
Job Chapter 18

V: 1-3 Bildad responds this his 2nd time as they are taking turns in a rotation with Job. He responds with the same words, impatiently.

- Bildad doesn't change his tactic, pretty much the same as before, attacking Job's character and credibility.
- Stop and give it some thought, say something meaningful, then we'll talk.
- Job said that, "they have gaped upon me." This is a phrase that is used of ravenous beasts.
- So Bildad asks the question: Why are we considered "beasts" in your sight - unintelligent? Why are we "vile" in your sight - abominable, or wicked in your sight?

V: 4 "You are just hurting yourself in your misdirected anger - we're not the problem, you are."

5-21 An extensive listing or description of what happens ultimately to the wicked, what can be expected.

V: 15 In Israel today they are doing what Bildad suggested: when they identify suicide bombers or those who commit acts of terror they find their houses and bulldoze them to the ground.

V: 18 "He shall be driven from light into darkness." Wrong direction.

1 Peter 2:9 "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light."

- Basically, Bildad is telling Job that he's going to hell.

V: 21 This is what happens to those that don't know God, they go to hell.

- Generally that is a true statement; but it's not true of Job.

Job Chapter 19

V: 1-4 "How long will you torment me, and tear me apart with your words?"

- You have reproached me over and over, 10 times - you're hardened your heart against me.
- If I have sinned and brought this upon myself, for the life of me I can't figure out what it might have been - I guess it's buried in me somewhere.

V: 5-10 If you're going to magnify yourselves at my expense; just know that God has done these things, not you.

- Bildad has said that the wicked get caught in their own nets, their own schemes. Job said, it is God who has overthrown me. I've been caught in God's net.
- God has completely overthrown me, I'm trapped in His net, I'm done for.
- ⁷⁻⁸I've cried out to Him, but He's not intervened. I can't move, I don't know what to do.
- ⁹⁻¹⁰He's taken everything away, I have no glory or pride.

V: 11-12 *"He hath kindled His wrath against me, and counts me as His enemy."*

- From Job's perspective, he's seemingly just stating a fact, not judging God or saying anything negative about God.
- I'm surrounded, out numbered, and outgunned - there's nothing I can do about it.

V: 13-19 Job has described how God has seemingly forsaken him, now he describes how that those he loves, how men have forsaken him.

- Job's feelings may have led him to this conclusion but the truth of the matter is that God never forsakes us! Never!

Isaiah 49:15-16 ¹⁵Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. ¹⁶Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me."

Hebrew 13:5 "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

- Besides losing his family, wealth, and health - his friends (acquaintances / fair weather friends) and remaining family have forsaken him, even his servants have distanced themselves.

- His wife who told him to curse God and die, hasn't warmed up to him much - he is repulsive to her.
- Those whom he has loved have turned against him.

Both David and Jesus were familiar with this:

Psalm 41:9 "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread hath lifted up his heel against me."

V: 20 My bones stick to my flesh, there is nothing in between.

- He's barely escaped, by the skin of his teeth - which is pretty narrow!

V: 21a Job's plea: Have pity on me!

- *Abraham Lincoln said that he has a right to criticize who has a heart to help.*
- Job's friends, however, weren't there to help. They might initially have come with that in mind. But now they were more interested in being right than in doing right.

V: 21b For the hand of God has touched me!

Hebrews 10:31 "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

- This might be an issue of semantics; but wasn't Satan the one who actually afflicted Job?
- All that Job knew was that there wasn't any big sin in his life that merited this seeming judgment or affliction.
- We could easily say that God removed His hand of protection from Job and allowed Satan to afflict Job. Could God have protected him?
- The answer is "yes" he could have done just. We can pretty much say the same thing about the various difficulties and trials that come into our own lives as well.
- When we examine the hand of God that could have shielded Job, that could have shielded us, what do we see? We see a Holy hand - pun intended. We see a hand that was pierced for us as He was nailed to the cross. We see the mark and proof of His love for us.
- It's easy to judge God for not having protected us the way we think He should have, but as we begin to examine the hand of God we see once again the proof of His love.

- **God is absolutely and totally in love with each one of us and the nail prints prove it!**

John 15:13 “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

- He proved His love by dying in our place. He loves us and will always do what is best for us; including at times allowing the most difficult things into our lives because in some way it is the best thing for us.
- Like Job we may be confused, confounded, frustrated, or angry, but the reality of it is that Jesus loves us and He will use it for good.

Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

James 1:2-4 “²My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴but let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

-
- Looking back at what Job has said concerning himself here in chapter 19, once again we see a picture of Jesus:
 - The answer to all of Job’s questions, and the answer to ours is always found in Jesus.

1. **V: 7** Job said, “**I cry out to God but I’m not heard.**”

Jesus cried from the cross:

Matthew 27:46 “... **Eli, Eli, la-ma sa-bach-tha-ni, that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me?**”

2. **V: 8** Job said: “**My path is covered in darkness.**”

- **Matthew, Mark, & Luke** all record that darkness covered the face of the earth as Jesus hung on the cross.

3. **V: 9** Job said: “**I am stripped of my glory and my crown has been taken.**”

- Jesus was stripped as He hung on the cross and the crown of His majesty was replaced by a crown of thorns.

4. **V: 10a** Job said: “**God has destroyed me...**”

Speaking of Jesus:

Isaiah 52:14 “As many were astonished at thee; His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.”

5. **V: 10b** Job said: “...my hope has been removed like a tree.”

Galatians 3:13 “... for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”

- Jesus was pinned to a tree.

6. **V: 11** Job said: “God has kindled His wrath against me.”

Colossians 3:6 “For which things sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.”

- The wrath that should have been poured out on each of us was poured out on Jesus.

Isaiah 53:5 “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”

7. **V: 12** Job said: “His troops, God’s armies are come together against me.”

- Jesus was crucified not only by Roman soldiers, but by all of us.

8. **V: 13** Job said: “My family and friends are estranged from me.”

Isaiah 53:3 “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.”

- Jesus’ own brothers didn’t believe in Him, and His disciples ran from Him.

V: 22 Why are you persecuting me, adding to my pain, as God has - and you’re not satisfied with my flesh? You want more?

Zophar:

Job 11:6 “... know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth.” (You have not been punished as much as you deserve to be...)

- Job is probably at the lowest point of his life at this time.

V: 23-24 That prayer was answered in the affirmative - it’ll be a best seller, it’s just that he wouldn’t be around to read it.

V: 25-27 Statement of faith: My Redeemer lives! I know that I'm going to see my Savior!

- This is an incredible declaration of faith even in the midst of his suffering and grief.

Hebrews 13:15 “By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

- This was truly a “sacrifice” of praise. He probably didn't feel like it, he'd just as soon have died, yet he praised God with his lips, and with his heart.
- This praise, this worship is the result of a revelation in Job's heart:

Job 9:33 Job longed for a “daysman” that could bridge the gap between sinful man and God, between himself and God.

Job 10:7 Job was looking for a “deliverer.”

Job 16:21 Job said “I wish I had an advocate.”

Now:

Job 19:25 “I know that my Redeemer lives! And I will see God!”

- There is an increasingly clear and powerful revelation that takes place as Job continues in his trials and difficulties.
- Job is weary, distressed, and confused, but there are fantastic revelations that come to him in the midst of and through his tribulation.
- In the midst of his and our tribulations there is that glorious revelation of who our Lord is.
- We see it throughout the Bible, whenever God's people go through tribulations and difficulties, testing, and trials, they inevitably receive fresh understanding and revelation concerning the nature, and character of God, the reality of our Lord.
- When Job was at the bottom, he started looking up in a way that perhaps he never had before.
- It's the difficulties that make us long for heaven, that is part of why the Lord allows them into our lives.
- Job would have a greater understanding of who God is and a greater hope for the future solely because of his losses and difficulties.

“... *in my flesh shall I see God.*” - This is not the end of the road for me!

- Job had certainly described the different things that grieved him, and the bitter trial he was going through - but he also gave us the secret to getting through them.

“²⁶*And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.*”

- Job looked past his problems and his grief - and he kept his hope, he kept his faith, he cast his eyes on Jesus.

V: 28-29 You should ask yourselves why you're persecuting me, the real issue is within your own heart!

Jesus said:

Matthew 7:3-5 “³And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? ⁴Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? ⁵Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.”

- Warning: be afraid of the sword your own self! You might provoke the wrath of God and bring His sword upon yourselves - that you may know that God does judge righteously. There is a coming day of judgment! You will be held accountable.

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

- There are two judgments coming. The **Great White Throne** judgment of non-believers described in **Revelation chapter 20** where the books would be opened, whoever was not found in the Lamb's book of life was cast into the lake of fire.
- The other judgment is for believers, whose sins were already judged on Calvary, the **Bema Seat of God (2 Corinthians 5:10)** - judging our works, the things done for God, whether they are good or bad. Wood, hay, and stubble - or gold & silver.

What about you?