

# A Mirror that allows us to see God

- *because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, Rom. 1:19-20*

# The "Unblemished" Mirror

- *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.**" 31 **Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.** So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Gen 1:26-28*
- Revealed all that God CAN do and WANTS TO DO
- We still see much that is still like this.
- That world is gone!
- Now we live in God's wrath.

# The “Blemished” Mirror of Creation

- *I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind. 15 What is crooked cannot be made straight, And what is lacking cannot be numbered. Ecc 1:14*
- *18 For I consider **that the sufferings of this present time** are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ... 20 **For the creation was subjected to vanity**... 22 For we know **that the whole creation groans and labors** with birth pangs together until now. Rom. 8:18-23*
- The blemishes in this creation are there by design to reveal God’s wrath leading to repentance.

# Mirror Now Reflects God's Wrath

- *Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. 3 You turn man to destruction, And say, "Return,\* O children of men." Ps 90:1-3*
- \* return = repentance
- *For we have been consumed by Your anger, And by Your wrath we are terrified. 8 You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance. 9 For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh. Ps. 90:7-9*

# The Curse Reveals God's Wrath

- *The **days of our lives are seventy years**; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet **their boast is only labor and sorrow**; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. 11 **Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.** 12 **So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.** Ps 90:10-12*
- This is not directed wrath.
- It is not a wrath that works on each individual.
- It is the wrath of the curse that brought time and chance into the world along with the potential for terrible tragedy.



# Tragedy

The Anguished Phone call:

Who did it happen to?

How did it happen?

Where did it happen?

When did it happen?

**Why did it happen?**

# When **Why** Turns to God

Why is **suffering** in the world?

Is God the **cause**?

This is a **loaded** Question?

God's curse made suffering  
**possible** ... because of sin.

Suffering—often a **path** back to God

# God Revealed Complexities

- *There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. Job 1:1-2*
- God wants it clearly understood that all that occurred had nothing to do with Job's character.
- Satan Introduced Job 1:6-11
- God reveals Job's faith and commitment.
- Satan accuses Job of being a fair weather friend.
- *And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord. Job 1:12*



# The Complexities Arise

- God is seeking to move as many as possible from this realm to the next and save them from Satan.
- When we brought sin into the world we unleashed cross currents passing from both realms
- *8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2Peter 3:8-9*

# Job Reveals These Things

- Satan's use of the curse to break Job.
- Job 1:13-22
- Job loved God and refused to allow the adversities of this sin-cursed age to move him away from his love of God.
- Satan tried again....
- Job 2:1-10
- ... and failed.

# Job Reveals Complexities

- As Job and his three friends discuss their own conclusions, they fail to even come close.
- *the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: “Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? 38:1-2*

# The Folly in Simplistic Answers

- Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said:  
“Shall the one who contends with the Almighty  
correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him  
answer it.” Then Job answered the LORD and  
said: “Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer  
You? I lay my hand over my mouth. Once I have  
spoken, but I will not answer; yes, twice, but I will  
proceed no further.” Then the LORD answered  
Job out of the whirlwind, and said: “Now prepare  
yourself like a man; I will question you, and you  
shall answer Me: “Would you indeed annul My  
judgment? Would you condemn Me that you  
may be justified? Job 40:1-8



# Job's Confession of Folly / Sin

- *Then Job answered the LORD and said: “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; you said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” Job 42:1-6*

# God's Wrath at Job's Three Friends

- *And so it was, after the Lord had spoken these words to Job, that the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has. 8 Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you. For I will accept him, lest I deal with you according to your folly; because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has." Job 42:7-8*

# The Curse Unleashed Chaos

- A chasm between the spiritual and material realm.
- God is seeking to salvage as much as possible.
- We don't even have any conception of how complicated it is.
- God's wrath and God's longsuffering working together in the material realm
- Seeking none to perish but all to come to repentance.