



When God Can't Be Found

Job 22-24

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- All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted.
- God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.
- Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

The God of Israel, the Savior, is sometimes a God that hides Himself, but never a God that absents Himself; sometimes in the dark, but never at a distance.

- Matthew Henry

A. Eliphaz: "Three Serious Accusations," Job 22

1. Job, you are a career sinner. (vv. 1-11)

Job 22:5, NASB95 -⁵ "Is not your wickedness great, And your iniquities without end?"

2. Job, you are hiding your sins. (vv. 12-20)

Job 22:12-14, NLT -¹² "God is so great—higher than the heavens, higher than the farthest stars. ¹³ But you reply, 'That's why God can't see what I am doing! How can he judge through the thick darkness?' ¹⁴ For thick clouds swirl about him, and he cannot see us. He is way up there, walking on the vault of heaven.'

3. Job, you need to repent of your sins. (vv. 21-30)

Job 22:21-23, NLT -²¹ "Submit to God, and you will have peace; then things will go well for you. ²² Listen to his instructions, and store them in your heart. ²³ If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored— so clean up your life."

B. Job: "Three Significant Complaints," Job 23-24

1. God is hiding from me. (vv. 23:1-12)

Job 23:3, NLT -³ If only I knew where to find God, I would go to His court.

2. God is greater than me. (vv. 23:13-17)

Job 23:13, NCV -¹³ "But He is the only God. Who can come against him? He does anything He wants."

"There is no attribute of God more comforting to His children than the doctrine of *divine sovereignty*, on the other hand, there is no doctrine more hated by worldlings."
- C. H. Spurgeon

3. God doesn't make sense to me. (vv. 24:1-25)

Job 24:1, NASB95 -¹ "Why..."

A. Why are the borders not established? (vv. 24:1-8)

B. Why are there such injustices in our country? (vv. 24:9-12)

C. Why are there such injustices in our cities? (vv. 24:13-15)

D. Why are there sexual sins that go unpunished? (vv. 24:16-17)

E. Why are the truly wicked not punished? (vv. 24:18-25)

Job 24:25, NLT -²⁵ Can anyone claim otherwise? Who can prove me wrong?"

C. What to remember when God Can't be Found

John 7:1-11, NLT -¹ After this, Jesus traveled around Galilee. He wanted to stay out of Judea, where the Jewish leaders were plotting his death. ² But soon it was time for the Jewish Festival of Shelters, ³ and Jesus' brothers said to Him, "Leave here and go to Judea, where your followers can see Your miracles!" ⁴ You can't become famous if You hide like this! If You can do such wonderful things, show Yourself to the world!" ⁵ For even His brothers didn't believe in Him. ⁶ Jesus replied, "Now is not the right time for Me to go, but you can go anytime. ⁷ The world can't hate you, but it does hate me because I accuse it of doing evil. ⁸ You go on. I'm not going to this festival, because My time has not yet come." ⁹ After saying these things, Jesus remained in Galilee. ¹⁰ But after His brothers left for the festival, Jesus also went, though secretly, staying out of public view. ¹¹ The Jewish leaders tried to find Him at the festival and kept asking if anyone had seen him.

1. God doesn't have to be seen to still be present.

2. God doesn't have to be seen, felt, or heard to still be working.

3. When God *can't be found*, be confident that He is about to show up in a mighty way.

4. Be careful to proceed by faith—and not feelings.