

THE BOOK OF JOB

Lesson 8 – Job 22-27

This week we come to the end of the counsel from Job's three friends. We heard the last words from Zophar in Chapter 20, and we will hear the last words from Eliphaz and Bildad in Chapters 22 and 25. The words of his friends haven't changed and we see no indication that they have heard Job's plea of innocence. With all of their words, their attempts to comfort Job have failed miserably. In all the words Job speaks in his own defense, we continue to see his pain, his frustration and even his confusion, but also his understanding of who his God truly is. As you read through these six chapters this week, recognize the error of each man's perspective, but don't miss the true acknowledgement of the wonders of God!

Begin your study with prayer...

Memory Verse – This week's memory verse is:

*"But He knows the way that I take;
When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10*

Read Job 22.

1. This chapter begins with Eliphaz asking the question in verse 2, "*Can a man be profitable to God?*" Certainly, no man can add anything to God, but He does call us to be used by Him and we can bring pleasure to Him. What do you find in the following scriptures about how we can please the Lord?

a. 1 Chronicles 29:17

b. Psalm 147:11

c. Colossians 1:9-10

2. Because Eliphaz still did not accept the reason for Job's distress could be anything but correction from God, what were some of the false accusations Eliphaz assumed about Job in Job 22:4-11?

- a. Is there anything we have read of Job that supports these accusations?
 - b. What are some sources of false accusations?
 - c. What could Eliphaz have done to better understand if there was any truth in these accusations toward Job, or that we should do before making accusations against one another?
3. Next, Eliphaz refers to the wicked in the time of Noah in verses 15-20. Eliphaz is saying that Job is like the wicked of that time, but that he, himself is not. Let's consider a statement Eliphaz makes in Job 22:18 – "*But the counsel of the wicked is far from me.*"
- a. What is the *counsel of the wicked*?
 - b. Why do you think that even Christians sometimes fall prey to heeding *the counsel of the wicked*?
4. Job 22 closes with Eliphaz's plea to Job to get right with God. List a few of the benefits to the righteous he presented in verses 21-30.

Read Job 23.

In this chapter, Job again longs to take his complaint before God, but it seems he doesn't know where to find Him. We will see, though, that he does know some things about God!

1. What does Job say about how the Lord would respond to him in verses 3-7?
2. What else does Job know about God from the following verses?
 - a. Job 23:10
 - b. Job 23:13-14
3. Now make note of what Job says that he has done in Job 23:11-12.

In the last three verses of Chapter 23 Job speaks of being afraid, even terrified of God, a fear that comes from his limited understanding of the character and love of God. It is good to note that this is very different from the fear of the Lord, the awe and respect, in which we are called to walk.

Read Job 24.

Now Job takes his turn at describing the wicked.

1. Consider all that Job says about the conduct of the wicked in Job 24. Who does he specifically mention in the following verses?

a. Job 24:14

b. Job 24:15

2. The New Testament also gives specifics about the wicked.

a. Who is listed as the *unrighteous (wicked)* in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10?

b. What reminder is given in 1 Corinthians 6:11 that is good for us to remember?

3. The end of the wicked or the unrighteous is given in many places of scripture, but let's consider just two here.

a. What does Job 24:24 say about the end that will come to the wicked?

b. Look again at 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. What does it say about the end of the unrighteous?

c. It is not God's wish that any should suffer these ends. Again, what hope is offered in 1 Corinthians 6:11?

Read Job 25.

Bildad's final speech is only 6 verses long, but he speaks truth about God and poses an important question.

1. What truth about God does Bildad present in Job 25:2-3?

2. In verse 4 Bildad repeats a question Job posed back in Job 9:2. From the first line of Job 25:4, write that question below.

a. How would you answer this question?

b. Write a scripture below to support your answer.

3. With the last few verses of this chapter, Bildad describes the lowliness of man. Write the thoughts about man found in the scriptures below when considered next to God.

a. Job 25:6

b. Psalm 8:3-4

c. Psalm 144:3-4

4. After considering the words of Bildad in this chapter, and the scriptures above, what hope do you find in the following scriptures?

a. John 3:16

b. 1 Corinthians 1:27-31

c. Ephesians 2:10

Read Job 26.

In this chapter, we will consider Job's words as he speaks to his friends again, but even more as he speaks of the greatness of God.

1. In Job 26:2-4, Job challenged his friends regarding helping others, and how they had not succeeded.

a. How did Job describe those who needed help?

b. What does Isaiah 35:3 say they should be doing?

c. How can we practically do this for those in our lives who need it?

2. Job moved into an acknowledgment of God's power in contrast to the abilities of his friends.

a. Record one proclamation that Job made about God in Job 26:5-13 and share your thoughts on it.

b. Even with all Job has said of God, he knows his words do not begin to do Him justice. Write the words of Job 26:14 below.

3. Take time to really consider our awesome God and write a note of praise to Him.

Read Job 27.

1. In Job 27:4-6, what did Job claim he would not do?

2. Job's friends had accused him of being a *hypocrite*, in Chapter 8 and Chapter 20. Now, in Job 27:8, Job questions the "hope" of the hypocrite.

a. Define hypocrite.

b. What do you read of a hypocrite in Luke 6:42 that sounds more like Job's friends?

3. Job 27:13-23 gives us Job's description of what will happen to the wicked.
- a. How does Job's description compare with the descriptions his friends have given in previous chapters?

b. It is important to note that Job's friends included Job himself as one of the wicked to try to get him to confess. From Job 27:5-7, does Job refer to himself in his description of the wicked? Explain your answer.

In closing...

So much of what Job's friends said was accusation, and much of Job's response was defense. But this week we read some wonderful descriptions of the power and sovereignty of our God. In the midst of any trial, true peace is found in knowing God and looking to Him.

1. Think back over this lesson and write a few words about God from the lesson that you would want to remember for yourself and might share with someone in a difficult place.

2. Now think back to your own times of trial and share a scripture speaking of the character of God that ministered to you.

Memory Verse

*"But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold."
Job 23:10*