

## Job Chapter 9

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V: 1-3 *“I know it is so, of a truth...”* that is that man needs to be right with God, that man needs to have a right relationship with God which is the most important thing in any of our lives. An abiding relationship based on faith, of complete trust and commitment to the Lord.

V: 2 Job then asks the million dollar question: *“... how should man be just / right / righteous with / before God?”*

- Job already knows that no man shall be justified in his flesh before God; but that still begs the question of how then is a man justified before God?

**Romans 10:4, 9-10** *“<sup>4</sup>For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.” - “<sup>9</sup>That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

- The answer to Job’s question is yet future in the form of Jesus, the Son of God, the One who would be the propitiation for our sins.
- The mistake that Job’s friends were making is the assumption that if a man has a right relationship with God then he wouldn’t have any problems. This is a false understanding.

Jesus said:

**John 16:33** *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”*

**2 Timothy 3:12** *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”*

- There is a false assumption based on an incomplete understanding of God; God doesn’t always work in the same way.
- <sup>3</sup>Job also understands that no man can contend with God, no man can match the wisdom of God.

**1 Corinthians 1:29** *“That no flesh should glory in His presence.”*

- The Herodians, the Sadducees, and the Pharisees all gave it their best shot, they each in turn exercised their wisdom attempting to ask Jesus questions with which they thought to ensnare Him, but in the end:

**Matthew 22:46** “And no man was able to answer Him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask Him any more questions.”

V: 4 Job extols the wisdom and power of God - “*He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength.*” Amen!

- Who has hardened his heart against God and prospered? Who has fought God and won?

**Isaiah 45:9** “Woe unto him that striveth with his maker!...”

- Job then continues to extol the virtues of God.

V: 5-9 Describing the various star formations, He created the universe - and everything in it.

- Progression: removes the mountains, shakes the earth, commands the sun, spreads out the heavens, made the constellations - bigger and bigger.

**Psalm 19:1** “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork.”

- <sup>8</sup>He alone walks on water; He does what no man can do.

**Matthew 14:25** “And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.”

- Seeing this from a New Testament perspective, it is pretty cool to note that Jesus walked on water - doing something that only God could do. And Jesus empowered those who believed in Him to do the same, thus Peter walked briefly on water.
- Reading about Jesus walking on water I already knew that this was a miraculous event, but I didn't realize that He was once again fulfilling OT scripture in the process.

V: 10 Who does great and awesome things - past finding out!

**Isaiah 55:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

**Psalm 71:15** “My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof.”

- Like the wind which can be so powerful and move so forcefully - we still don't see Him specifically.

“...*wonders without number.*” Without knowing it, Job is describing Jesus:

**John 21:25** “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.”

V: 11-18 He is mysterious... He is unstoppable... He is sovereign.

**1 Timothy 3:16** “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

- Job relates that he can't debate with God, he can't question God or say anything in his own defense.

We read in the Gospels how Jesus was silent before His accusers:

**Matthew 27:12** “And when He was accused of the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.”

**Mark 15:4-5** “<sup>4</sup>And Pilate asked Him again, saying, answerest thou nothing? Behold how many things they witness against thee. <sup>5</sup>But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled.”

- Had Jesus been there to pay the price for His own sins He could certainly have said something relating to His innocence, He could have spoken and offered a valid defense. But He wasn't there to pay the price for His sins, He was there to atone for, to pay the price for our sins, and there was nothing He could say because we are guilty, we have no valid defense - so he was silent - just as Job would be silent with no defense.

**Romans 9:20** “Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, why hast thou made me thus.”

- Job declares that God has broken him in a storm, a flurry of calamities - without cause, meaning Job doesn't know why. All he can do is make supplication, crying out for mercy.
- Things have happened so fast that Job can't catch his breath.

- <sup>18b</sup> Things may be happening at a breath taking pace, but God is not filling Job with bitterness - that's Job's doing.

**James 1:13** “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man.”

- Neither we nor Job can control our circumstances at times, we can't control what others do, but we can control how we react or respond to those things, we have a choice whether to be bitter or not. God did not fill Job with bitterness, if that's the case it's Job's choice.

V: 19-23 God only is strong, I can't talk about strength or power without talking about God.

- If I try to justify myself before God, even if he were perfect in men's eyes, he certainly couldn't justify himself before God - because God is perfect, and Job like us as men are not.

**Romans 3:10** “As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one.”

**Romans 3:23** “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

V: 21 Job doesn't trust his heart - “I don't even know my own soul / heart...”

**Jeremiah 17:9** “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

**Proverbs 28:26** “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool:...”

V: 22 God slays both the good, the righteous and the evil. God doesn't discriminate!

Peter said:

**Acts 10:34** “... of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.”

- There seems to be no difference between the two, but there is. The difference between the righteous and the wicked is that the righteous have placed their faith in God, and where they end up as a result.

**Galatians 3:6** “Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

V: 24-26 Job understood that Satan had been given dominion over the earth, as such he's blinded the eyes of the judges - including Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar.

- It seems like time is running out, the end is coming, things are moving swiftly.

**James 4:14** “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

**Psalm 90:12** “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

“<sup>25</sup>*my days ... they see no good.*” My time is slipping by, and nothing good is happening, it's all bad.

V: 27-28 If Job were to simply move on, forgetting his sorrow, and find comfort within himself and get going - there would still be that lingering remorse knowing that Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar would think of him as being guilty of some sin.

- Job didn't like the idea of his reputation / witness being spoiled. (As we should be.)
- This comment and the context of these and the following verses would also lend themselves to describing his position before God.
- It's not just that he can't prove his innocence before his comforters, he can't prove his innocence before his God either; we are all guilty in His sight.

V: 29-31 If I'm going to be guilty no matter what I do, then why should I even try?

**Psalm 73:13** “Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.”

- The Psalmist comes to understand that this is not truly the case, Job, and Paul will come to the same conclusion as well.

**1 Corinthians 15:58** “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

- Even if he washes himself, his friends will throw mud on him...
- Whether he's speaking of his friends or of God - he can't wash himself enough - he is still a wretch.
- Job see's himself as being in an impossible situation.

V: 32-33 Speaking of God: God is not a man that can be contended with or in any way equalled, we are not peers. God is infinite and limitless, man is limited in every way.

- God is holy, righteous, and true - Job is a sinner, even if he were the most righteous man on the planet - he is still a wretch before God and the gap is too great and seemingly there is none that can bridge so great a gap.
- Later in **Job chapters 38-41** the Lord asks him 77 questions. Job isn't able to answer a single one!
- His only response was to admit his ignorance and shut his mouth in silence.
- Job sees the need, somehow the gap between a Holy God and sinful man needs to be bridged or else mankind is doomed. Only God can bridge that Gap.

**1 Timothy 2:5** “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”

**Acts 4:12** “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

V: 34-35 Job's prayer is that he would not be stricken with any more blows from God, the rod of God, that the chastening of the Lord would soon end.

- There is a reverential fear, and there is a terror that lays hold of a man - Job is in the midst of that terror and he's afraid to speak, he's not in a place where he can say much.
- Sometimes it is better to just not say nothing.

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- We shouldn't attempt to justify ourselves before God - the smartest thing we can do is to admit our faults, to confess our need - and to come to God on His terms, to humble our selves before Him, and ask for His forgiveness.

**1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all un-righteousness.

- God's allowing Job to come to these conclusions, maybe you're in the same boat, maybe life is hitting you hard right now, maybe God is trying to speak to your heart because He wants you to come to Him.
- Surrender to Him, humble yourself under the mighty hand of God.