

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

So, You Wish To Challenge God

Study Guide

Old Testament Studies

John Weaver

Weaver Bible College

A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the September 30, 2026 edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Pastor John Weaver - So, You Wish To Challenge God

Part One of Two

January 27, 2021

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-20.

Major Themes

The Insanity of Challenging God

It is utterly foolish for finite, weak humans to challenge the omnipotent, omniscient God, yet people do so regularly by rejecting His will.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'anybody who is stupid enough to challenge God and want to fight Him is insane as well' and later says 'anybody who is insane enough to challenge God has to be out of their minds.'

Hypocrisy in Seeking God's Will

Many professing Christians, like the Judahites, claim to want God's will but actually desire their own way and only seek divine approval for their predetermined plans.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Most Christians really do not want the will of God... they really do not trust God or His judgment.' He also notes that in counseling, people 'already come to the session with their minds made up.'

Fear of Man vs. Fear of God

The remnant feared Nebuchadnezzar more than God, which led them to disobey. The fear of man brings a snare, but trust in the Lord brings safety.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Proverbs 29:25 and says, 'They were more afraid of Nebuchadnezzar than they were of God.'

The Deceitfulness of the Human Heart

The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked; trusting one's own understanding leads to departure from God. True wisdom is trusting the Lord.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Jeremiah 17:9 and Proverbs 3:5-7, emphasizing 'lean not to thine own understanding' and 'be not wise in thine own eyes.'

God's Goodness and Trustworthiness

God is a loving Father who gives good gifts; His will is always for our good and His glory. We never lose by trusting and submitting to Him.

Lecture support: Weaver references Matthew 7:11 and says, 'You never ever lose by trusting in Him. You never lose by submitting to His will.'

The Certainty of Judgment for Disobedience

Disobeying God's clear will leads to the very calamities one seeks to avoid. The remnant fled to Egypt to escape sword and famine but found them there.

Lecture support: Weaver points out, 'They ran straight into that which they were afraid of... They were afraid of Nebuchadnezzar. They found him in Egypt.'

Key Arguments

Challenging God is irrational because He is infinitely superior in power and wisdom.

Just as no one would challenge a far stronger opponent, it is insane to challenge God, who is omnipotent and omniscient.

Lecture support: Weaver uses the analogy of a 90-pound weakling challenging a 250-pound man and says, 'anybody who is stupid enough to challenge God and want to fight Him is insane.'

The Judahites' request for prayer was hypocritical; they had already decided to go to Egypt.

They dissembled in their hearts, meaning they were deceived and hypocritical, not genuinely seeking God's will.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 42:20 is quoted: 'For you dissembled in your hearts when you sent me unto the Lord your God.' Weaver explains the Hebrew word implies deception and wandering.

Fear of circumstances rather than trust in God leads to disobedience.

The remnant feared Nebuchadnezzar, famine, and death more than they trusted God's promise of protection, so they fled to Egypt.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'They were more afraid of Nebuchadnezzar than they were of God... They believed Nebuchadnezzar more than they believed God.'

Trusting one's own heart and understanding is foolish and leads to destruction.

Scripture warns against leaning on one's own understanding; the heart is deceitful. The Judahites trusted their own wisdom over God's command.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Proverbs 3:5-7, Jeremiah 17:9, and Proverbs 28:26, concluding 'He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool.'

God's will is always best, even if it involves suffering, because He is a loving Father.

Suffering is a gift from God (Philippians 1:29), and He enables those He calls to suffer for His glory. God's will never harms us ultimately.

Lecture support: Weaver shares the story of Mrs. Kitchens, who suffered greatly but never complained, and says, 'You never ever lose by trusting in Him.'

Most Christians today, like the Judahites, do not truly want God's will but only their own.

People pray for God's will but with the condition that it aligns with their desires. They fear suffering and lack trust in God's goodness.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Most Christians really do not want the will of God... they really do not trust God or His judgment.'

Scripture References

Jeremiah 42:1-6

The remnant asks Jeremiah to pray for God's will and vows to obey whatever He says.

1 Kings 14:9

God condemns Jeroboam for provoking Him to anger by making idols.

Psalms 78:40

Israel provoked God in the wilderness and grieved Him.

Jeremiah 7:19

God asks if they provoke Him to anger and their own confusion.

Jeremiah 41:1-3

Ishmael murders Gedaliah and the Babylonians, causing chaos.

Jeremiah 42:7-22

God's answer: stay in the land and be blessed; go to Egypt and die.

Jeremiah 42:20

Jeremiah accuses the people of dissembling in their hearts.

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare, but trust in the Lord brings safety.

Matthew 7:11

If evil men give good gifts, how much more will the Father give good things.

Jeremiah 43:1-7

The people reject God's word, accuse Jeremiah, and flee to Egypt, taking Jeremiah and Baruch.

Jeremiah 43:8-13

God pronounces judgment: Nebuchadnezzar will conquer Egypt and destroy its gods.

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.

Isaiah 44:20

A deceived heart turns a person aside; he feeds on ashes.

Obadiah 1:3

The pride of your heart has deceived you.

Proverbs 3:5-7

Trust in the Lord, lean not on your own understanding; be not wise in your own eyes.

Proverbs 28:26

He who trusts in his own heart is a fool.

Jeremiah 17:5

Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his arm.

Psalms 37:4

Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Philippians 1:29

It has been granted to you not only to believe in Christ but also to suffer for Him.

John 7:17

If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine.

Study notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Discussion Questions

- 1.** In what ways do we, like the remnant of Judah, say we want God's will but actually prefer our own plans?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that the people dissembled - they were hypocritical in their request for prayer.

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- 2.** What fears (of man, suffering, loss) keep us from fully trusting and obeying God's will?

Consider: The remnant feared Nebuchadnezzar more than God; Weaver asks how badly we really want God's will.

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- 3.** How can we cultivate a genuine desire to know and do God's will, even when it contradicts our own understanding?

Consider: Weaver notes that God reveals His will to those who truly will to do it (John 7:17).

4. Why is trusting our own heart and understanding so dangerous, according to Scripture?

Consider: Weaver cites Jeremiah 17:9 and Proverbs 3:5-7 to show the deceitfulness of the heart.

5. How does the example of the Judahites' flight to Egypt illustrate the principle that disobedience leads to the very things we fear?

Consider: They fled to escape sword and famine but found them in Egypt because God sent Nebuchadnezzar there.

6. In what areas of life are we most tempted to 'lean on our own understanding' rather than trust God's Word?

Consider: Weaver applies Proverbs 3:5-7 to decision-making and the danger of being wise in our own eyes.

7. How can we help one another in the church to submit to God's will, especially when it involves suffering?

Consider: Weaver shares the story of Mrs. Kitchens, who suffered greatly but trusted God's grace.

8. What parallels do you see between the chaos in Jeremiah's day and the current state of our nation, and how should Christians respond?

Consider: Weaver draws a comparison to the political turmoil and potential violence in America.

Applications

Examine your heart for hypocrisy in seeking God's will.

Ask yourself if you truly want God's will or only want His approval for your own plans. Repent of dissembling.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Most Christians really do not want the will of God... they really do not trust God or His judgment.'

Trust God's character over your fears.

When afraid of circumstances or suffering, remember that God is a loving Father who gives good gifts and works all things for good.

Lecture support: Weaver references Matthew 7:11 and says, 'You never ever lose by trusting in Him.'

Do not lean on your own understanding.

In decision-making, consciously reject self-reliance and seek God's wisdom through His Word and prayer, acknowledging Him in all your ways.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds Proverbs 3:5-7 and warns, 'He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool.'

Obey God's revealed will immediately and completely.

When God's will is clear in Scripture, do not delay or rationalize disobedience. The Judahites' delay and rejection led to destruction.

Lecture support: Weaver notes that God's will was clearly stated: stay in the land. Their disobedience brought the very judgments they feared.

Embrace suffering as a gift when it comes in God's will.

Recognize that suffering for Christ is a gift (Philippians 1:29) and that God gives grace to endure it for His glory.

Lecture support: Weaver shares the testimony of Mrs. Kitchens and explains that suffering is given by God for our good.

Seek God's will with a genuine willingness to do it.

Approach God with a heart that says, 'I will do Your will regardless of the cost,' trusting that He will reveal it.

Lecture support: Weaver cites John 7:17 and says God will not reveal His will to a double-minded person.

Do not challenge God in times of national chaos.

In the current political and social turmoil, instead of fear or self-reliance, seek God's will and trust His protection and provision.

Lecture support: Weaver draws a parallel between Judah's situation and America's, urging, 'Do not challenge God. Do His will.'

Study notes

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Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Pastor John Weaver - So, You Wish To Challenge God

Part Two of Two

January 27, 2021

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 21-38.

Major Themes

The Folly of Challenging God

It is insane for finite, mutable man to challenge the infinite, omniscient, omnipotent God, who knows all thoughts and whose counsel will stand.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'you have to be absolutely insane to challenge someone who is greater, stronger... no one in their right mind is going to challenge anyone like that' and cites Psalm 2:4.

Exclusive Worship of the True God

God demands exclusive worship; giving glory to false gods or idols is stealing from God and constitutes idolatry and blasphemy.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Isaiah 42:8, 'I am the Lord, that is my name, my glory will I not give to another,' and explains the Queen of Heaven idolatry.

Hypocritical Worship Rejected by God

God despises worship that is merely external ritual without genuine heart devotion; He demands worship in spirit and truth.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Isaiah 1:11-15 and Amos 5:21-23, where God says He hates their feasts and will not accept their offerings.

The Progression of Sin: Will, Worship, Word

Challenging God's will inevitably leads to challenging His worship and ultimately His word, as seen in the Judahites' rebellion.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'When you challenge God's will, inevitably, you're going to challenge God's worship. And when you challenge His will and His worship, it all comes down to one final thing. You will challenge His Word.'

God's Word Will Stand

Despite human defiance, God's sovereign declaration in Isaiah 46:10 guarantees that His counsel and pleasure will be accomplished.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Isaiah 46:10, 'My counsel shall stand and I will do all my pleasure,' and applies it to the judgment on the remnant.

Love for Christ as Motivation for Submission

A deeper love for Christ, recognizing His great love for us, constrains believers to submit to God's will, worship, and word.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Spurgeon on the believer's inadequate love and says, 'It's the love of God that constrains us so that we may give Him the glory.'

Key Arguments

God's attributes make challenging Him irrational

Because God is infinite, omniscient, omnipotent, and knows our thoughts, it is impossible to deceive or defeat Him.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God knows our thoughts... it is impossible to trick Him. It's impossible to surprise Him.'

Worship of false gods is a direct challenge to God's glory

By worshiping idols like the Queen of Heaven, people steal the honor due to God alone and set themselves against Him.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'if you're going to worship any other God... you're a thief... you're an idolater and you're a blasphemer.'

God rejects worship not offered in spirit and truth

Ritualistic, hypocritical worship is an abomination to God; He demands worship that is biblical and from the heart.

Lecture support: Weaver cites John 4:23-24 and says, 'God's worship is bounded on the one side with spirit and it's bounded on the other side with truth.'

Tempting God is testing His justice and patience

The biblical concept of tempting God involves maliciously challenging Him to prove His perfections, as Ananias and Sapphira did.

Lecture support: Weaver explains the Greek word *peirazō* and quotes Strong's definition: 'to test God's justice and patience and to challenge Him.'

The Judahites misinterpreted providence to justify sin

They attributed past prosperity to idolatry and present calamity to abandoning it, when the opposite was true.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Jeremiah 44:17-18 and explains, 'You think now, if you go back into idolatry, that you're going to get everything back, that you're just deceiving yourself.'

God's word will ultimately prevail over human words

God declared through Jeremiah that the remnant would know whose word stands, and history confirmed His judgment.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Jeremiah 44:28-29 and asks, 'Did God's word stand? Yes. Did their word fail? Yes.'

Challenging God's will leads to a downward spiral

When people get angry with God, they often stop attending church and eventually reject His word entirely.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'once they challenge the will, they end up challenge the worship. And the next thing you know, they end up challenging the word.'

Love for Christ is the antidote to challenging God

The more we love Christ, the more we willingly submit to His will, worship, and word, even in suffering.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Job 13:15, 'Though he slay me, yet will I trust him,' and Spurgeon on the believer's desire to love Christ more.

Scripture References

Jeremiah 44:1-6

Introduction to the chapter, read at the beginning of the sermon.

Psalms 2:2-4

Cited to show God laughs at those who challenge Him.

Job 21:27

God knows the thoughts and devices imagined against Him.

Isaiah 66:18

God knows their works and thoughts.

Proverbs 15:26

The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord.

Matthew 9:4

Jesus knowing their thoughts.

Luke 5:22

Jesus perceived their thoughts.

Isaiah 46:10

God's counsel shall stand and He will do all His pleasure.

Isaiah 42:8

God will not give His glory to another or praise to graven images.

Jeremiah 44:1-12

Read to show God's condemnation of idolatry.

Jeremiah 7:18

The people made cakes to the Queen of Heaven.

Luke 11:27-28

Jesus disavows special recognition of Mary.

Luke 1:35

Mary conceived the holy thing, the body of Christ.

Isaiah 1:1, 10-16

God rejects the hypocritical worship of Judah, calling them Sodom and Gomorrah.

Amos 5:21-27

God hates their feast days and will not accept their offerings.

John 4:23-24

True worshippers must worship in spirit and truth.

Deuteronomy 6:16

You shall not tempt the Lord your God.

Matthew 4:7

Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:16 during temptation.

Acts 5:9

Peter asks Sapphira why they agreed to tempt the Spirit.

Jeremiah 44:11-30

The people reject God's word and God pronounces judgment.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do people today challenge God's will, worship, and word, similar to the remnant of Judah?

Consider: Application of the sermon's main points to contemporary life.

2. How can we ensure our worship is in 'spirit and truth' and not merely hypocritical ritual?

Consider: Based on the discussion of John 4:23-24 and the rejection of vain offerings.

3. Why is it dangerous to misinterpret God's providence, and how can we avoid the mistake of the Judahites?

Consider: The people thought prosperity came from idolatry; we may misread blessings and trials.

4. What does it mean to 'tempt' or 'challenge' God today, and how can we guard against it?

Consider: Exploring the concept of peirazō and modern examples of testing God's patience.

5. How does a deeper love for Christ motivate greater submission to God's will, even in difficult circumstances?

Consider: Reflecting on the Spurgeon quote and the application to love Christ more.

6. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to challenge God's word by prioritizing your own plans or reasoning?

Consider: Personal application of the Judahites' rejection of Jeremiah's message.

7. How should the church respond to the exclusivity of Christian worship in a pluralistic society?

Consider: Based on the quote from J.A. Alexander that true and false religion cannot coexist.

8. What practical steps can we take to stay 'right smack dab in the middle of God's will'?

Consider: Weaver's personal illustration about willingness to go to Atlanta if it were God's will.

Applications

Stay in the center of God's will

The safest place is in God's will, even if it leads to uncomfortable or undesirable locations; we must be willing to go wherever He leads.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'the safest place, no matter how much you might dislike the place, it's still right smack dab in the middle of God's will.'

Examine your worship for hypocrisy

Ensure that worship is not mere external ritual but flows from a heart that loves God and adheres to His truth.

Lecture support: Weaver warns against worship that is 'nothing more than a ceremony... going through it the way most average Christians go through church every Sunday.'

Do not misinterpret providence to justify sin

Avoid the error of attributing blessings to sinful practices or hardships to obedience; trust God's revealed word over personal experience.

Lecture support: Weaver explains the Judahites' faulty reasoning: 'You think now, if you go back into idolatry, that you're going to get everything back, that you're just deceiving yourself.'

Cultivate a deeper love for Christ

Recognize the inadequacy of our love and devotion, and ask God to increase our love for Him, which will constrain us to submit to His will.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Spurgeon: 'The true child of God does not believe his worship of God or his love for God is pure enough.'

Trust God's word over human reasoning

When God's commands conflict with our logic or desires, we must submit to His word, knowing His counsel will stand.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'God's Word will stand... you're saying that your word is superior, greater and more powerful and you will be engulfed in the anger and the righteous wrath of God.'

Avoid the progression of sin

Recognize that challenging God's will often leads to abandoning worship and rejecting His word; guard against the first step of rebellion.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'once they challenge the will, they end up challenge the worship. And the next thing you know, they end up challenging the word.'

Serve God regardless of circumstances

Like Job, maintain trust in God even when He allows suffering, knowing that we will not lose by Him in the end.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Job 13:15 and Matthew Henry: 'Those who know God and put their trust in Him will serve Him, though He starve them, though He slay them.'

Give God exclusive worship

Reject all forms of idolatry, whether overt false gods or subtle idols of the heart, and give glory to God alone.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'if you're going to worship any other God... you're a thief... you're an idolater and you're a blasphemer.'

Study notes

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Personal Application and Notes

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Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: Pastor John Weaver - So, You Wish To Challenge God - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01601

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01601&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - So, You Wish To Challenge God - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01602

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01602&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.