

- I) V1-5 INTRO: Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble
Job has been complaining to his friends for their lack of understanding
He has taken their advice as an attack, and has responded with a rebuke
- II) Obviously there are times when a person has to respond to someone's criticism
When done properly, a response can actually become a learning experience
Pr 26:5 Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes.
- III) He had already made a few strong statements to his friends
Ch. 12:2-3 No doubt you are the people and wisdom will die with you!
Ch. 13:1-2 Behold, my eye has seen all this, my ear has heard and understood it. What you know, I also know; I am not inferior to you!
- IV) He is frustrated with their lack of compassion and the direction of their comments
His conclusion of Ch 13 is rather touching:
Job 13:24 Why do You hide Your face, and regard me as Your enemy
- V) He feels abandoned by God, and like an object of God's anger, unfairly
He doesn't understand why he is going through such pain
Job 7:20 Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, So that I am a burden to myself?
- VI) Ch 14:1-5 He continues his address but it assumes a different note
He begins to evidence a kind of calm, as if he has vented his frustrations
- VII) V1-2 Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble
Man's life span, because of it being shortened by sin, is of relatively short and troubled
- VIII) This is something that is repeated in this book
Job 7:6-7 My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. Oh, remember that my life is a breath! My eye will never again see good
Job 9:25 Now my days are swifter than a runner; they flee away, they see no good
- IX) The brevity of human life is a common thought in scripture
Ps. 39:5 You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath.
Ps. 90:10 The length of our days is seventy years-- or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

Jas 4:14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

I saw a t-shirt imprinted with the words: He who dies with the most toys *still dies*

I) Life is short and without hope in God man's life is so often short, and troubled
Hope comes from God: Hope is the only tie which keeps the heart from breaking

Lam 3:24 The LORD *is* my portion," says my soul, "Therefore *I hope in Him!*"

Ps 119:114 You *are* my hiding place and my shield; I *hope in Your word.*

II) Why do we hope in His word: His promises that He has made to us
We hope in Him and His word because He is light, and in Him is no darkness
He is the truth, and we can trust Him

III) When you think of God's mighty power, you might say *nothing is impossible for Him*

IV) Actually, there are some things impossible for Him to do

Heb 6:18 says: it is impossible for God to lie

Job 34:10 Far be it for God to do wickedness

1 Jn 1:5 It is impossible for God to have darkness (God is light and there is no darkness in Him at all)

Ps 121:4 He doesn't sleep: Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep

Is 40:28 Can't become tired: The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, faints not neither is weary

Heb 11:6 Without faith, It is impossible for Him to be pleased because he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is rewarder of those who diligently seek Him

V) V2 He comes forth like a flower and fades away He flees like a shadow and does not

Some flowers only bloom for a single day:

Daylilies, Mexican Shell Flowers, Hibiscus, Echinopsis cactus and Ohio

Spiderwort

Their beauty is temporary

VI) V2 He flees like a shadow

SHADOWS: Also flee away (like the shadow of a cloud, or of a passing car)

When the sun goes down, the shadow disappears

VII) V3 And do you open your eyes on such a one and bring me to judgment with

Yourself

You are the supreme Lord, are holy and all powerful: why look upon someone like me

VIII) I am just a flower and a shadow!

You on the other hand, are the everlasting God

Ps 90:2 Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

IX) V4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one!

No man can spiritually cleanse another man: He is unclean, by nature

I) Man doesn't become a sinner, man is sinful from conception

Ps. 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Eph 2:1-3 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were *by nature children of wrath*, just as the others.

II) This knowledge of our own sins is used by God to draw us to Himself

It is what causes us to seek Him for forgiveness and to ask for a new life

Ps. 51:2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Ps. 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

III) V5 Since his days are determined, the number of his months is with You

Man's life is limited in its duration by God

Ps. 39:4 Show me, O LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life.

IV) Because our lives are limited, it is important for us to use that knowledge wisely

Ps 90:2 So teach *us* to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Lu 12:20 But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

V) V6 Look away from him that he may rest till like a hired man he finishes his day

Lit: Stop watching him continually: give him some breathing room, a space to rest

Give him a reason to rejoice when his life ends, for the right reason

- VI) V7-9 For there is hope for a tree if it is cut down, that it will sprout again
An olive tree can be cut down, but actually can be revived and grow
Even if it appears to be dead, when it receives water it can once again sprout
- Vii) Job should have taken hope from this reality
- VIII) V10-12 But man dies and is laid away; indeed he breathes his last and where is he?
In comparison, man is not capable of this: he dies and all hope dies with him
- IX) This reveals his lack of a developed understanding of an afterlife
This understanding was progressively revealed over time
- X) V13 Oh that You would hide me in the grave, that You would conceal me until
Your
I wish You would put me in a hiding place until Your wrath is satisfied
- I) I said trees have more hope than I do, but I would wish You would put me in the
grave
I wish You would put me there, but remember where I am and reclaim me
- II) V14 *If a man dies shall he live again?* All the days of my hard service (warfare) I
will wait
This is the ancient question posed by man from almost the beginning
The answer to this question is yes
- III) The unrighteous are in hades, the righteous are with Jesus
Rev 20:13-15 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades
gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what
he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire
is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he
was thrown into the lake of fire.
2 Co 5:8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and
at home with the Lord.
Jn 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive
you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also.
- IV) V15 You shall call and I will answer You You shall desire the work of Your hands
Though Job had suffered greatly, he still had a glimmer of hope for the
resurrection
He was not not sure of all that it meant, but he obviously believed in an afterlife
- V) V16-17 For now You number my steps but do not watch over my sin My

transgression

Though he has hope for the future, he finds it hard to get past what is happening now

VI) You have numbered my steps, looking closely at how I have lived and found my faults

I would ask that You might overlook what I have done and be merciful to me
Please forgive me for my sins, and do not punish me for them

VII) V17 My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and You cover my iniquity
People would put money in a bag, and then seal it (lock it up) and store it
The sense here is You have counted up my sins and have an exact count of them

VIII) Covering speaks of storing the sins in the bag and having it sealed so none are lost

IX) V18-19 CLOSE THIS SECTION WITH SORROW:

X) V18 But as a mountain falls and crumbles away and as a rock is moved from its place

Even a mountain can be worn down over time
The mountain erodes, and rocks are exposed and then roll down its face
Water erodes the stones that are exposed and floods remove the stone

I) V19 Even so, through constant pressure a man's hope is often squeezed out of him

I am completely undone, and with no hope at all

II) V20 You prevail forever against him and he passes on You change his countenance

You remove his smile and replace it with an expression of sorrow from pain
You overpower him and he dies, and his face and body are altered over time
You send him away, by death and you put him in Sheol

III) V21 His sons come to honor and he does not know it they are brought low and he does

Even if his children are honored or humbled, he is dead and doesn't know

IV) V22 But his flesh will be in pain over it and his soul will mourn over it

As he is dying, his pain kept him from noticing life around him
Ultimately as he dies, he dies without hope and only in sorrow

V) 15:1-3 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said Should a wise man answer with

You should know better: Your speech is empty, and you are not demonstrating wisdom

You have spoken unprofitably, your words are like the scorching hot east winds

VI) V3 Should he reason with unprofitable talk, or by speeches with which he can do no good

You are not a wise man because your words are not able to help anyone

VII) V4 Yes you cast off fear and restrain prayer before God

Your speech to God demonstrates a lack of proper reverence

The way you speak is without spiritual wisdom, and hinders devout men from praying

VIII) V5 For your iniquity teaches your mouth and you choose the tongue of the crafty

Your unspiritual flesh is prompting your words and you are speaking from carnality

Because of this, you speak improperly when you deny that you deserve this

IX) V6 Your own mouth condemns you and not I yes your own lips testify against you

The way you are speaking reveals how carnal you actually are!

Your own words will be used to condemn you

X) V7-13 Eliphaz launches into a prolonged rebuke of Job

Do you have uncorrupted intelligence, being the first man? Do you have long life, giving great wisdom? Do you have a direct pipeline to God? Are you the only one who has wisdom alive today? Have you not seen that many of us are aged and are equal to you? Have our words of consolation, inspired by God not been enough? Why does the pride of your heart carry you away? Why are you rolling your eyes at us? Why are you so angry with us, speaking in the way that you are to us?

I) POINT: You need to listen to us, because we are speaking to you from God

Why are you treating us with such disrespect? Making faces at us?

II) V14-16 What is man that he could be pure? And he who is born of woman that he could

Eliphaz returns to his original argument

Job 4:17-19 Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more

pure than his Maker? If He puts no trust in His servants, If He charges His angels with error, How much more those who dwell in houses of clay, Whose foundation is in the dust, Who are crushed before a moth?

III) This is a perfect description of man's sin nature

Our sin nature is corrupt and sin is something we, by nature, desire

Ps 14:2-3 The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; *There is none who does good, No, not one.*

Ps 53:3 Every one of them has turned aside; They have together become corrupt; *There is none who does good, No, not one.*

IV) V17 HIS ARGUMENT: I will tell you, hear me What I have seen I will declare
His experience dictates a very simple truth: Wicked people suffer
You suffer, because you have done wrong before God

V) V18 What wise men have told not hiding anything received from their fathers
I am giving you undiluted wisdom, handed down over the ages by wise men

VI) These men were the ones God gave special wisdom to
They weren't intermingled with nations who served false gods, with corrupt wisdom

No foreigner lived amongst them, diluting the wisdom they had from God

VII) V20-26 Wicked man writhes with pain all his days and the number of years is hidden

This is the result of his experience, but it is not necessarily so

Ps. 73:3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

VIII) V20 The wicked man's life is filled with pain, he doesn't know how long he will live so he lives in continual fear of dying.

V21 He never knows when his wealth will be taken from him by force.

V22 The wicked man never feels safe, always afraid that he is about to be attacked by an enemy.

V23 He is always in search of bread to satisfy his flesh, and lives awaiting judgment that he may receive what he has sown.

V24 He never has peace or comfort, having been overpowered by fear.

I) V25 He has boldly sinned against God, in defiance of Him

V26 He has attacked God, stubbornly resisting Him as he assaults God and opposes Him

II) V27-35 Though he has covered his face with fatness and made his waist heavy with fat

The reason why he attacks God is because he is rich and successful

III) Fat represents prosperity

Pr 11:25 The liberal (generous) soul shall be made fat: and he who waters shall be watered also himself.

Pr 13:4 The soul of the sluggard desires, and has nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Pr 15:30 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart: and a good report makes the bones fat

Pr 28:25 He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife: but he who puts his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.

IV) V28 He dwells in desolate cities in houses which no one inhabits which are destined

The result of his rejecting God is desolation and isolation

These places are destined to simply end up abandoned ruins

V) V29 He will not be rich nor will his wealth continue nor will his possessions overspread

His luxury and wealth will not multiply and will not endure

VI) V30 He will not depart from darkness the flame will dry out his branches

His misery will have no end, his wealth disappear:

God will bring His judgment upon him

VII) V31-33 Let him not trust in futile things, deceiving himself for futility will be his reward

All of the things that he relies on are unstable, and disappointment is all he'll get

V33 He will lose everything that held value for him quickly, and even violently

V34 He will lose his dwelling place and his family, and those who pervert justice will lose everything

V35 Suffering and disaster is the result of living in an evil way, and doing wrong

VIII) HIS POINT: Judgment will come upon all hypocrites

Job: Repent, because it is already coming upon you

IX) Much of this is true: But Job is not guilty of what Eliphaz has accused him of