

THE BOOK OF JOB

Lesson 5 – Job 12 - 14

Chapter 11 was filled with Zophar’s accusations against Job. In the next few chapters, we will read of Job’s response to those accusations. Job was certainly suffering and unsure of the reason for his suffering, but he was confident that he knew his God, he was sure of his integrity. We will see that he is struggling to hold on to hope in his suffering, as in Job 14:14 he asks that important question, *“If a man dies, shall he live again?”*

Begin your study with prayer...

Memory Verse – This week’s memory verse is:

*“It is good that one should hope and wait
quietly for the salvation of the Lord.” Lamentations 3:26*

Read Job 12.

1. We can see the frustration in Job’s response to Zophar’s words in Chapter 11. Write the words of Job’s response in Job 12:2 below.

2. Consider the words of Zophar in Job 11:2-3 and Job 11:12.

a. How did he describe Job in these verses?

b. What three statements did Job make in Job 12:3 in response to these words?

3. Instead of consoling or encouraging Job, what two words did Job use in Job 12:4 to describe the way he felt after Zophar’s comments?

a. Define each of these words.

b. Considering the many words Job has heard from his friends in the previous chapters, why would this be the way Job felt?

c. How can we console or counsel someone, even correct them, without making them feel as Job did?

4. In NLT, Job 12:5 reads, “*People who are at ease mock those in trouble. They give a push to people who are stumbling.*” Have you ever felt this way, being pushed down instead of encouraged? Write about your own experience.

5. Job continues to refute the accusations of his friends. In Job 12:6 he points to the fallacy of their whole argument. Remember their premise is that a righteous man will be blessed and a wicked one will suffer. What are the examples to the contrary that Job gives in this verse?

6. In the next section, Job describes what he knows of God in a poetic form, reminding us again that the Book of Job is a poetic book. This is a response to Zophar’s accusation in Job 11, that implies that Job does not know God. Read Job 12:7-25 and write your thoughts on what Job knew of God.

a. These verses might be summed up in the words of Job 12:10. Write this verse below.

b. Considering Job’s suffering, what do you think he was stating about God in this verse?

c. How does this knowledge affect your own life?

Read Job 13.

In Chapter 13 Job continues his defense against the accusations of Zophar and his friends. He repeats his claim from Chapter 12 when he says, “*What you know, I also know; I am not inferior to you...*”

1. Instead of talking with his friends, according to Job 13:3, who does Job desire to talk with?

a. God desires that we come to talk with Him. In Psalm 27:8, what does God say and what was David’s response?

b. What result did David find in Psalm 34:4 after seeking God or talking to Him?

2. How does Job describe his friends in Job 13:4?

a. Explain what you have seen in the previous chapters that would agree or disagree with Job's description of his friends.

b. In Job 13:5, what does Job say is the better way for his friends to show wisdom?

c. Read Proverbs 10:19 and Proverbs 17:27-28. What lesson is there for Job's friends and for us?

3. Job continues in Job 13:6-9 to describe how he sees the words of his friends, and they seem to imply that the words of their counsel misrepresented God. Twice he says they showed partiality, which some think means they favored those who were not suffering, like themselves. In each of the following verses, how did Job think God would respond to the counsel of his friends?

a. Job 13:10

b. Job 13:11

c. How do you see Job's words fulfilled in Job 42:7?

4. Write the words of Job from Job 13:12 below.

a. Define platitude.

b. How can we keep from making the same mistake these friends made in our own counsel to the suffering?

5. As you read through the next section, Job 13:13-19, two important verses stand out, verses 15 and 16. Write the first line of each verse below.

a. What does this say to you about Job?

b. What similarities do you see with Habakkuk 3:17-18?

c. What do you need to know about God, before you can sincerely say the words of Job and Habakkuk?

6. As we read through Job 13:13-19, we must also consider Job's confidence as he defends his claim that he is not being punished for sin in his life. Write the words of verses 15, 16 and 18 that reflect Job's confidence in this.

7. In Job 13:20-27, Job is speaking to God. Read through this section and we will pull out just a few verses to focus on.

a. In Job 13:20-21, what two things did Job ask God not to do?

b. Job felt differently in Job 7:16. What had he said he wanted God to do in this verse?

c. Why do you think Job changed his mind?

8. We can see how Job still saw his life in Job 13:28.

a. Write this verse below.

b. And yet Job had spoken words of hope in verse 16. How can you explain both of these verses being spoken by the same man, in the same conversation?

Read Job 14.

1. In this chapter Job addresses Zophar's words to him that there was no hope for Job.
 - a. Remember the hopeless words Zophar finished his speech with by writing Job 11:20 below.

 - b. Before we look at Job's reply in this chapter, why doesn't this hopeless statement apply to Job?

2. Write the meaning of Job's description of life from Job 14:1-2 in your own words.

3. We see a contrast in Job 14:7-12 between how Job sees the hope of a tree versus the hope for man. Explain the contrast below.

4. Beginning with verse 13 we see that, though Job longs for the *grave*, he hopes for a life beyond it. Write the two words at the end of this verse that represent what Job hopes God will do.

5. Job asks a crucial question in Job 14:14. Write the question in the first line of this verse below.

6. Knowledge of the afterlife was limited to those of the Old Testament, so this was a question for Job and a hope, but we have more! What assurance do you see in the following scriptures?
 - a. John 11:25-26

 - b. 2 Timothy 1:10

7. Looking again at Job 14:14, Job looks for a *change*, a relief from his suffering. What *changes* do we look forward to in the following scriptures?
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:50-53

 - b. Philippians 3:21

8. What beautiful confidence do you see in Job 14:15?

9. We see Job's view of his sin in verses 16-17. This shows that Job does not see himself as sinless, but rather as not harboring sin in his life that has caused his suffering.

a. How does Job describe what he thinks God has done with his sin in verse 17?

b. Explain what God has done with your sin and include scripture to support your answer.

10. With his limited understanding, we see Job go from the truth and hope of verse 17 to misunderstanding and mourning. Read the last of this chapter in Job 14:18-22, where Job acknowledges the power of God, but with a wrong perspective, finding himself in despair again. How can we counteract the emotional despair that can come to us when we are discouraged?

In closing...

Consider this comment by David Guzik about Chapter 13: "This shows that, at least in a small sense, Job understood that God's hand was sustaining him in the midst of this great trial. We understand his feeling of abandonment; yet Job can grudgingly admit that God's hand has been with him in the fire of affliction."

1. Have you ever felt the confusion of Job in the midst of a difficult time?

a. Looking back, how would you say you handled it?

b. How would you counsel someone in a similar situation?

2. Job had much confusion about life after death.

a. How would you explain your understanding of life after death to someone?

b. How does your understanding of life after death effect the way you live and the way you face hardships?

Memory Verse

*"It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."
Lamentations 3:26*