

- I) **V1-4 INTRO: Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said**
- II) **Job had made his complaint to God and spoke of the bitterness of his soul
He had asked God to reveal to him why He was contending with him**
- III) **As he did so, he tried to reason with God by giving vent to his frustration and questions
It is good to oppress and despise the work of Your hand
Does not Your ability to know all things reveal that I am innocent?**
- IV) **You fashioned me with Your hands, but You would destroy me and I don't know why
What have I done to deserve this
I am simply a miserable man, I am unrighteous and filled with disgrace**
- V) **Why did You let me survive childbirth? Leave me alone, I am in such need of comfort
Please God: Just let me die, because I cannot take any more of this pain**
- VI) **As Job complains, Zophar now begins to speak
He is one of his comforters and his words are devoid of understanding or compassion**
- VII) **Zophar is an interesting man
Because he is third to speak, he is most likely the youngest of the men
He is more passionate and has become irritated listening to what Job has said**
- VIII) **Eliphaz was a spiritually minded man who spoke of visions of the night and revelation
Job 4:12-13 Now a word was secretly brought to me, and my ear received a whisper of it. In disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on me**
- IX) **Bildad was more representative of the one who holds fast to traditions and authority
Job 8:8 For inquire please of the former age, and consider the things discovered by their fathers. For we were born yesterday, and know nothing because our days on earth are a shadow. Will they not teach you and tell you, and utter words from their heart?**
- X) **Zophar is a man who argues from a common sense perspective**

He doesn't like Job complaining and basically tells him to just be quiet
He is basically telling Job to shut his mouth and to quit complaining: he
deserves it

XI) V2 Should not the multitude of words be answered? And should a man fall of
talk

Job, you love hearing yourself talk in fact, you are getting less then you
deserve

You have been speaking for a long time, but your words have no weight to
them

I) When he uses the phrase multitude of words, this often speaks of *folly* or *sin*
Eccl 5:3 A fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

Pr 10:19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his
lips is wise.

II) V2 Should a man full of talk be vindicated?

Should we by our silence seem to approve what you say

Do you think that because you talk so much that this means that you are right?

III) V3 Should your empty talk make men hold their peace And when you mock
should no

Empty talk is also translated lies, but can also speak of improper speech or
vain talk

Should your vain ramblings cause everyone to remain silent and not respond?

IV) When you mock should no one rebuke you

When you mock God as well as us should we just let you do that

V) His point is: by complaining that God is unfair, you are speaking against Him

Is 45:9 Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the
potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?'
Or shall your handiwork say, 'He has no hands'?

VI) V4 For you have said my doctrine is pure and I am clean in your eyes

You have said my doctrine is pure, my way of life is proper, I've done no wrong

VII) You have even gone so far as to ask God to show you why He contends with you
(10:2)

- VIII) V5 But oh that God would speak and open His lips against you
I wish that God would take you at your challenge
- IX) V6 That He would show you the secrets of wisdom For they would double your
prudence
The secrets of God's wisdom is more then you can fathom
His wisdom is complicated and beyond our ability to understand or explain
- X) His wisdom far exceeds your understanding, good judgment, or wisdom in
practical life
Ro 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!
- XI) V6 Know therefore that God exacts from you less than your iniquity deserves
Even when He punishes you, you get less than you should!
- XII) In the right context this statement is completely true
I) This is something that others have said
Ezra 9:13 (Ezra prayed) And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds,
and for our great trespass, seeing that You our God have punished us less than our
iniquities deserve, and have given us such deliverance as this
- II) V7 Can you search out the deep things of God Can you find out the limits of the
Almighty
Can you discover the depth of His wisdom, or the reasons why He does what
He does
Ps 145:3 Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised And His greatness *is*
unsearchable
- III) V8-9 They are higher than heaven what can you do Deeper than Sheol what can
you know
By using the words *higher* and *deeper*, Zophar is making a simple point
- IV) God's wisdom is above any human's ability to reach, and deeper than any man
can know
Is 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my
ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways
higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- V) If God did not reveal Himself to us, we could never hope to know Him
Is 45:15 Truly You *are* God, who hide Yourself, O God of Israel, the Savior!

- VI) This is why we need the Mediator Job wished that he had
Jesus knows the Father, and reveals the Father to us
Mt 11:27 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*.
- VII) Remember when Philip said to Jesus Show us the Father and it is sufficient for us?
Jesus responded: Jn 14:9 Have I been with you so long and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say Show us the Father?
Col 2:9 For in Him dwells *all the fullness* of the Godhead bodily
- VIII) V10 If He passes by, imprisons, and gathers to judgment then who can hinder Him
Passes by carries with it the thought of rushing to arrest someone; to rush and detain
- IX) This is saying if God rushes to arrest, imprison and judge someone who can stop Him
He is righteous, knows the crime, and judges properly so who can resist Him
- X) No one can deliver a criminal from His hands
Is 43:13 Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?"
- I) V11 For He knows deceitful men; He sees wickedness also
Men do not know God, or very little of Him and cannot judge His ways, or His purposes
Though men cannot judge Him, He knows everything about men and can judge them
- II) He sees wickedness also will He not consider it?
He sees wickedness and punishes it
God sees not only the action but also the secrets hidden within the heart
- III) Job does not have such capacity and needs to refrain from contending with God
Jn 2:23-25 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all *men*, and had no need that anyone

should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

IV) V12 For an empty headed man will be wise when a wild donkey's colt is born a man

Man by nature is ignorant of God and His ways

Because of this, he is devoid of wisdom and understanding of the Lord

V) Paul made this clear when writing to the Romans

He said that when someone is not born again, they cannot understand the ways of God

Ro 8:5-8 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

VI) V13-20 If you would prepare your heart and stretch out your hands towards Him
Even a stubborn man may be reclaimed, if he repents

VII) HIS SOLUTION: If you only would confess your sin, you would be forgiven and healed

VIII) V13 If you would prepare your heart and stretch out your hands towards Him

IX) Zophar is convinced that Job is guilty of sin and has been punished for it by God

He said God knows deceitful men and sees wickedness also

He told Job that he was without wisdom, and did not understand the ways of

God

X) Because this is what he believes about Job, he concludes by giving Job and invitation

Job, you need to seek God and when you do, God will once again bless you

XI) To Zophar it is obvious that Job is reaping what he has sown: he needs to repent

I) V13 He tells Job not to quarrel with God but recognize his sin and turn from it

Job, you need to repent! Prepare your heart and stretch out your hands to Him

II) Stretch out your hand in surrender and supplication

Ezra 9:5 At the time of the sacrifice, I stood up from where I had sat in mourning with my clothes torn. I fell to my knees and lifted my hands to the LORD my God.

III) If you don't turn from sin, it will have a foothold in your life
In this, Zophar is right

IV) Sin is to be completely obliterated in your life

Ro 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you *put to death the deeds* of the body, you will live.

Col 3:5-8 *Put to death*, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips.

V) **V14-15** If iniquity were in your hand and you put it far away and would not let wickedness

Like the other men, Zophar is certain that Job has brought all of this upon himself

Righteous people, in his mind, do not go through this kind of suffering

VI) **V14** If iniquity were in your hand and you put it far away

If you were rich because you dealt improperly with people, confess it and repent

If you oppressed the poor, or got rich by injustice or did business sinfully, repent

VII) **V15** Then surely you could *lift up your face* without spot Yes you could be steadfast

You can have joy, and purity that gives you righteous boldness and confidence

VIII) This obviously is in contrast to the disfigured and pain filled face he now has

Put away your sin so that you can once again have a bright smile

IX) Job had just he could put off his sad face and wear a smile, but it would be fake (9:27)

Zophar says if he repents from his heart, then he will have a smile that is real

Ps 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered

X) **V15** This will result in you being steadfast

Steadfast speaks of molten metals being poured into a mold and becoming solid

Instead of being in doubt, you will be firm and fixed, unwavering

Pr 28:1 The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion.

I) V16 Because you would forget your misery and remember it as waters that have passed

If you do this, your happiness will be so great that you'll never remember your pain

II) Repent and put away this sin so that you can be healed and your pain will come to an end

The blessings will be so immense it will wipe out all of his memory of pain

III) V17 And your life would be brighter than noonday though you were dark you would be

The rest of your life will be more bright than the sun or the moon

IV) Your life will be like a beautiful, sun lit morning!

Dan 12:3 Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

V) V18 And you would be secure because there is hope Yes you would dig around you

VI) Your mind will be at peace, free from terror because of the hope you have in God

Ps 73:18-19 Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Oh how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors

VII) You will dig around you and take your rest in safety

This could speak of preparing a place for a tent, or of digging a well
Either way it speaks of security and provision

VIII) V19 You would lie down and no one would make you afraid Yes many would court

Ps 4:8 I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

IX) Yes, many would court your favor

Your repentance and restoration will open the door for people to come for

advice

Your honor will be restored to you

X) V20 But the eyes of the wicked will fail and they shall not escape and their hope...

loss

The eyes of the wicked are looking for help, but will never see it come their

way

Their hope will leave them, even as their final breath leaves the body

Their hope will go like their final breath

XI) Much of what he is saying is true, but the problem is Job did not do Zophar thinks he did

Job has not consciously sinned

XII) The way Job's friends think is still common today: Be careful not to jump to conclusions