

Job Chapter 22

- Sadly what should have been an encouraging discussion among friends has become an angry and painful debate.

V: 1-3 Eliphaz responds by asking a rhetorical question; can we really be “profitable” to God, can we bless God or give Him any pleasure with our righteousness.

Luke 17:10 “So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.”

- The answer generally is no: We have no righteousness, God is not impressed.

Isaiah 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

- Even on our best day, we’re not up to God’s standard, we fall very far short of it.

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

- While it is true that we can’t impress Him with our righteousness, isn’t that what He calls us to?
- God has called us, chosen us, ordained us, that we should be His disciples, that we should bear good fruit in His name.
- He calls us to His righteousness and we come to that through His Son!

Romans 3:22 “Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:”

- Eliphaz is asking Job; do you think it’s pleasing to God that you claim to be righteous?

V: 4 NIV: “*Is it for your piety that He rebukes you and brings charges against you?*”

- God is not a respecter of persons, we’re all the same in His eyes:

Acts 10:34 “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.”

V: 5-11 Is not thy wickedness great? Infinite? You’re like the world’s greatest sinner!

1 Timothy 1:15 Paul referred to himself as the chiefest of sinners...

- This is just another fishing trip, speculative accusations - taking pledges of people for naught - taking advantage of the poor. People would use what they had as collateral for a loan including their clothing.
- Taking the collateral and giving them nothing in return, taking advantage of them, cheating them.
- They might need money for food, and give their warm cloak as collateral for a small loan - which when they re-paid they would get the cloak back; but if they were that poor then they were supposed to get their cloak / coat regardless.

Deuteronomy 24:12-13 “¹²And if the man be poor, thou shalt not sleep with his pledge: ¹³In any case thou shalt deliver him the pledge again when the sun goeth down, that he may sleep in his own raiment, and bless thee: and it shall be righteousness unto thee before the Lord thy God.”

- Eliphaz is saying that Job hasn't done this, he's taken advantage of the poor.
- An important custom of the day, part of the Eastern custom was to give water to a traveller, to a weary person. Especially important in an arid, desert area; water being so important, so vital for life.

Jesus said

Mathew 10:42 “And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”

- He's accused of having withheld both water and bread from the needy.
- ⁸The “mighty man” speaking of the strong, speaking of Job - he's lived the good life, while taking advantage of the poor, the widows, and the orphans. You've done all these things!

V: 12-14 You thought you could hide these things from God, but He see's it all.

Proverbs 15:3 “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”

Psalms 147:5 “Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite.”

- God does indeed see it all, but Job wasn't hiding anything to begin with.
- Mention is made in V: 14 of the “circuit of heaven.” The study of astronomy reveals that there are indeed “orbits” or “circuits” that the various planets and bodies follow.

- The Bible is not a scientific book per se, but the Bible is scientifically accurate where it addresses the issues of science.
- “Science” once thought that the earth was flat and that if you sailed far enough on the ocean that you would sail over the edge. Galileo was condemned for suggesting that the earth was round. This was during the the early 17th century.

Isaiah 40:22 “It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, ...”

My favorite scientific verse in the Bible is the first verse in the Bible:

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning (time) God (Elohim, uni-plural noun, trinity) created (bara) the heaven (space) and the earth (matter).(period)”

V: 15-17 You’re going down the wrong path, the way of the wicked, those that have said they want nothing to do with God.

- “¹⁶Cut down out of time...” - meaning an untimely death.

V: 18-19 God blesses the good and the bad; even the bad receive God’s blessing, but sadly this is as good as it’s going to get. They didn’t appreciate what’s been given or who gave it.

- Eliphaz is talking about Job and all his wealth. The fact that Job was a very wealthy man was evidence of God’s kindness, not of Job’s righteousness.
- First they said that God blesses the righteous and punishes the wicked, and now Eliphaz claims that God blesses the hypocrites and fills his house with good things. Job can’t win...
- The wicked are cut down early in life (V: 16), and the righteous see it and are glad, they laugh the wicked to scorn.
- This might explain a lot of what and why Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar are saying...

Proverbs 24:17 “Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth.”

V: 20-30 Eliphaz had previously described the path of the wicked who want nothing to do with God, now he describes those that God delights in.

- “²⁰Look at us, we still have all our stuff” - his perspective, still very much in line with his theology.

- Acquaint yourself with God, receive his law, repent / return to the Almighty...
- Even though the Law of Moses did not yet exist (400 years away) God's law was known by man, God had given it for men to know.
- ²⁴The righteous shall be blessed. If he returns to the Almighty then he can expect to receive gold and riches beyond measure.
- Perhaps the faith healers and those involved in the "name it and claim it" ministries got their inspiration from Eliphaz's counsel here in Job.

V: 28 "Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee..."

V: 30 Eliphaz finishes by suggesting that man can be saved, delivered by "the pureness of thine hands..."

- He is talking about a "self-righteousness" obtained by the keeping of the laws of God, which we know to be impossible.

Philippians 3:9 "And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith."

Romans 1:17 "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith."

Job Chapter 23

V: 1-2 Job responds, but not to Eliphaz, he still has a bitter complaint, the stroke, the blow is still heavy upon him - he hasn't been comforted much.

V: 3-7 "If I could just talk to God in person, if I could stand before His judgment seat... then I'd be ok." He could understand God, these other guys not so much...

- Eliphaz told Job to find God and get right with Him - Job is saying he'd love to find God!
- Job knows that his only comfort is in the Almighty, his only strength is in God.

Psalms 18:2 "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

V: 8-9 The problem is that I can't seem to find Him, and He's not answering my calls.

- He looked in front, and behind, to the left, and to the right - he should have been looking up!

Isaiah 6:1 “In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the Temple.”

Luke 21:28 “And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”

V: 10-12 Job can't seem to find God, but he's confident that God can find him, God knows the way he goes.

- Sometimes we have a hard time finding God; so we need to let God find us.

John 4:23 “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.”

- As we worship God in Spirit and in Truth, He will find us!

“^{10b}*When He hath tried me...*”

- Some people go into the furnace of affliction, and it burns them; others go in, and the experience purifies them. What makes the difference? Attitude - their attitude toward the Word of God and the will of God.
- If we are nourished by the Word and submitted to His will, the furnace experience, painful as it may be, will refine us and make us better.
- But if we resist God's will and fail to feed on His truth, the furnace experience will only burn us and make us bitter.
- Job is confident that he will come forth as gold:

1 Peter 1:7 “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

- God knows my ways, He knows that I've kept His ways and not departed from them. When he gets before God, he going to be just fine! Confidence and faith!

Job 19:25-26 “²⁵For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the later day upon the earth: ²⁶And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:”

- Job is saying that he's been obedient to God's commandments, and that he loves God's Word.
- He has esteemed, valued God's word more than the food that keeps his physical body alive.

The prophet Jeremiah loved God's Word:

Jeremiah 15:16 "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts."

Reminds me of the words of Jesus:

Matthew 4:4 "... it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

V: 13-17 But He is of one mind - God has decided, who can turn Him from His intended course of action? No one, He is sovereign.

Isaiah 46:9-10 "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me, ¹⁰declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure."

- God is doing things that I don't understand, it scares me, I don't understand His purposes, I don't know what He will do next.

This becomes an issue of faith, and must be considered in light of:

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

- I'm confused, why am I still here?

Job Chapter 24

- "God perplexes me." This chapter focuses on the seeming injustices that God permits in the world.

V: 1 "Why does the Almighty not set times for judgment? Why must those who love Him look in vain for such days?" NIV

- Why doesn't God have specific days to hold court? Then I could attend and tell Him what I think of the way He's running the world!"

V: 2-11 Job laments over those who live in the fields, on the farms who have bad things happen to them.

- Property markers are moved, flocks are stolen. Orphan's donkeys are stolen - widow's oxen are taken for payment of debts - their livelihood is taken away.
- The poor work hard, but other people enjoy the fruit of their labor
- As we talked about in the previous chapter, the poor sleep at night without clothing, taken as a pledge by those who would take advantage of them.
- They are exposed to the elements, the fatherless (no protection) are taken from their mothers breast, little children not yet weened, taken to satisfy debts.
- Job is saying to his friends, "if God judges the wicked, why hasn't He judged those who have treated the poor so cruelly?"

V: 12-18 Job switches gears, and talks about the bad things that happen in the city.

V: 13 These are they who "rebel against the light..."

John 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

- ¹⁴Murderers are getting away with their crime every day; I haven't murdered anybody, yet his friends say that he's under the judgment of God!
- ¹⁵Sexual sin: adulterers & rapists waiting for opportunity to satisfy their desires. God doesn't seem to be doing anything about it.

V: 19-25 This is Job's personal denunciation, or his curse upon the wicked.

V: 19 Hell and the grave just keep swallowing up those who do these things:

Isaiah 5:14 "Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descent into it."

V: 20 The wicked shall be forgotten, not remembered, even by their own mothers.

V: 21 May their wives be barren and give them no heirs.

V: 22 He draweth the mighty..." He has provoked God!

V: 25 Prove me wrong if you can.

- There is a lot of injustice in the world today; but one day the Lord Jesus Christ will return, He will judge the wicked, he will bless the righteous, and establish His kingdom forever.

Revelation 22:20 “Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus!”

Ref.Job.22-24