

A Biblical Response to Dr. Todd Phillips Part 1

Finding the Ancient Path | Study Guide

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJ9F5dPL1PU>

Teaching Overview

This Teaching opens a two-part biblical response to difficult passages raised by Dr. Todd Phillips. It establishes a framework of Yahovah's kingship, perfect justice, and human humility through Job and other Scriptures, then examines the Sabbath stick-gatherer, covenant penalties, Elisha and the bears, the priest's daughter, and laws concerning sexual offenses in Deuteronomy 22. The speaker argues for reading each account within its legal, historical, and scriptural context. Some explanations, particularly the interpretation of Deuteronomy 22:28-29, are interpretive claims rather than undisputed conclusions.

Purpose and approach

The speaker responds to difficult biblical passages raised by Dr. Todd Phillips, seeking answers from the broader witness of Scripture while treating questions seriously and avoiding attacks on Dr. Phillips.

Yahovah as King and Judge

The Teaching contrasts modern expectations of authority with biblical kingship. Job 38 and Job 40 frame the limits of human understanding, while Deuteronomy 32 and the Psalms anchor the speaker's conviction that Yahovah is just.

The Sabbath stick-gatherer

Numbers 15:30-36 is read alongside the preceding distinction between unintentional sin and deliberate defiance. The speaker also emphasizes Israel's covenant judicial system and the later command about tassels.

Covenant penalties and typology

The speaker presents certain temporal judgments under the Sinai covenant as illustrations of the ultimate consequences of sin. He explicitly notes that Scripture does not identify every Torah death penalty as a type.

Elisha and the bears

The account in 2 Kings 2:23-25 is considered against Bethel's history and the covenant warning about wild beasts in Leviticus 26. The speaker notes that the passage says 42 were mauled, not explicitly killed.

The priest's daughter

Leviticus 21:9 is interpreted in the context of the priesthood's heightened holiness requirements. The speaker compares Joshua 7:25 when discussing burning after execution; this is his interpretive conclusion, not an explicit procedural description in Leviticus 21:9.

Deuteronomy 22 and sexual offenses

The Teaching distinguishes the assault case in Deuteronomy 22:25-27 from the situation in verses 28-29. The speaker interprets the latter as consensual based on the plural wording and appeals to Exodus 22:16-17. That reading is debated and should be examined against the actual Hebrew text and scholarly alternatives.

Closing discussion

Participants emphasize context, humility, and careful study. The speaker says remaining questions will be addressed in Part 2.

Key Scriptures with Comments

Psalm 99:1 - The speaker uses Yahovah's reign to introduce the reverence due to the King of kings.

Job 38:1-4 - Yahovah questions Job about creation, illustrating the limits of Job's understanding.

Job 40:3-8 - Job's response and Yahovah's challenge frame the distinction between asking questions and condemning divine judgment.

Job 9:22-24 - The speaker examines Job's words about suffering and justice.

Job 32:1-2 - Elihu's response is cited in discussion of self-justification.

Esther 4:11 - Esther's approach to an earthly king illustrates reverence and protocol.

Hebrews 10:19-22 - Access to Yahovah through Yeshua is discussed alongside continued reverence.

Isaiah 55:8-9 - Yahovah's ways and thoughts are presented as higher than humanity's.

Deuteronomy 32:4 - The Teaching grounds its approach in the declaration of Yahovah's perfect justice.

Psalm 18:30 - Yahovah's way is described as perfect.

Psalm 89:14 - Righteousness and justice are identified as the foundation of His throne.

Genesis 18:25 - Abraham's appeal to the Judge of all the earth is used as a model for wrestling with justice.

Numbers 15:30-36 - The deliberate-sin warning is read immediately before the Sabbath stick-gatherer account.

Numbers 15:37-41 - The command concerning tassels is discussed as a reminder to obey the commandments.

Genesis 2:16-17 - The warning to Adam is compared with later covenant penalties.

Romans 6:23 - The wages of sin are discussed as the larger theological backdrop.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 - Delayed judgment is discussed in connection with human behavior.

2 Kings 2:23-25 - The account of Elisha and the youths is examined in its setting.

Leviticus 26:21-22 - The covenant warning about wild beasts is used in interpreting 2 Kings 2.

Leviticus 21:6-9 - The priestly holiness context is used when considering the priest's daughter.

Leviticus 10:1-3 - Nadab and Abihu are compared as an example of priestly responsibility.

Joshua 7:25 - The speaker references this account in discussing burning after an execution.

Deuteronomy 22:25-29 - The speaker distinguishes two sexual-offense scenarios; his reading of verses 28-29 is interpretive and contested.

Exodus 22:16-17 - The speaker cites the father's right to refuse a marriage in a related law.

Key Takeaways

- Approach difficult texts with honesty, humility, and attention to their context.
- The speaker distinguishes Yahovah's perfect justice from a simplistic appeal to sovereignty.
- Numbers 15 distinguishes unintentional wrongdoing from deliberate rebellion.

- The Sinai covenant included judicial laws for Israel as a nation.
- Some covenant judgments are presented as typological illustrations of sin's consequences.
- The speaker reads the Elisha account alongside Bethel's history and Leviticus 26.
- The priestly household in Leviticus 21 is presented as having heightened responsibilities.
- Deuteronomy 22 must be examined carefully; the interpretation of verses 28-29 is contested.

Study Questions

1. Why does the Teaching begin with Yahovah's kingship?

Study note: The speaker argues that understanding Yahovah as King of kings changes how difficult judgments are approached.

2. How does Job help believers address troubling passages?

Study note: Job's experience is used to distinguish limited understanding from certainty that Yahovah has acted unjustly.

3. Does the Teaching say God's sovereignty excuses injustice?

Study note: No. The speaker rejects using sovereignty as a shortcut to excuse apparent injustice and instead appeals to Scripture's declarations about Yahovah's character.

4. Why was the man gathering sticks on the Sabbath punished?

Study note: The speaker interprets Numbers 15:30-36 as deliberate covenant defiance rather than merely an ordinary chore.

5. What is the difference between unintentional sin and presumptuous sin?

Study note: Numbers 15 distinguishes inadvertent wrongdoing from defiant rejection of Yahovah's command.

6. Why does the Teaching discuss Israel's judicial system at Sinai?

Study note: The speaker argues that the Torah governed Israel as a covenant nation, including civil penalties.

7. How does the Teaching use typology to explain covenant penalties?

Study note: The speaker proposes that some immediate physical judgments illustrate the ultimate consequence of sin, while noting this typology is not explicitly assigned to every penalty.

8. What does the Teaching say happened to the youths who mocked Elisha?

Study note: The speaker notes 2 Kings 2 says 42 were mauled by bears, without explicitly stating that all 42 died.

9. Why is Bethel important to the account of Elisha and the bears?

Study note: The speaker identifies Bethel with institutionalized rebellion and connects the account to Leviticus 26.

10. How does the Teaching interpret Leviticus 21:9?

Study note: It emphasizes the priestly household's holiness and argues that the punishment should be read within that special context.

11. Does Leviticus 21:9 explicitly specify the execution procedure?

Study note: No detailed procedure is given in that verse. The speaker draws a comparison with Joshua 7:25.

12. Does the Teaching distinguish rape from other sexual offenses in Deuteronomy 22?

Study note: Yes. It contrasts verses 25-27 with verses 28-29, although the latter interpretation is disputed.

13. How does Exodus 22:16-17 figure in the Teaching's argument?

Study note: The speaker uses the related law to discuss the father's ability to refuse a proposed marriage.

14. What role does scriptural context play in the Teaching?

Study note: The speaker repeatedly reads difficult passages alongside adjacent laws, covenant warnings, and related biblical accounts.

15. What does the speaker say will be covered in Part 2?

Study note: He says the remaining questions raised by Dr. Phillips will be addressed in the continuation.