

## ***Job Chapter 15***

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- Sadly as we begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, Job's friends spend more time trying to prove him wrong than actually trying to comfort him.
  - Someone once described a theologian as a blind man in a dark room searching for a black cat that isn't there, and finding it.
  - This somewhat describes Job's comforters. They only saw one side of things, the side they wanted to see to begin with.
  - A true theologian walks in the light of God's revelation in His Word, in history, and in creation; and he humbly accepts the truth, no matter what the cost.
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V: 1-6 Eliphaz comes in now for round two. Should a wise man utter foolishness, useless speech that does no good? You're supposed to be wise, but you're not. You're full of hot air.

- You've revealed your own iniquity in your crafty / deceitful speech.

The Pharisees said the same thing of Jesus:

**Luke 22:71** "... what need we any further witness? For we ourselves have heard of His own mouth."

Jesus said:

**Matthew 15:18** "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man."

- Eliphaz is describing a right concept, he's just applying it in a wrong way. He is continuing in the same line of reasoning even though Job has already demonstrated that they are off course.
- Eliphaz was more concerned about being right than he was about Job's welfare. He might also have been concerned about his own theology. If Job were right and God did something outside the box, if God wasn't working in very strict and predictable ways then what happened to Job could just as easily happen to him. That would have to be a pretty scary thought.
- Eliphaz may have wanted to keep God in a tidy little box; God only blesses the good and righteous, he curses the wicked and bad and as long as I do this, this, and this - then I'm safe. The problem is that God doesn't always stay in our little boxes!

V: 7-13 Eliphaz challenges Job about his wisdom. Were you there when God made the hills? Are you the only one with wisdom. Then he alludes to the fact that he, Bildad, and Zophar are all older than his father - meaning because they've been around longer they are wiser and he should listen to them.

- Eliphaz's comments sound a lot like what we read in **Numbers Ch. 16** and what is referred to as "Korah's rebellion." Korah, Dathan, and Abiram challenged Moses saying "Ye take too much upon you..." You're not the only one who is holy, you're not the only one with wisdom. God dealt with that in a very firm way.
- <sup>11</sup>Is the comfort of God insufficient for you? Too small?
- <sup>12-13</sup>What have you winked at or approved, why have you turned away from God with your secret sin and speak such things? (Fishing & accusing)

V: 14-16 These verses could have been written by Paul describing the depravity of man, the inherent and naturally sinful nature of man.

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

- Eliphaz is communicating a Biblical truth; the issue is whether he is including himself in the commentary.
- None of us is clean or righteous, but as we believe, as we trust in God - like Abraham we're accounted righteous.

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

- God isn't trusting in us, all we've done is make a mess! We shouldn't trust us either - our trust needs to be in Jesus.
- <sup>15b</sup>The heavens aren't clean in His sight, not because of the smog; but because according to **Job 1:6** at that time Satan still had access to heaven. There is a day coming when he will no longer have access and it will be Holy and pure, nothing defiling.

V: 16 Eliphaz is correct, men are depraved, drinking up iniquity like water - and in his estimation they should be punished appropriately!

God knows what we are:

**Isaiah 53:6** "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way..."

- God knows that we're foolish sheep, prone to sin - and He has compassion upon us.
- David said the same thing as Eliphaz, but with a completely different heart!

**Psalm 8:4** "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?"

- Thank you Lord for your mercy, for your forgiveness, for your grace!

**Psalm 32:1-2** "1Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile."

V: 17-30 Responding to Zophar, Job's first words were essentially "this is what I've seen..." now Eliphaz is telling Job "well, let me tell you what I've seen..." which is what older, wiser men have described from their fathers - the wisdom of the ages.

- The wicked travail in pain all their days

V: 21-22 Job refuted their basic theology by saying that even the wicked prosper and those that provoke God live securely - Eliphaz counters that by saying well they were just being lulled into a false sense of security because it's when they prosper that the destroyed shall suddenly fall upon them - as he has with Job.

- Trouble and anguish shall make him afraid, and shall prevail against him. All of this because he stretches out his hand against God in sin.
- Because he covers his face in fatness and makes "collops of fat on his flanks..." Bulges of fat, plumpness, corpulence - like a corpulent life style.

*Amplified:* "27Because he has covered his face with his fat, adding layers of fat on his loins [giving himself up to animal pleasures],"

- Because of all of these things their day is coming as your day or reckoning has certainly come.

V: 31-35 Eliphaz is telling Job not to be deceived, nor to trust in vanity.

- We are warned throughout the Bible not to be deceived because that is exactly what the enemy would do. That is what he did in the garden of Eden, and that is what he does today:

**Matthew 24:4** "4And Jesus answered and said unto them, take heed that no man deceive you. 5For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."

- The congregation of the hypocrite shall be desolate - as he is at the moment, fire - like the flames of hell shall consume the dwelling place of the corrupt.

## ***Job Chapter 16***

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V: 1-5 “I’ve heard many such things...” this is just the same thing all over again. You guys are miserable comforters!

- Will you every stop talking? If our places were reversed I could say the same things and heap up words / accusations against you and shake my head at you - but I would rather strengthen you, and comfort you, and give you some relief.

**Proverbs 25:11** “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”

V: 6-11 Whether I speak, or I am silent it doesn’t bring me any comfort, dickering back and forth with you guys / comforters isn’t easing his grief or sorrow. It’s just tiresome.

- I don’t have to worry about corpulence or fatty bulges, all I’ve got is wrinkles where the fat used to be...

V: 12-15 Job again describes how he’s been afflicted: He’s been broken, and shaken to pieces, he’s made me a target for his archers.

V: 8-12 Job describes his miserable situation and at the same time gives us a prophetic description of Jesus:

8...**leanness rising up in me**: they count all my bones; all my bones are out of joint.

9... **gnashing upon him with their teeth**: Casting insults.

9... **sharpeneth his eyes upon me**: Psalm 22 “All they that see me laugh me to scorn:”

10... **gaping upon me with their mouth**: they shoot out the lip and shake the head.

10... **smitten me upon the cheek**: Jesus was smitten, beaten.

10... **gathered themselves against me**:

11... **delivered to the ungodly**: For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me.

12... **set me up for his mark**: hung up like a target, on a cross.

- Sometimes we also go through these things being made and conformed into His image:

**Philippians 2:10** “That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.”

“<sup>13</sup>He pours out my gall upon the ground...” - I’ve been gutted...

“<sup>15a</sup>... sewed sackcloth upon his skin” - the sackcloth no doubt stuck to his skin and sores as they ran and oozed.

“<sup>15b</sup>... and defiled my horn in the dust.” The “horn” was symbolic of power, like the horns on a bull - his power, his honor, his glory has been cast down into the dust, in other words he has no power, or honor, or glory - he’s been humbled.

V: 16-22 My face is foul with weeping - I’ve been crying my eyes out. “On my eyelids is the shadow of death;” - I’m almost gone...

- <sup>17</sup>Not for anything that I’ve done and my prayer before God has been right and pure.
- He’s praying now, let not the grave the earth cover or muffle his prayer - my witness and record are in heaven, God knows.

V: 21 “O that one might plead for a man with God...” that prayer is answered in the person of Jesus who does just that!

**1 John 2:1** “... And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

- My friends don’t know it, but God does. Oh that he could speak to God face to face like a man. Eventually he knows that he will die.

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## ***Job Chapter 17***

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V: 1-6 My breath is corrupt, like something unclean, or like death... he’s ready to die anyway...

- Let’s make a bargain on it, striking hands, not unlike saying “let’s shake on it...” or more contemporary... “ok sign right here...”
- Job laments that God has hidden the truth from them, God has hidden understanding of these things from them - a partial blindness not unlike what the Jews have experienced since they rejected Jesus as Messiah.

**Romans 11:25** “For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.”

- God allowed this blindness because they brought it upon themselves for their unwillingness to believe the truth. He does at times the opposite for those who yearn for the truth.

**Luke 24:45** “Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.”

- Job further laments that he’s become a “byword” of the people, he’s become disdainful in their sight, disgusting, an object of ridicule. The newer translations describe this as someone whose face they would spit upon. Whereas before he had been seen as a “tabret” or a tambourine, a joyful symbol. (Lucille Ball Queen of the Gypsies)

V: 7 “*My eyes are dim...*” I’m dying because of my sorrow.

**Psalm 6:7** “Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies.”

“... *my members are as a shadow.*” I’m really just a shadow of my former self.

V: 8-10 Upright men, honest men will be shocked by all of this and won’t stand for the ways of the hypocrite.

- The righteous will maintain their ways, no need to change - he’s speaking of himself. He that has clean hands will recover, get stronger and stronger.

**Psalm 24:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His Holy place? <sup>4</sup>He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.”

“<sup>10</sup>*But as for you...*” But it’s a whole different story with you guys... “*I can’t find a wise man among you.*”

- That doesn’t require a lot of comment, pretty straight forward.
- Wisdom and knowledge are two different things. Knowledge is just a series of facts or information, as in some cases being able to as an example to quote scripture, a lot of people including the Devil can do that. Wisdom is properly applying knowledge, or in this case properly applying scripture.
- Job’s friends are throwing biblical ideas and cliché’s out there, but not with the proper application. Job speaks it outright, there are no wise men among you.
- So apparently these are not the guys who visited baby Jesus.

**Proverbs 2:6** “For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.”

- Wisdom comes out of His mouth - the Word of God is wisdom!

V: 11-16 Job is saying he's a short timer. For several years before he went home to be with the Lord, Pastor Chuck would say that he had more years behind him than he had ahead of him - and we all get to that point eventually.

- Job is saying that it looks like he's about done - his purposes in life are just about done, he's in the twilight of his life.
- He's made his bed in darkness - like having worked late, and having gone from work to bed. The grave is his home now, he will go to corruption, to decay, and to the worms.
- Where is my hope? What am I going to do?
- Job has made another of those emotional swings back towards confusion and uncertainty.
- Like us at times he's come to what he doesn't know and needs to fall back on what he does know, even if it seems to defy reality.
- God is good. God loves me. God's will is perfect. God's Word is true!
- God did not answer Job's plea for death because He had something far better planned for him, God wasn't done with Job, and He's not done with us!

**Jeremiah 29:11** “For I know the thought that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”