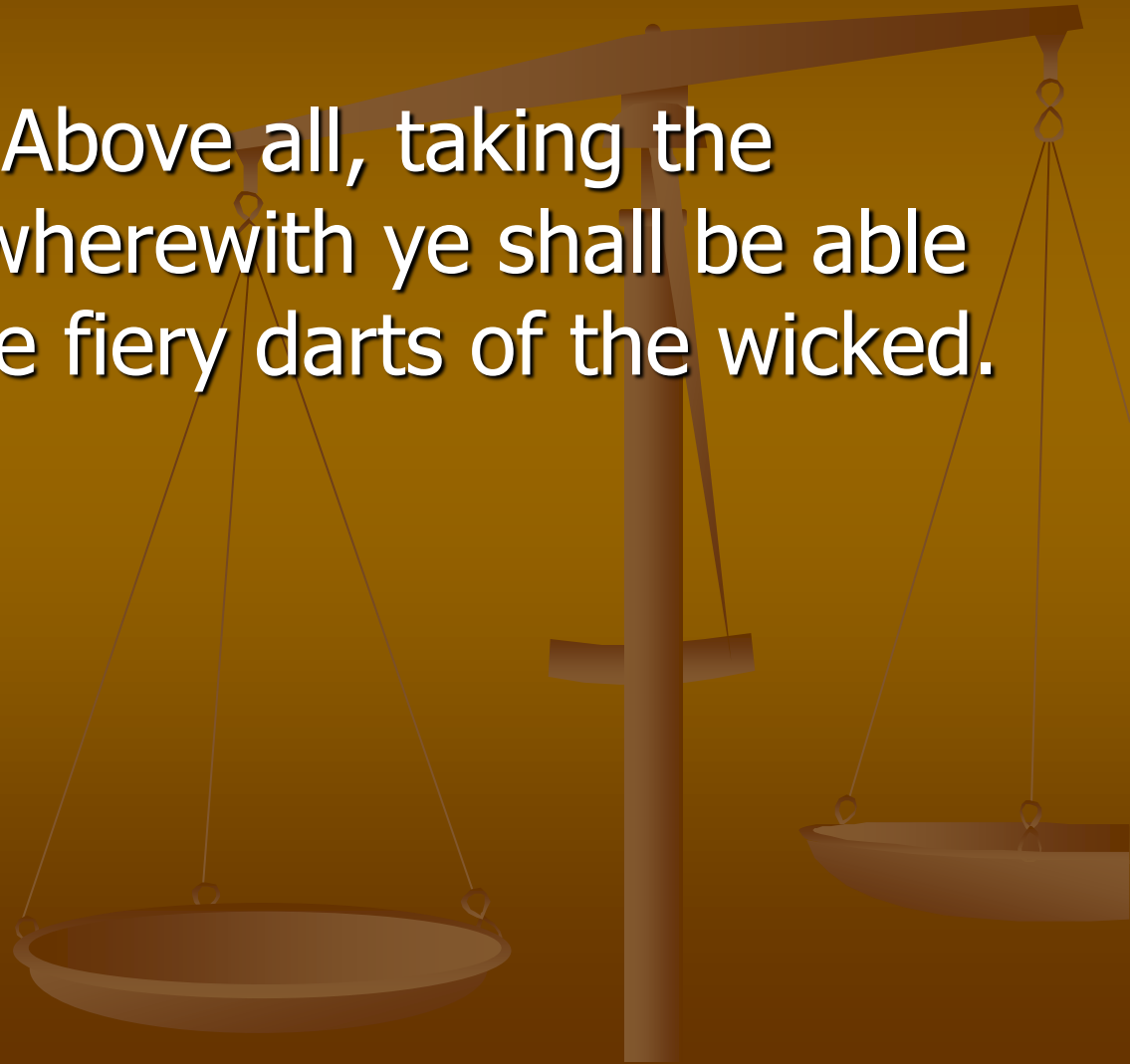
But what about the children ?

- Job 42:13 He had also seven sons and three daughters.



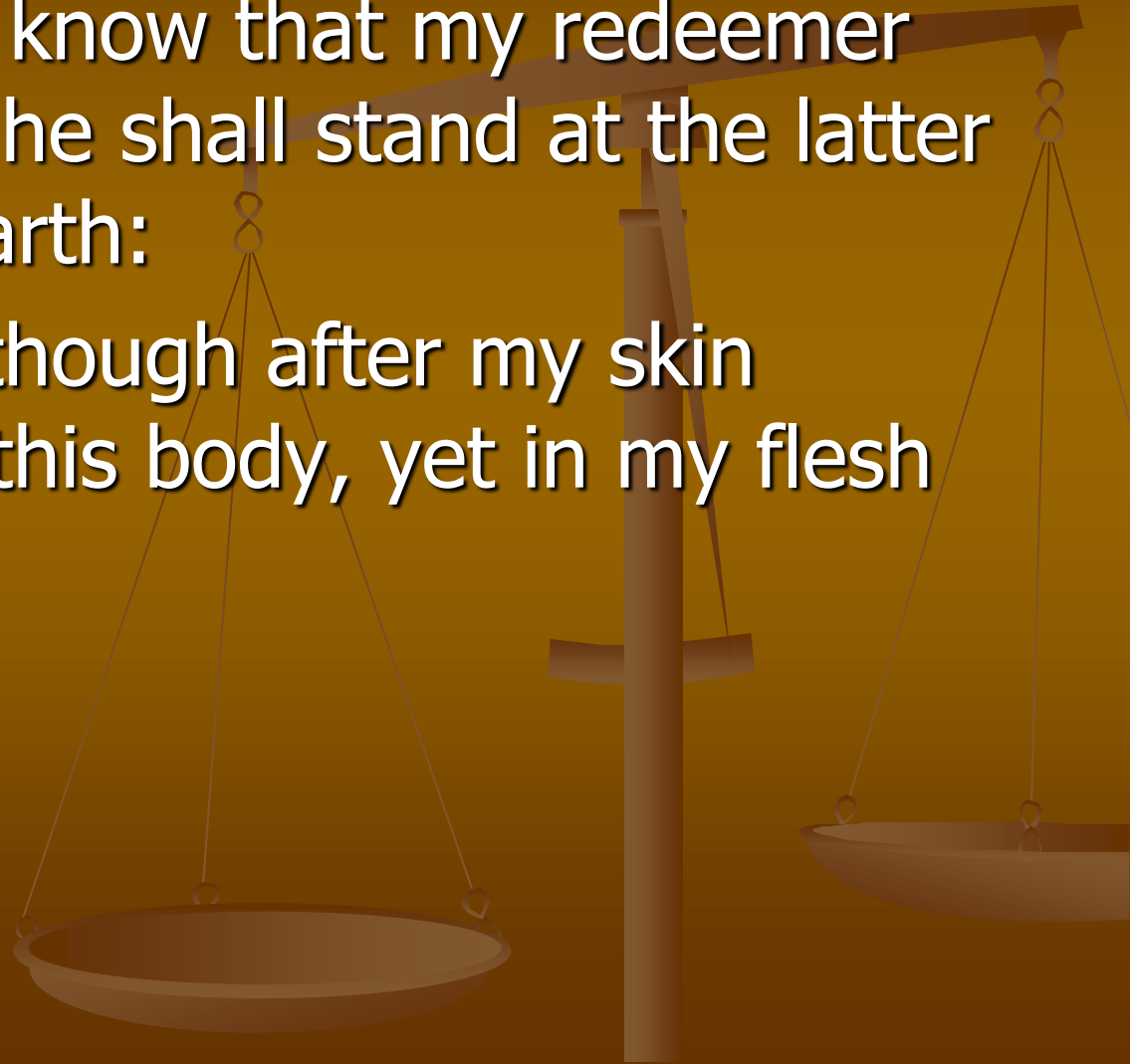
The invisible hedge !

- Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.



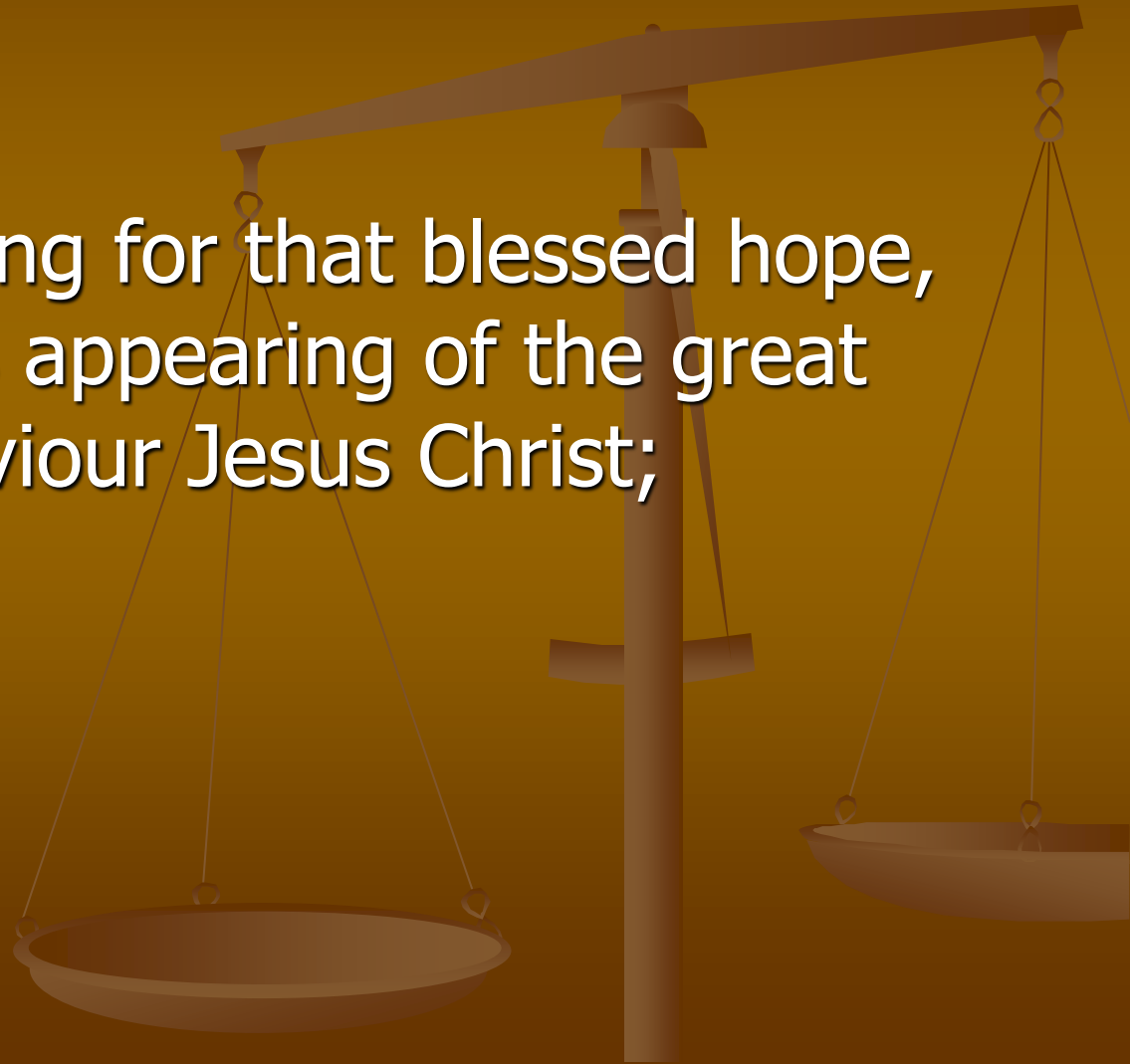
The resurrection

- Job 19:25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:
- Job 19:26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:



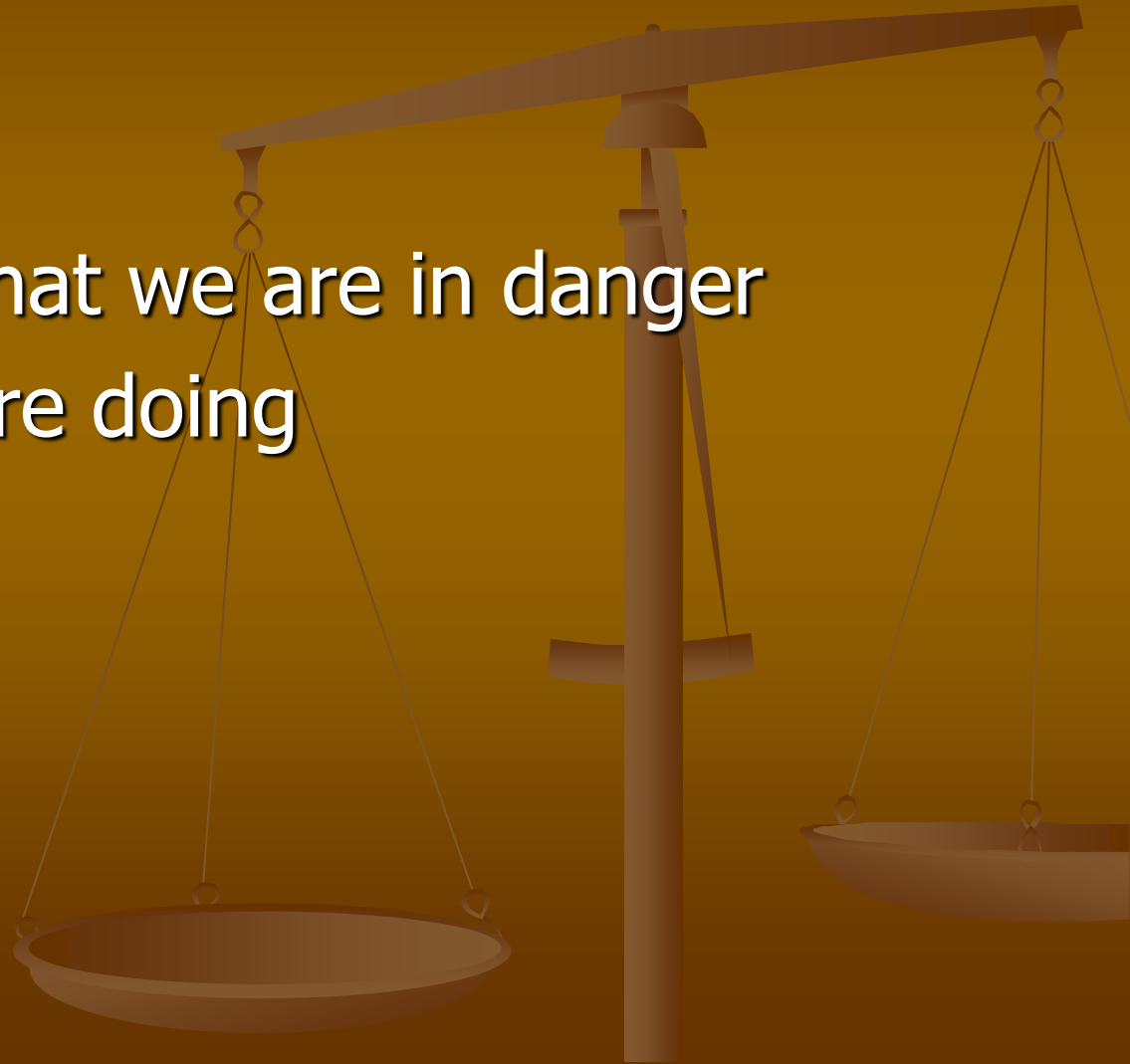
The Glorious Hope !

- Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;



We do know good purposes for some of the evil!

- Pain warns us that we are in danger
- Stop what we are doing
- Seek help
- Turn around



The Glorious appearing !

- The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.
- Romans 8.18