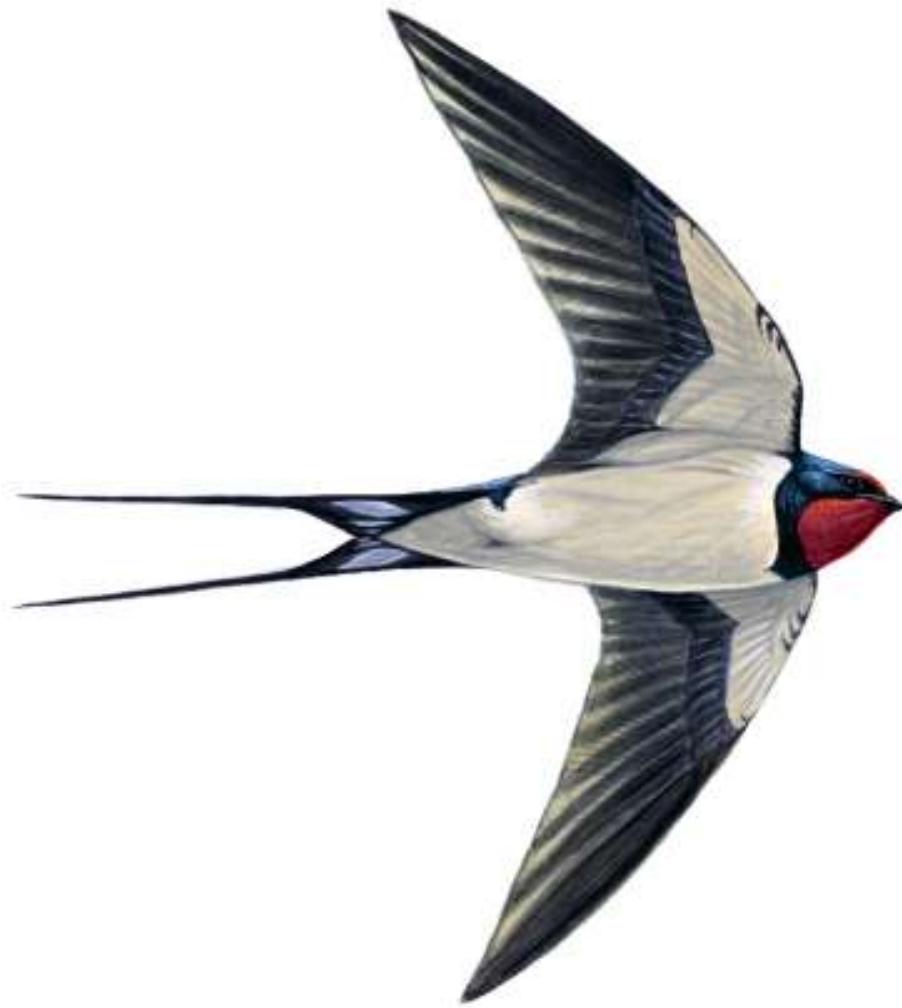


Some problems with HUMANS



Problem number 1

The danger of jumping to conclusions



One swallow does not make a summer

Problem number 2

The danger of applying the future to the present

The 'Good Guy'

always wins



Problem number 3

The danger of assuming we know all the factors involved



For every “Effect” there is a simple “Cause”

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them--do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

Luke 13:1-5

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.



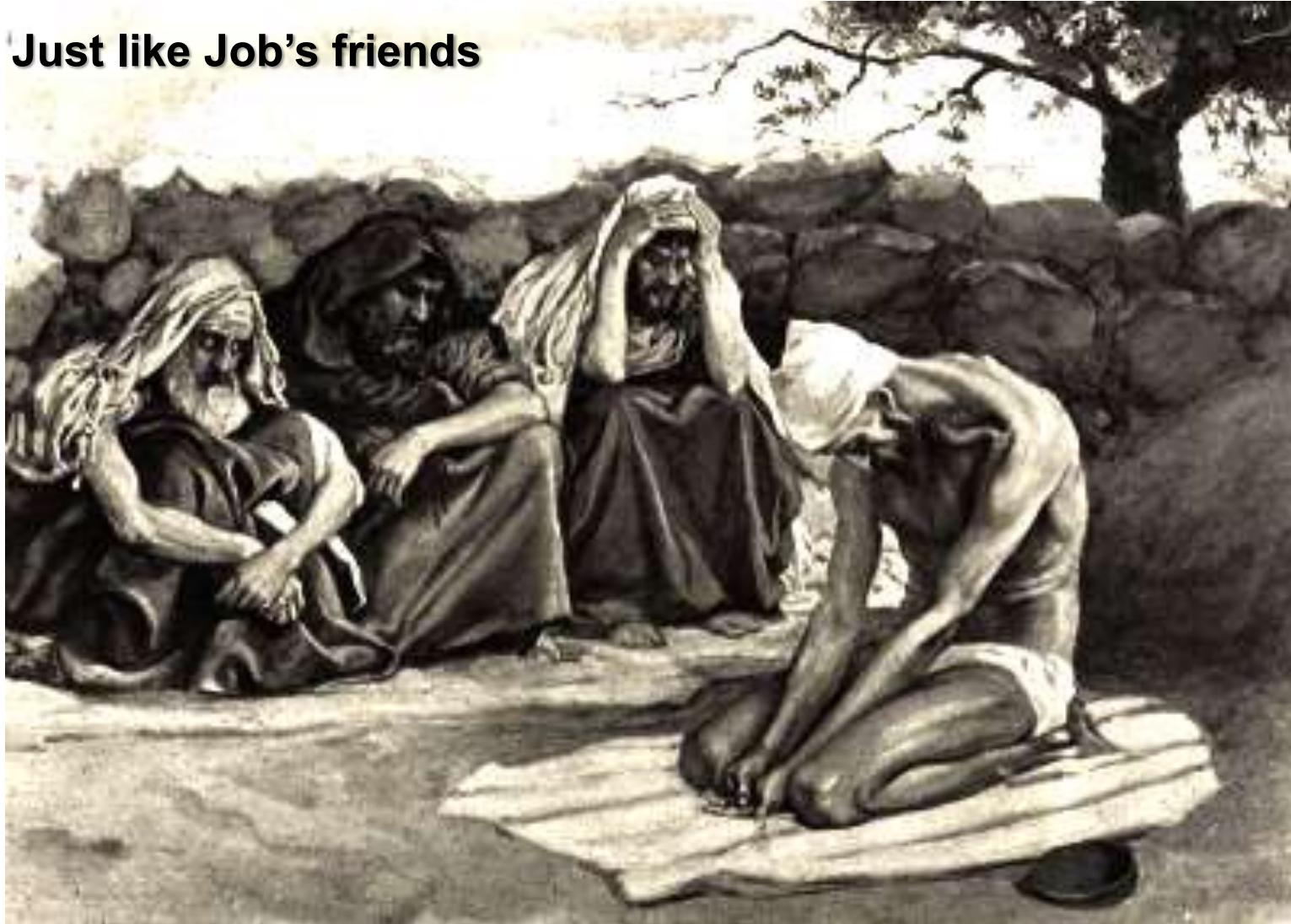
Why did they come just then?
Remember the weather story?

Why did Pilate do it to Galileans?
What kind of people were they?
*This event is not mentioned
in secular history*

What were they suggesting?
A veiled threat?

Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way?”

Just like Job's friends



I tell you, no!

Jesus knows people's hearts!

You have the wrong idea about things that happen.

Only God knows fully!

Here's a menu of some possible reasons

Ephesians 6:11-12

Job 4:8,

2 Corinthians 1:4,

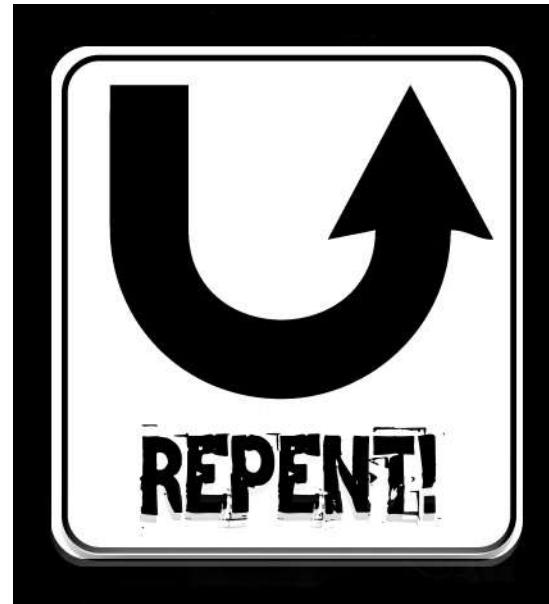
James 1:2-3,

1 Peter 1:7

Romans 8:28,

We need to trust him

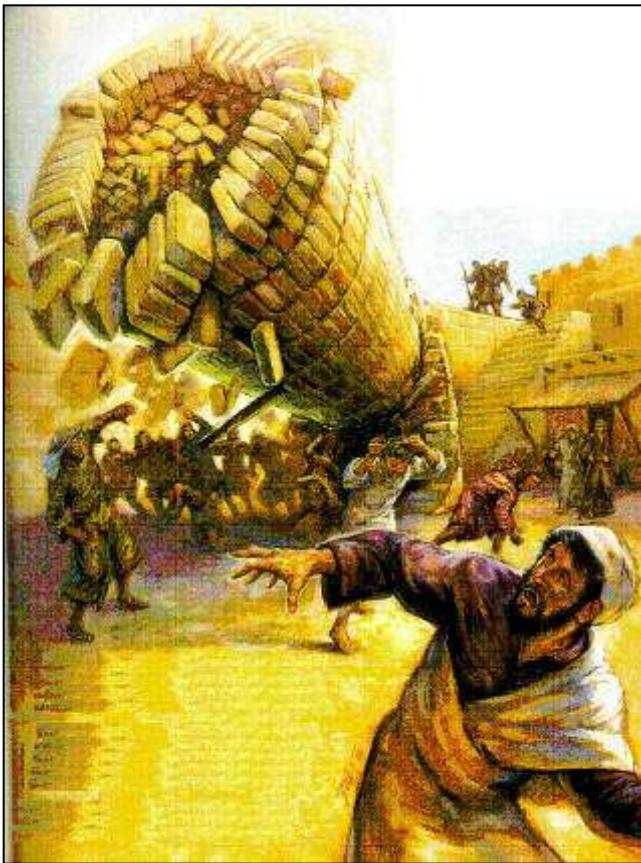
But unless you repent, you too will all perish.



You have the wrong idea about your own fate.

Delusions of acceptable goodness

Or those eighteen who died
when the tower in Siloam fell on them.

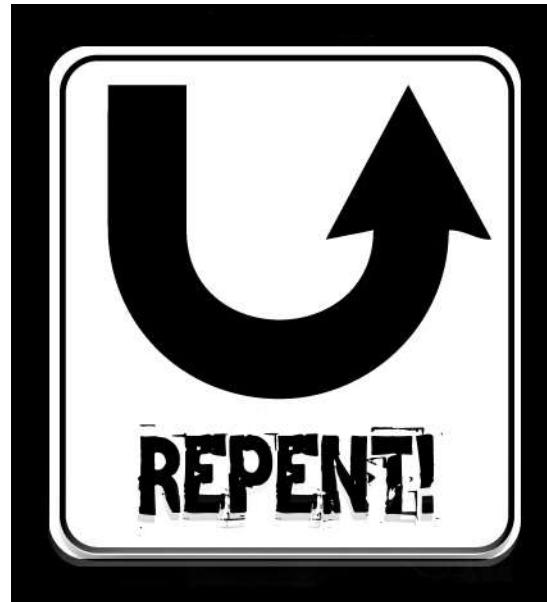


Nearer to home – they weren't Galileans

Do you think they were more guilty
than all the others living in Jerusalem?



I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.



It's not just about those that died.

Perishing means more than an unfortunate death

It's about reading the signs again
but with another parable



Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' "Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

Luke 13:6-9

A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard,

A fig tree in a vineyard?



Symbols of Israel, God's chosen people

So Judah and Israel lived in safety, every man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.

1 Kings 4:25

and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any.



What kind of fruit does the parable mean ?

The message of the prophets eg. Micah 6:8
Justice, honesty, humility,
care for the weak and vulnerable
faith in God, an open response to Messiah

God is still looking for this kind of fruit

So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'



Probation time is up

How long had Jesus been ministering to people?

A Lost cause? – judgement coming

Israel lost its place (outside the land for 2000 yrs.)

Using up soil – waste of efforts better used on someone else
cf. Hosea 4:17

'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'



Give it a bit of a shock to the system?

Something missing?

Waiting for an Ideal environment?

Just one more chance!!



We may be uncertain about the meaning of events
BUT
judgement is inevitable
if there is no fruit

BUT ALSO
Ultimately
Blessing follows repentance.

Are you willing to trust God on this issue?

Micah 6:8