

THE BOOK OF JOB

Lesson 2 – Chapters 3-5

After seven days of silent suffering, Job spoke, not to curse God, but to curse the day of his birth. We will read what the first of his friends, Eliphaz, has to say. He certainly was not a comforter! As we look at Chapters 3-5 this week, consider what we can learn from both Job's responses and his friend's words.

Begin your study with prayer...

Memory Verse – This week's memory verse is, a good verse for giving good counsel.

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God,
who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." James 1:5*

Read Job Chapter 3.

1. After seven days of sitting with Job in silence, Job opened his mouth in verse 1 and what did he do?

a. What was Satan's goal according to Job 1:11 and Job 2:5?

b. Had Satan succeeded?

2. Remembering that the Book of Job is considered poetry, read Job 3:3-10.

a. Verse 3 begins with the words "*May the day perish on which I was born...*", and that thought ends in verse 10. Write out the words of Job 3:10 below.

b. What similar feelings do you see in the words of Jeremiah 20:14-18?

3. As you read Job 3:11-23 you will see a progression in Job's thoughts.

a. After reading these verses, write out the first line of verse 11 below as a summary.

b. How would you describe this state of mind?

4. Read Psalm 77:10-11 and record what the psalmist said he would do in his *anguish*.

a. How can this help, especially in times of despair?

b. What things might you remember when you are feeling this way?

5. Job described his condition in Job 3:24-26.

a. List each of the *feeling* phrases that he used.

b. If you were sitting with someone who expressed his condition as Job did, what would you say to them?

Read Job Chapter 4.

1. The first friend to speak was Eliphaz.

a. According to Job 4:2, what was his first question to Job?

b. In the KJV the word *weary* is translated *grieved*. Why might the friend's words *grieve* Job?

2. Now make note below of what Eliphaz said in the second half of verse 2.

a. Why do you think it is so difficult to withhold from speaking when we think we have the answers?

- b. What are some things we might do before we speak?

3. Eliphaz knew Job's reputation well. Using verses 3 and 4, list the good works that Job had done.

4. First he commends Job, then in Job 4:5 Eliphaz follows with a contradiction in the word *but...* *But now it comes upon you, and you are weary; it touches you and you are troubled.* In this verse the KJV translates *weary* as *faintest*. Using your own words, explain this verse.

5. Eliphaz asks Job two questions in verse 6.
 - a. The first: *Is not your reverence your confidence?* What does this mean?

 - b. The second: *...and the integrity of your ways your hope?* In what way can a person's character become their hope?

 - c. What is wrong with either of these sources of confidence and hope?

6. In Job 4:7-11, Eliphaz explained what he believed to be the source of Job's troubles.
 - a. What was Eliphaz accusing Job of in verses 7 and 8?

 - b. In verses 9-11 we read the thoughts of Eliphaz and his perception of the situation. Summarize his thoughts below.

We can see that the counsel of Eliphaz is rooted in his own observations and experience, and it does make sense to us in many cases. But, from Job 42:7, we also know that in Job's case Eliphaz was wrong and his counsel to his friend, though well meaning, was wrong.

7. Eliphaz continues, claiming he had a vision or a dream, which he described in Job 4:12-21.

a. What were Eliphaz' reactions to this dream in verses 13-15?

b. As we consider his dream, we must ask ourselves, is every dream a word from the Lord?

c. Is every dream given to be shared with others? Why?

8. Job 4:17-21 are the words Eliphaz quoted from the voice in the dream. Write the two questions the voice asked in verse 17 below.

a. How would you answer these questions from God's Word?

b. What does Romans 9:20-21 say about this?

9. Now consider Job 4:18-21, as the voice in the dream continues. Would these thoughts help Job or someone in despair?

Read Job Chapter 5.

Job 5 begins with a return to Eliphaz's words, with verse 1 being a challenge to Job to ask any godly person and they would agree with Eliphaz. Rather than directly calling Job *foolish*, Eliphaz describes the *foolish* man and his fate in Job 5:2-7.

1. In Job 5:8, write what Eliphaz says.

a. Is this good advice?

b. Considering Eliphaz's declaration about what he would do in verse 8, what might he have been assuming about Job?

c. According to Job 5:17, what else might Eliphaz be assuming?

2. Using verses 8-20, list five of the many things Eliphaz said about God.

3. Eliphaz seems to be encouraging Job to confess the sin that has brought on God's chastening. In doing so, he says Job could reap the benefits listed in verses 19-26. What was the error of Eliphaz's thinking?

4. Eliphaz wrapped up the first phase of his counsel stating that what he said had been *searched out* and *was true*.

a. What did Eliphaz tell Job to do in the last phrase of Job 5:27?

b. What is the best way for us to *know* that what we hear is true?

In closing...

1. What have you seen in these chapters about making assumptions about another person and their walk with the Lord?

2. Why is it not always fruitful to share certain scriptures without knowledge of a person or situation?

3. Why are people tempted to think bad things happen only to people who have sinned or deserve it?

a. How do you see the error of this in Joseph's life?

b. Can you think of any other examples from scripture?

Memory Verse

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James 1:5*