

THE BOOK OF JOB

Lesson 9 – Job 28-31

These chapters reflect Job's final discourse. In them we see his search for *wisdom and understanding*; we see his longing for the joys and honor of his past life; we see his lamenting of his losses; we see his desire to be declared innocent. At this point Job had no idea that God would soon appear and reveal Himself. Oh, how like Job we can often be – so stuck in the present, that we do not allow ourselves to consider that God just might not be done with us and His good purposes in the trial we are facing.

Begin your study with prayer...

Memory Verse – This week's memory verse is:

*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10*

Read Job 28.

This chapter gives us Job's thoughts on wisdom in a very poetic and beautiful way.

1. In Job 28:1-11, Job describes the many accomplishments and incredible efforts of man in seeking things of material value. What are some of the earthly treasures included in this list?

2. What do the following scriptures say about true treasure?

a. Proverbs 16:16

b. Proverbs 20:15

3. After listing all of the earthly treasures, Job poses two questions in verse 12. Write those questions below.

4. Having seen the true value of wisdom, these questions are important ones for us to ask.

a. Job 28:13-19 gives examples of where wisdom can't be found. What do these verses tell you?

- b. Where do people in the world look for wisdom?
 - c. Where is the only true wisdom going to be found?
5. Job now asks two more questions, similar to, but not exactly the same as the ones in verse 12.
- a. Write the questions from verse 20 below.
 - b. How does Job begin to answer his questions in Job 28:23?
6. What more do you find in the following scriptures about where we can find wisdom?
- a. Proverbs 2:3-6
 - b. 1 Corinthians 2:12-14
 - c. James 1:5
7. We find Job's final answer in Job 28:28. Write his words below.
8. The fear of the Lord is the key to the wisdom of God. What more do you find about the fear of the Lord in the following scriptures?
- a. Psalm 111:10
 - b. Proverbs 1:7

c. Proverbs 9:10

Read Job 29.

This chapter records Job's reflections of his life before the calamities struck.

1. In Job 29:1-6, Job remembers his relationship with the Lord. What do you see in these verses?
 - a. Deuteronomy 31:6
 - b. Joshua 1:9
 - c. Isaiah 41:10
3. Job goes on to remember his position and relationships with the people around him.
 - a. From Job 29:7-17, what do you see of Job's life before?
 - b. Look back to Job 1:8 and write what the Lord said of Job at this time.
 - c. In the midst of Job's trial, a very different picture of his life can be painted. What part of the Job from Job 1:8 do you see in the Job we know in his affliction?

4. Job's perspective was very different before he was afflicted. From Job 29:18, how did Job describe the end of his life?

5. Life surely took a sudden turn for Job. Back in Job 19:13-20, Job described his life and relationships in his present situation. His perspective was very different, and we have seen him lose hope, but what do you see in Job's description of the end of his life in Job 19:25-27?

Read Job 30.

Job 30 begins with the contrasting words, *But now*, as Job's discussion turned from his past life to his present life. We see moments of faith in Job's words, like in Job 19 above, but as we move on to Chapter 30, we will see that remembering his previous life and comparing it to his present did not encourage him.

1. In comparing his treatment by others, instead of respect, how does Job describe the way people look at him now in the following verses?

a. Job 30:1

b. Job 30:9

c. Job 30:10

2. Job, in his anguish, described the many ways that he felt God was against Him. Scan through the remaining verses of Chapter 30; choose a few of Job's statements and comment on them.

3. In spite of feeling forsaken, unheard, and targeted by God, we see in verse 20 that Job continued to cry out to Him. Why do you think Job persisted in this way to seek God's help and intervention?

4. Consider Job's perspective of the end of his life in Job 30:20-23. This came from comparing his life before, and put him back in a place of despair.

a. Describe the dangers of comparing different times of our life.

b. Rather than looking back, how does looking up keep our perspective in the right place?

Read Job 31.

Job 31 focuses again on Job's claim of innocence. You will notice often the preface, "*If I have...*", with an example of a sin Job had not committed followed by a "*then...*"

1. From Job 31:1-4, we can see that Job says he was not guilty of lust.

a. According to verse 1, what did Job say he had done?

b. In practical terms, what does this mean?

2. Scanning through the chapter, look for the "*If I...*" clues, and list some other sins for which Job claimed to be innocent.

3. You might have noticed several of these sins were exactly what his friends had accused him of committing in previous chapters. From this chapter, how did Job feel about a person who did commit these sins?

4. Job felt the need to defend himself to his friends, knowing he wasn't perfect, but also knowing he had not committed the sins he was accused of when his friends called him wicked. Consider your own life. Even if it is as *blameless* as Job's, there are still many sins you have committed. What are your thoughts as you consider the fact that you do not have to prove your righteousness, but rather lean on the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus shed for you on the cross?

In closing...

1. We have been reminded this week of the blessed life Job lived before his trial began, and the extreme contrast of his life in the midst of it. Our circumstances can change our view of God, but God does not change. How can we keep from letting our emotions direct our faith?

2. We saw how Job was discouraged as he looked back at the blessings of his previous life and compared them to his present life. We need to be careful about comparing, unless we look back to remember our life without the Lord! Take time today to remember before you were saved and make note below of the blessings of the Lord in your life, no matter what the circumstances are on this earth.

Memory Verse

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And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”
Proverbs 9:10*