

Rahab in Job 9 is identified as “the Boaster” or “Arrogant One”: Satan, the dragon pierced by Yahweh. Rahab also symbolizes rebellious people who trust worldly strength, while Babylon represents spiritual captivity; both contrast with Zion and its faithful inhabitants. The “helpers of Rahab” are demonic powers, including the Beast and False Prophet, destined to crouch beneath Christ. Job then admits that innocence cannot justify him or alter God’s purposes; he can only plead for mercy. His suffering introduces the difficult doctrine of **Yahweh’s** absolute sovereignty: good, evil, judgment, and human history remain entirely under His sovereign, complete authority.

Let’s pick back up in **EP31 Yahweh According to Job, Job 9:21-24** where Job once again speaks about those who live innocent and those who live wickedly.

It’s One

Job 9:21-22

I am innocent, but it makes no difference to me—I despise my life. **Its’ one**. That’s why I say, ‘He brings to a completion both the blameless and the wicked.’

Job is using the word “innocent” in reference to human goodness, and not true innocence before God. Job knows of no evil to which he has surrendered or in which he participated, which is why he considers himself to be “innocent.” Yet, he knows he is always guilty before God because God’s standard is perfect righteousness, the sort of “righteous innocence” that is unachievable by man’s efforts. This is why he previously commented that he could not compel God to come to court and listen to his arguments and be forced to answer him, for he knows that even the words coming out of his mouth would be twisted and corrupted despite his “innocence.”

Thank goodness that **Yahweh Tsidkenu (Yahweh who is our righteousness)** is willing to impart His own righteousness to us through faith, through our *willingness* to let Him cause us to take Him at His word. As with Abraham, to whom God attributed righteousness, every man and woman can be attributed righteousness, as a gift, by faith through grace, and it is all because of the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.¹ This “righteous innocence” that is unachievable by man’s efforts, but when one is identified by the righteousness of **Yahweh**, there is no trace of wrong that is left to right, they stand clean before their Lord, confident to enter into His presence.²

In contrast, as Job speaks of innocence and wickedness, he is addressing the subject in the context of our earthly dynamic, in terms of our chosen behavior, i.e., how we choose to relate to one another. Job makes the point that to God it is all the same, it’s one.

From God’s perspective, this idea that man can be innocent before God based on how we behave is a religious delusion. **Only God is Good!** Mankind just produces different shades of all that is not good. Some of our activity leans more to the side of innocence and some more towards the side of wickedness, and

¹ **Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:4:1-5, 9, 22-24; Galatians 3:6-9; James 2:21-23; Hebrews 11:8-10, 17-19.** See also **Romans 3:21-24**

² **Hebrews 6:19-20, 10:19-22;**

then there is a big middle ground of kind of innocent and kind of wicked. But since it is not inherently “good” – not inherently God – it is all the same, it is all one to God. Our good intentions and sincerity do not change the wrong into right.

It might seem a bit unfair, especially considering there are those who have worked so hard to live a clean and innocent life, trying very hard to live according to the “golden rule” or some other standard of “innocence,” and their very presence in our lives has legitimately been a blessing to this world. This sentiment is widespread and held by many. But let’s consider what the Spirit of God has to say about human “innocence.”

Jeremiah 17:9-10 declares, *“The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?”* Only **Yahweh** knows, for He searches all hearts and examines our secret motives. The language here is inescapable. Being the most deceitful of all things, means that the human heart is even more deceitful than the Satan. Muse on that one for a while next time someone talks about human innocence and personal goodness. This is in line with what Jesus said: *“And if the light you think you have is **now** darkness, how deep that darkness is!”*

The Spirit tells us that **all men** have sinned and fall short of God’s standard of perfection.³ In fact, before **Yahweh**, even our best “goodness” and most profound acts of righteousness are little more than filthy cloths, literally in the Hebrew, the bloody cloth of a woman’s period.⁴

Mark 7:20-23

That which chooses to **now** be proceeding out of the man, that is what **now** defiles the man. For from within, *out of the heart* of men, chooses to **now** proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things choose to **now** proceed from within and **now** defile the man.”

People may distinguish themselves in this world by their goodness or their wickedness, and one day there will be consideration given for those who desire to care for others, but the terrible truth is that we are simply not inherently innocent.⁵ The Apostle Paul admitted this truth in **Romans 7:18-19** *“And I know that nothing good **now** lives in me, that **now** is, in my flesh. I **now** want to do what is right, but I **now** can’t. I **now** want to do what is good, but I **now** don’t. I **now** don’t want to do what is wrong, but I **now** do it anyway.”* This is the quintessential description of man’s struggle to be good.

Job said he is innocent in that despite the claims of his so-called “friends,” he is not aware of any dark evil he has participated, but he concluded that it really makes no difference at all. God will do as He pleases, or according to His wisdom; and both the blameless and the contemptible suffer a similar fate.

³ **Romans 3:23**

⁴ **Isaiah 64:6**

⁵ **Matthew 10:40-42**

Ecclesiastes 9:1-3

For I have taken all this to my heart and explain it that righteous men, wise men, and their deeds are in the hand of God. Man does not know whether it will be love or hatred; anything awaits him. It is the same for all. There is one fate for the righteous and for the wicked; for the good, for the clean and for the unclean; for the man who offers a sacrifice and for the one who does not sacrifice. As the good man is, so is the sinner; as the swearer is, so is the one who is afraid to swear. This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that there is one fate for all men.

This explains why religious if/then rules are such a silly fantasy.

Ezekiel 21:1-5, 12

Then this message came to me from the **Yahweh**: "Son of man, turn and face Jerusalem and prophesy against Israel and her sanctuaries. Tell her, 'This is what **Yahweh** says: I am your enemy, O Israel, and I am about to unsheath my sword to destroy your people—the righteous and the wicked alike. Yes, I will cut off both the righteous and the wicked!

I will draw my sword against everyone in the land from south to north. Everyone in the world will know that I am **Yahweh**. My sword is in my hand, and it will not return to its sheath until its work is finished.'...

Son of man, cry out and wail; pound your thighs in anguish, for that sword will slaughter my people and their leaders—everyone will die! It will put them all to the test. What chance do they have? Says the Sovereign **Yahweh**.

Jesus also confirmed that what happens here on earth is not a direct cause/effect based on who is good and who is bad.

Luke 13:1-5

About this time Jesus some were **now** reporting to him that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. "Do you **now** think those Galileans had chosen to be worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?"

Jesus asked. "Is that why they suffered? I **now** tell you not at all! Unless you may **now** repent you will all in the future choose likewise in the future to choose to perish.

And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the by choice worst sinners than all the men who are **now** living in Jerusalem? No, and I **now** tell you that unless you may **now** repent, you will all in the future choose likewise in the future to choose to perish."

There will be a day in eternity where everything is set right. The wicked will be condemned while the so called "innocent" will receive their due reward. But this truth will not be fully meted out until judgment

day where people will be judged according to their deeds.⁶ However, until that fateful day, the only rhyme or reason to who suffers and who is blessed, and to what extent, is to be found in the mind of God, as all is done according to His wisdom. This world does not operate according to human logic, and it does not turn based on who we surmise deserves good or evil.

Psalm 62:9

Common people are as worthless as a puff of wind, and the powerful are not what they appear to be. If you weigh them on the scales, together they are lighter than a breath of air.

Completing the Work

“He brings to a completion both the blameless and the wicked.” Most translations say that “He destroys both” or “consumes both.” But the Hebrew word, in the “Piel” form, literally means to complete, to finish, to accomplish, or to bring to an end (it is causative). This is the reason why we are told in **Job 9:23** that *“He mocks (or laughs at) the testing of the innocent.”*

Follow me on this. **Yahweh** has a purpose and a plan, and time will prove out (or bring to a completion) an end, or a consummation of His plan. And by our trials, we will be proven either blameless or wicked. God already knows the beginning from the end, after all it is His plan, so this is not about proving anything to God. Rather, it is about an unveiling to us and to the spiritual forces of wickedness who are watching our every move to who it is that we belong.

By our trials, In the testing of the innocent, though we tend to hate what He is doing to us because we do not understand the glory of it all, when it is finished, brought to a completion, when we come through the awful time, it will be revealed before all heaven and earth, before all the unseen forces, to whom it is that we are loyal, and in whom we find our life. We will either be those who chose through testing to bind themselves to **Yahweh** (the “blameless”) or those who chose to bind themselves to this world and to the one who rules this world system (the “wicked”). Either way, it will be brought to a completion and there will be no middle ground.

For those who are deemed to be “blameless,” they will experience a profound perspective shift for they will come to know that their journey of suffering was marvelous and happened exactly as it needed to happen. Those who have endured their appointed time of suffering tend to say that they are satisfied for their “completion” or the consummation of **Yahweh’s** plan is that they are found to be “in Christ,” and they have come to know Him by name.

1 Peter 1:6-8

In this you **now** choose to greatly rejoice, even though **now** for a little while, if **now** being necessary, you have caused to being distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, more precious than gold which is **now** by choice perishing, even though it is **now** by choice caused to being tested by fire, may be caused to be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

⁶ **Revelation 20:11-15**

and though you have not been seeing Him, you **now** love Him, and though you are not **now** seeing Him now, but are **now** believing in Him, you **now** choose to greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and caused to being full of glory.

He Suddenly Mocks

Job 9:23

If the scourge is caused to be killing suddenly, He mocks [or ridicules] the testing of the innocent.” Or “If the scourge is caused to be killing, suddenly He mocks [or ridicules] the testing of the innocent.”

Where the comma is placed is a judgement call, based on how one is understanding the text, as the original text did not use commas. Is the killing what happens “suddenly” or does He “suddenly mock”?

Given that the imagery is a scourge, a whip that is used for chastisement, it is unlikely that the killing is to be understood as a sudden event. Killing accomplished by a lash takes many strokes. If the imagery incorporated a sword, or an axe, or stones, that would be more equivalent with a sudden or quick death. But not so with the lash. Perhaps it makes more sense for the comma to be shifted such that the “*suddenly*” should be associated with the mocking, the ridicule, or the laughing at the testing of the innocent.

Though trials **Yahweh** accomplishes or brings forth the outcome we have chosen: to be blameless—an innocent one, or in the alternative, to dig into our ways, into our own self-protection, into our if/then God, and be a wicked one.

This explains why God suddenly mocks, or laughs, at the testing of the blameless. It is not that He is cold hearted and cruel, it is just the opposite. He is making the point that we will come to realize, through the lashes of the scourge, that none is truly “innocent” (just as Job professed). He is excited about what the lashes of the scourge will soon produce within those deemed to be blameless; therefore, He mocks all that needs to die.

He laughs, or mocks, suddenly because He knows that soon it will be over and despite our complaint all along the journey, on the other end of the trial, when the scourging is caused to be killing all that stands in the way of His being our **I AM**, we will come through it believing, and we will now choose to greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and will be caused to being full of glory.

Without question the scourging is terrible, for it is meant to rip the meat off our bones. And scourging takes time, which is why it is likened to a storm, for it strikes and resets and then strikes again, and resets, and then strikes again. Each time getting closer to its intended goal of releasing us from all that binds us to this world, releasing us from all that opposes **Yahweh’s** rule in our life.

This imagery speaks of an iterative process, which is why those going through such times need endurance. But as the storm quiets, as the strikes are less frequent, we begin to join God in rejoicing in part because we hope that our time of testing may be coming to an end, but more so that we have endured and we stand in Him, no longer standing on our own goodness by our own strength. We have been *willing* to stand in faith, and He has caused us to stand in faith.

The Wicked and the Judges***Job 9:24***

The earth has been given into the hand of the wicked, and God covers the eyes of its judges. If not, then who?"

Before we jump into the background to this statement, let's review some clear text that is given to us in the scriptures, of which we should be at least vaguely familiar.

1 John 5:19

We know that we **now** are of God and the whole world **now** chooses to lie in the evil.

Galatians 1:4 says that we now live in what has been a continual evil age, and ***John 12:31*** says that the ruler of this world, this evil age, will in the **future** be caused to be cast out. In the famous temptation of Jesus, we are told that this ruler is the devil, who is also called "the tempter."

The devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and now shows Him all the kingdoms of this world and their glory (yes, it is rendered in the *present* tense, meaning that the devil is always trying to bribe Jesus – and all of Jesus' imagers – with this offer). "*And he said to Him, "All these things I will in the **future** give You, if You will be falling down and may worship me."*"⁷ So, the devil has something he believes he can legitimately offer Jesus – all the kingdoms of this world.

That may seem like an audacious offer, but ***Deuteronomy 32*** gives us the background story on what the devil believes he has to offer Jesus.

Deuteronomy 32:8-9

When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. For **Yahweh's** portion is His people; Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance.

Most of our Bible translations are based on the Masoretic text (manuscripts dated around 900 CE) and the translation says that the division of the sons of Adam took place "according to the number of the sons of Israel." But the Dead Sea Scrolls, the earliest attested Hebrew form, dated about 1,000 years prior to the Masoretic text, says "*according to the number of the sons of God,*" or in Hebrew, "bene eloheim."

It is likely that the later change in the Masoretic text to "the sons of Israel," was a scribal change for two purposes, 1) to harmonize the comment about Jacob (even though Jacob would not be born for another 350-800 years) and 2) because the scribe did not like the implications of the phrase "bene

⁷ See ***Matthew 4:1-11***

eloheim,” which implies unseen spiritual forces are behind the actions and movements of nations and nationalities.⁸

This is the same phrase used in **Job 1:6** and **2:1** when we are told, “*the bene eloheim came to present themselves before Yahweh, and the Satan also came among them.*” This notion is supported in **Psalm 82:1-2** where we are told that, “*God (Eloheim) takes His stand in the congregation of God (El); He is judging in the midst of the gods (eloheim). How long will you be judging unjustly and show partiality to the wicked ones? Selah.*”

Yahweh has a congregation, an assembly of spiritual beings, who He calls gods. He takes His stand in their midst and condemns these gods for judging unjustly and show partiality to the wicked ones. In the book of **Revelation**, these spiritual forces are called the “Kings of the Earth” and the “Kings of the inhabited Earth.” These are those whom God has appointed to rule over the nations (with Yahweh’s allotment being His people, Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance).⁹

In short, after the incident of the Tower of Babel, God disinherited the nations who did not want to have Him be their Lord, their Adonai, their **I AM**. So ,He gave them to be ruled by lesser gods, the “eloheim.” The spiritual beings who form His congregation were assigned rulership of the nations, they are the “Kings of the Earth.” This is echoed in the famous passage about spiritual warfare.

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle **now** is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual [forces] of wickedness in the heavenly [places.]

Genesis 11 records the time when at Babel **Yahweh** separated the sons of Adam.

Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. They said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and burn thoroughly.” And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.

They said, “Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top [will reach] into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

Yahweh came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. **Yahweh** said, “Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do,

⁸ The timeline begins with Pegleg, when **Genesis 10:25** tells us that in the days of Pegleg, God divided the earth and **Genesis 11** tracks the lineage through to the days of Abraham, and then to Jacob. Note, the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew text, uses a different timeline, where the total timeline could exceed 800 years. The book of Jubilees, which counts based on a jubilee-year of 49 years would estimate 700 years. The Dead Sea Scrolls did not have enough fragments from **Genesis 5-11** to add sufficient data to the calculation.

⁹ Revelation 1:5, 6:15, 16:14, 17:2, 18, 18:3, 9, 19:19, 21:24. See also Acts 4:26; Lamentations 4:12; Isaiah 24:21; Psalm 2:2; 76:12, 89:27, 102:15, 138:4, 148:11

and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech."

So, **Yahweh** scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. Therefore, its name was called Babel, because there **Yahweh** confused the language of the whole earth; and from there **Yahweh** scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

Once separated, **Yahweh** gave rule and authority over the nations and the peoples too the "wicked" (in **Job 9:24** it is singular, and likely a reference to the Satan) and the reference to "its judges" (plural) over the nations speaks of these unseen rulers, gods (eloheim), the "*the Kings of the Earth.*"

Please take note, in the introduction, in **Revelation 1:5**, we are assured that Jesus is the ruler, commander, chief, or leader of "*the Kings of the Earth.*" Which is why, in **Psalms 82**, we see **Yahweh** chastising these judges for how they are ruling. And we know from **Job 1** and **2** that the Satan reports to **Yahweh Sabaoth** and not the other way around. So, any rule which the Satan and these Kings of the Earth exercise is a temporary rule, much like a management company is hired by a property owner to oversee his property.

Though these "eloheim" have been given administrative rule over specific territories, nations, and peoples, it seems that according to the temptation of Jesus story, the Satan, the devil, was given temporary rule over the all the kingdoms of the earth, and the Kings of the Earth loosely do what he says, for they know their true master is **Yahweh Sabaoth (Yahweh the commander of the hosts)**.

The reason I say "loosely" is that in **Genesis 11**, **Yahweh** assigned the territories to the "eloheim," not to Lucifer, for God alone rules heaven and earth.¹⁰

With that said, it seems that as the "*anointed cherub who covers,*" Helel (Lucifer) was assigned earth as his territory at large, to cover and protect God's interests, which is why in the opening scene of **Genesis**, after his fall from glory, we see darkness cover the earth and it was all chaotic (in the Hebrew "bohu and tohu") formless and void, in the midst of destruction. Whereas we are told in **Isaiah 45:18**, "*For thus says Yahweh, the Creator of the heavens, He is God, who formed the earth and made it; He established it, He did not create it tohu (waste or chaos) but formed it to be inhabited; I am Yahweh, and there is none else.*"

Furthermore, in **Job 1** and **2**, **1 Kings 22:19-23** and **2 Chronicles 18:18-22**, these "eloheim" gather to present themselves before **Yahweh** and not before the Satan. In effect, **Yahweh** is the owner of the property (the earth), and the Satan oversees the management company (for lack of a better illustration), and the "eloheim" are responsible and held accountable for their designated territory and the people under their rule. Yet at the same time, they also tend to carry out the edicts communicated from the head of the management company. This entire structure impacts those people living in the land.

And, in **Revelation 16:14**, we are told that the Satan must use frog like miracle working spirits of demons that come forth from him, the Beast, and the False Prophet to gather the Kings of the Earth together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. He just does not issue a command for them to obey; it seems that he must induce them to come.

¹⁰ See **Psalms 24:1, 103:19; Daniel 4:35; Ephesians 1:20-22; Colossians 1:16-17, 2:15**. Note, in **28:14-17**, Lucifer, the shining one, is referred to as the "*anointed cherub who covers.*" Distinct from

This indicates that Lucifer does not have “natural” authority over the Kings of the Earth; rather, he dominates these agents by terror and threat (which is why he is imaged as this indomitable dragon in **Job 41**. This also gives us insight into **Revelation 12:4** which states that the dragon, with his mighty tail, **now** (present tense) sweeps or literally drags a third of the stars of heaven and throws them to the earth. He is a bully, but these Kings of the Earth received their authority by the command of **Yahweh Sabaoth**, and Lucifer cannot dismantle their authority, he can only influence it by power and intimidation.

This background circles us all the way back around to Job’s statement: *“The earth has been given into the hand of the wicked (singular), and God covers the eyes of its judges. If not, then who?”* How did Job know this secret, as well as all the other truths he speaks about the unseen world and about God? The Holy Spirit must have revealed it to him.

These “judges,” which can also be translated as “governors,” are these *“Kings of the Earth,”* these wicked ones, the “eloheim” sit in **Yahweh’s** heavenly council and have a role in reporting on mankind. In **Daniel 4:17**, they, or members of their respective fiefdoms, are referred to as the “Watchers”, and they subsequently declare or command to be fulfilled, to the spiritual forces of wickedness on earth, the decisions made in **Yahweh’s** heavenly council.

Let’s stop here and pick up with this idea that God covers the eyes of its judges.

I am glad you tuned in and have been ready to listen