

Job Chapter 12

- Job is responding to Zophar's comfort / counsel / rebuke.
- Zophar left off saying "20... the eyes of the wicked shall fail, and they shall not escape, and their hope shall be as the giving up of the ghost." They will all perish!

V: 1-2 "No doubt..." like "oh yeah, right, sure..." "Wisdom shall die with you..."
When you're dead, there will no longer be wisdom in the world; and the rest of us will have to just get by without it...

- We've all probably run into the "know it all" personalities, always right, got it all figured out...and just gotta share it!
- Job may be having a very hard time but he's still got some spunk in him.

V: 3-6 He's saying, We're all on an equal footing here, who doesn't know these things?
I'm being mocked for calling upon God - but that is what often happens to those who trust in Him, the unbelieving mock.

- It has been said that when life is good we don't have too many questions, but when life is bad we don't have too many answers! It's easy for you guys to take the position you have, you're speaking in a philosophical sense, not by experience.
- They've been saying all along if you'll just get right with God you will prosper; throwing these cliché's out - but Job points out that wicked men prosper too.

Psalm 73:3, 17-19 "3For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked." - "17Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. 18Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. 19How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors."

V: 7-11 Perhaps the beasts / animals can teach you, maybe the birds, the earth, and the fish of the sea can declare unto you what all of nature already knows - that the Lord has done these things.

- In speaking this to Zophar, perhaps Job has come to the conclusion that he hasn't done anything wrong in particular and that God is just doing or allowing all these calamities for His own good reason.

V: 10 "In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind."
God is in absolute control.

V: 11 Just as the mouth can taste or distinguish between what is good or bad, bitter or sweet - in the same way my ears can discern right from wrong, true from false.

V: 12-15 "With the ancient is wisdom..." Ancient could refer to "old men" - because in length of day / age is wisdom - no one has more of that than the true "Ancient of days."

Daniel 7:9 "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire."

- Again, God is sovereign.

V: 16-17 We're all foolish compared to God:

1 Corinthians 3:19 "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

- Kind of funny in a way, the Apostle Paul is quoting **Job 5:13**.

V: 18-25 God does what he wants to do, He is all powerful, and He is not a respecter of persons, kings, princes, and the mighty are all subject to Him.

Deuteronomy 32:39 "See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god with Me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of My hand."

Job Chapter 13

V: 1-3 Job has seen these things with his own eyes and understands what time it is.

Romans 15:18 "For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought / accomplished by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed."

- Job would love to be able to talk to God about these things and to hear Him, to be able to reason with God. Perhaps that he might plead his case before the One who knows.

God invites us to do that:

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

- Job would much rather present his case before the Lord than these three earthly and heartless judges.

V: 4-5 “**But**” - contrasting word: “... *you are forgers of lies, physicians of no value...*”

- Liar, liar, pants on fire! Job is giving it back to them - physicians of no value, this has been a waste of time!
- “It’s better to keep your mouth shut, and let people think you’re a fool, than to open it and remove all their doubt.”

V: 6-12 Job is warning them to be careful about misrepresenting God. Moses would later do that and got into trouble over it

James 3:1 “*My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.*”

- ¹⁰Job says that God will reprove them, and later He does, the fear of God will fall upon them.

Job 42:7 “*And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job, the Lord said to Elihphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath.*”

V: 13a “*Hold your peace and let me alone...*” Be quiet and leave me alone! Pretty direct.

V: 13b-15 “¹³... *and let come on me what may,* ¹⁴*wherefore do I take my flesh in my teeth...*” I might be taking my life in my own hands here but...

¹⁵“*Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him...*” Considering all that he’s been through thus far - this is a statement of commitment and faith, he is still God’s upright man!

V: 15b “... *but I will maintain my own ways before Him.*” - because I’m not ashamed, I haven’t done anything wrong that I know of...” He probably doesn’t know what else to do...

V: 16 Job expresses both his confidence that God shall be and is his salvation, knowing that a hypocrite would be revealed as such in the presence of God.

- This is a tremendous statement of faith.

V: 17-19 Listen carefully, I’ve ordered my cause - I’ve got it straight in my mind now - I know I’ll be justified in the end. If I don’t say these things it’ll kill me.

V: 20-21 Job turns from his friends now to God. Job's prayer, two things he requests:

1. Please withdraw your hand from me. The boils, this pain, the suffering that I'm going through, please, for a time, withdraw thy hand far from me.
2. Let not thy dread make me afraid: I don't want to be afraid of what you might do.

V: 22-28 Tell me what I've done, help me to know how I have transgressed.

Psalm 139:23-24 “²³Search me O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

V: 24 When Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane praying to the Father, it wasn't the thought of the physical pain that concerned Him, it was that impending time of separation from the Father that caused Him grief.

- Here too Job seems to be lamenting the same thing “*wherefore hidest thou thy face...*” Job had a closeness and communion with God that led him to be the man of God that God would brag about - but now he senses that loss of intimacy, that loss of closeness, a sense of separation and distance.

David felt the same way:

Psalm 13:1 “How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? How long wilt thou hide thy face from me?”

- ²⁶Was it something from my youth?

Psalm 25:7 “Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness; sake, O Lord.”

- I'm being consumed in your correction.

Job Chapter 14

V: 1-3 Job essentially acknowledges who he is, who we are before God. Life is short.

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”

- Jacob, the father of Joseph was brought in to meet Pharaoh. Pharaoh asked him, “how old are you?” (That means he must have look very old...)

Genesis 47:9 “And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, the days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.”

- Jacob may have been thinking of Methuselah who when he got to 965 might have thought that life had been short too!

V: 4 Who can bring a righteous thing out of an un-righteous thing? No one can do that, at least no man.

- This points towards the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this points to the One who would make the un-righteous, righteous by His sacrifice in payment for our sin.

Romans 5:19 “For as by one mans disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”

- Job is asking all the right questions:

Job 9:33 Who would be a **daysman** between us, who can lay his hand upon both? The Son of Man, the Son of God - Jesus!

Job 10:7 Who can deliver us? Jesus our **deliverer!**

V: 4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? - Jesus!

V: 5-12 Man's days are numbered, limited, determined by God.

Hebrews 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

- Like a hireling they are glad to get to the end of the day, or the end of the race.

Psalms 90:10 “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”

- Seemingly, old age prepares us to leave this life - we begin to long for heaven, we to long for release from the limitations of our failing bodies.
- Trees grow back, but once a man dies there is no returning back from the grave.

V: 13-19 Oh that you would hide me, take me to the grave and hide me there until your wrath is passed by.

¹⁴If a man dies, shall he live again? Life after death, as opposed to death after death.

- Job is saying that if he could just believe this, it would help him, he could wait, he could endure. If there was more than just this life. And there is!
- Born once, die twice. Born twice, die only once.
- Our bodies are temporary and finite, they wear out. The soul / consciousness and spirit are eternal. Conscious of eternal pain and suffering, or conscious of being in the presence of God where there are pleasures for ever more!
- I am waiting for my appointed time to come - God will call and I will answer.
- You number my steps, you know all about my sin, they are sealed up in a bag.
- Time marches or wears on - all too slowly.

V: 20-22 Life goes on, our descendants continue on, we go, but the world keeps spinning.

- You prevail, you always win.
- This should bring us all to a greater appreciation of the hope that we have in Jesus; Job didn't have that revelation of Jesus as we do - he just hoped that God would do something - but we have that living hope.

Jesus said:

John 11:25 "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

- That's a promise! And there is a hope that we can all have!

Paul wrote:

Romans 8:18 "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

2 Corinthians 4:17 "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

- This puts things in perspective, we have a hope that is greater than anything that is in this life, good or bad because our hope is in Jesus.

1 Peter 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope / living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Romans 15:13 "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."