

## Job 16 Adversary or Advocate?

Truth

- **Ch.15 Eliphaz thrashes Job:** You don't know God...

**Job 15:31** Don't trust in futile things Job...For futility will be your reward.

1 **Then Job answered** and said: 2 "I have heard many such things; **Miserable comforters are you all!** 3 Shall words of wind [lit. Empty words] have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer? 4 I also could speak as you do, If your soul were in my soul's place. I could heap up words against you, And shake my head at you...

I know the wicked get punished...But I'm not wicked

- Forgers of Lies
- Worthless Physicians and now...

Miserable Comforters

- Words I can't use. Empty.
- Words I never asked for
- Words I could speak to you...

What if the tables were turned?

5 ...I would **strengthen you with my mouth,** And the **comfort of my lips would relieve your grief.**

- **I wouldn't do what you're doing.** Really?
  1. **1:3** in people Nazi Germany were informers
  2. None guessed capable of betrayal, **yet...**

Without God's Spirit we're all capable of anything  
Because Job is suffering he can now show empathy to those who suffer..

**2 Corinthians 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of all comfort,** 4 who **comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort** those who are in any trouble, **with the comfort** with which we ourselves are **comforted by God.**

6 "Though I speak, my grief is **not relieved;** And if I remain silent, how am I eased? 7 But now **[God]** has worn me out; **You** have made desolate all my company. 8 **You** have shriveled me up, And it is a witness against me; My leanness rises up against me And bears witness to my face. 9 **[God]** tears me in **His** wrath, and hates me; **[God]** gnashes at me with His teeth; My **adversary** sharpens **His** gaze on me.

Jesus is our Advocate. Jesus is not our Adversary.

**Job 1:8** [To Satan of Job] ... none like him on the earth, a **blameless and upright man**, one who **fears God and shuns evil?** [Blameless not sinless...]

**1 John 2b** ...if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation [wrath taker] for our sins...

Who is speaking? Your Advocate or your Adversary?

- **Advocate**      Convicts/Encourages                      Draws us to Himself
- **Adversary**    Condemns/Discourages                      Pushes us away from God. **How?...**

Temptation. Provocation. Accusation. Condemnation. Parallelization. Devil.

**10 They gape** at me with their mouth, **They strike** me reproachfully on the cheek, **They gather** together against me. **11** God has delivered me to the **ungodly**, And turned me over to the hands of the wicked. **12 I was at ease**, but [God] has shattered me; [God] also has taken me by my neck, and shaken me to pieces; He has **set me up for His target**, **13 His archers** surround me. **He pierces my heart** and does not pity; **He pours out my gall** on the ground. **14 He breaks me** with wound upon wound; **He runs at me** like a warrior.

God brought terrible circumstances/Miserable comforters for my hurt?  
**No.** He threw a few predator fish into your life to keep you swimming/alive

- God will allow trials to remain to test our faith...

**Judges 3:1** [God left nations in the promised land] ...**that He might test Israel by them...** all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan **2** [this was so that the generations of the children of Israel **might be taught to know war...4** And they were left, **that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey** the commandments of the Lord...

God uses conflict/trials [Predator Fish] to keep us swimming  
To keep us from complacency/Floating to the top of the tank

- **Job in Typology:** As Job, Jesus was Gaped at, Struck at, Gathered against

**15** "I have sewn sackcloth over my skin, And laid my head in the dust. **16** My face is flushed from weeping, And on my eyelids is the shadow of death; **17** Although no violence is in my hands, And **my prayer is pure**. **18** "O earth, do not cover my blood, And let my cry have no resting place! **19** Surely even now **my witness is in heaven**, And **my evidence is on high**. **20 My friends scorn me**; My eyes pour out tears to God. **21** Oh, **that one might plead for a man with God, As a man pleads for his neighbor!** **22** For when a few years are finished, I shall go the way of no return.

- **My prayer is pure:** Job falls to friends/Satan's temptation

**Matthew 5:25** [Don't defend] **Agree with your adversary** quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

**1 John 1:8** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 **If we say that we have not sinned**, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

We don't not need to defend ourselves against false-accusations

Your friends know you don't need an explanation and your enemies wouldn't believe you anyway. [Anonymous]

I have learned that in time things pretty much answer themselves. I don't think a person needs to defend himself in these cases...**Job should not have answered** these friends at all... I think he should have listened to what they had to say, then told them good-bye and shown them the front gate of the city. But Job was determined to vindicate himself. [JV McGee]

**Proverbs 27:2** Let another praise you/not your own mouth; A stranger/not your own lips.

Why don't you pray for me instead of talking?

**Romans 8:34** ...[Christ died], and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also **makes intercession for us**.

**Hebrews 7:25b** ... [Jesus] **always lives to make intercession...**

**1 Timothy 2:5** [Jesus is the] ...**Mediator** between God and [us]

Job knew that he needed a mediator, someone to bridge the gap between himself and a holy, great God. Job also knew by faith that such a Person existed and could be trusted. This made Job a **believer in Jesus** before Jesus ever walked the earth; he had faith in God's Messiah to come. [Guzik]

Job cries out for his friends to pray for him...

## Job 17 Hope not Seen

Truth

1 "My **spirit is broken**, [lit. my breath is corrupt] My days are extinguished, The grave is ready for me. 2 Are not **mockers with me**? And does not my eye **dwell on their provocation**?

- **My spirit** ...is sufficiently broken
- **My gaze** ...is only on these mockers
- **My temptation** ...is to yield to their provocation to curse God

I get it. Stick a fork in me. I'm done  
I've learned all I can learn...

3 "Now put down a **pledge for me** with **Yourself**. Who is he who will shake hands with me? 4 For You have **hidden** their heart from **understanding**; Therefore You will not exalt them. 5 He who **speaks flattery** to his friends, Even the eyes of his children will fail. 6 "But He has made me a **byword** of

the people, And I have become one in **whose face men spit**. 7 My eye has also **grown dim** because of sorrow, And all **my members** are like shadows. 8 **Upright men** are astonished at this, And the innocent stirs himself up against the hypocrite. 9 Yet the righteous will hold to his way, And he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger.

- Job to God...

At least agree with me on these few points...

- **V3** These guys despise me. Won't even shake hands with me
- **V4** These guys are senseless/defamatory toward me

If I said anything else I'd be lying  
I won't flatter them...I can't commend them. Yet now...

- **V6** You God have allowed me to become a/byword/joke. My face to be spit on
- **V7** I can barely open my eyes from sorrow/Can't feel my hands/feet

Good men stare at me astonished: Appalled, Horrified  
How is this happening to Job?

- Job is now **Humiliated**...as was his Savior. Naked and killed on cross
- Job will be **Vindicated**...as was his Savior. Rose again/Justified by Spirit

**Matthew 11:19b** [Jesus was misunderstood]... But **wisdom is justified by her children**.

The righteous holds to his way because he knows God will one day vindicate  
IOWs Boys, you will see God make me stronger and stronger..

10 "But please, **come back again**, all of you, For I shall **not find one wise man among you**. 11 My days are past, My purposes are **broken off**, Even the **thoughts of my heart**. 12 They change the night into day; 'The light is near,' they say, in the face of darkness. 13 If I wait for the grave as my house, If I make my bed in the darkness, 14 If I say to corruption, 'You are my father,' And to the worm, 'You are my mother and my sister,' 15 Where then is my hope? **As for my hope, who can see it?** 16 Will they go down to the gates of Sheol? Shall we have rest together in the dust?"

- **Conflicted/Fluctuating**: Walking by Sight vs Acting in Faith

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the **evidence of things not seen ...6** But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who **diligently seek Him**. 7 **By faith** Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, **moved with godly fear, prepared an ark** for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness **which is according to faith**.

- In spite of what I see and feel and **what I don't know about God...**
- I will continue to trust in the things **I know for sure about God...**
- IOWs **I know that I know that I Know...**

God is Good. God is Big. God is Willing. God is Able. God is Faithful

# Job 18

Truth

## I. Bildad The Wicked Are Punished

1 Then **Bildad** the Shuhite answered and said: 2 "How long till you put an end to words? **Gain understanding, and afterward we will speak.** 3 Why are we counted as **beasts**, And regarded as **stupid** in your sight? 4 You who **tear yourself in anger**, Shall the earth be forsaken for you? Or shall the rock be removed from its place?

- **Bildad:** Son of Contention...

We're not going to waste our time speaking to you  
Till you wise up and *acknowledge how intelligent we are*

- You regard us as stupid yet look at you!
  1. You get mad at us/tear your body up thinking that's a smart thing
  2. E.g. You hit the windshield/sheetrock with your fist as if that's a smart thing?

Generally: Being quick to anger is a sign of stupidity

**Proverbs 14:17** A **quick-tempered man acts foolishly.** A man of wicked intentions is hated.

**Proverbs 16:32** He who is **slow to anger** is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

**Ecclesiastes 7:9** Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry. Anger rests in the bosom of fools.

**James 1:19** ... let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, **slow to wrath;** 20 for the wrath of man **does not produce the righteousness of God.**

- **Generally:** Being quick to anger us a sign of a Foolish/Prideful/Unregenerate person

**Romans 6:20** ...when you were **slaves of sin**, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 **What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed?** For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been **set free from sin**, and having become slaves of God, **you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.**

- **Bildad employing Satan's Method.** Provoke to sin/Accuse of sin
- IOWs Provokes Job to anger/Job get angry/Accuses Job of anger. Nice guy.

Satan lashes out at Job through Bildad  
Scathing, Vicious, Condemning, Demeaning Diatribe...

5 "The **light of the wicked indeed goes out**, And the flame of his fire does not shine. 6 The **light is dark in his tent**, And his lamp beside him is put out. 7 The **steps of his strength are shortened**, And his own counsel casts him down. 8 For he is cast into a net **by his own feet**, And he walks into a snare. 9 The net takes him by the heel, And a snare lays hold of him. 10 A noose is hidden for him on the ground, And a trap for him in the road. 11

**Terrors frighten** him on every side, And drive him to his feet. 12 His strength is starved, And destruction is ready at his side. 13 It **devours patches of his skin**; The **firstborn of death devours his limbs**. 14 He is uprooted from the **shelter of his tent**, And they parade him before the **king of terrors**. 15 They dwell in his tent who are none of his; Brimstone is scattered on his dwelling. 16 His **roots are dried out below**, And his branch withers above. 17 The **memory of him perishes** from the earth, And he has **no name** among the renowned. 18 He is driven from light into darkness, And **chased out of the world**. 19 He has neither son nor posterity among his people, Nor any remaining in his dwellings. 20 Those in the west are astonished at his day, As those in the east are frightened. 21 Surely such are the dwellings of the wicked, And **this is the place of him who does not know God.**"

## **Job 19** Satan Overplays His Hand

Truth

### **I. Job Trusts in His Redeemer**

1 Then Job answered [Bildad] and said: 2 "How long will you torment my soul, And break me in pieces with words? 3 These ten times you have reproached me; You are not ashamed that you have wronged me. 4 And if indeed I have erred, **My error remains with me**. 5 If indeed you exalt yourselves against me, And plead my disgrace against me, 6 Know then that **God has wronged me, And has surrounded me with His net**. 7 "If I cry out concerning wrong, I am not heard. If I cry aloud, there is no justice. 8 He has fenced up my way, so that I cannot pass; And He has set darkness in my paths. 9 He has stripped me of my glory, And taken the crown from my head. 10 He breaks me down on every side, And I am gone; My hope He has uprooted like a tree. 11 He has also **kindled His wrath against me**, And He **counts me as one of His enemies**. 12 His troops come together And build up their road against me; They encamp all around my tent. 13 "He has **removed my brothers** far from me, And my acquaintances are **completely estranged from me**. 14 My **relatives have failed**, And my **close friends have forgotten me**. 15 Those who dwell in my house, and my maidservants, Count me as a stranger; I am an alien in their sight. 16 I call my servant, but he gives no answer; I beg him with my mouth. 17 **My breath is offensive to my wife**, And I am repulsive to the children of my own body. 18 **Even young children despise me**; I arise, and they speak against me. 19 All my close friends abhor me, And those whom I love have turned against me. 20 **My bone clings to my skin** and to my flesh, And I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.

Job desperately begs his friends for mercy...

21 "Have **pity on me**, have pity on me, O you my friends, For the hand of God has struck me! 22 Why do you persecute me as God does, And are not satisfied with my flesh? 23 "Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they

were inscribed in a book! 24 That they were engraved on a rock With an iron pen and lead, forever!

- **At least three books:** Book of Job, Book of Life, **Book of Remembrance...**

**Malachi 3:16** Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard them; So a **book of remembrance was written before Him** For those who **fear the Lord And who meditate on His name.**

Satan **overplayed his hand**...revealed himself for who he is

#### **Satan's Lies to Believers**

1. Your filled with darkness
2. Your life be cut short
3. Your pride caught up with you
4. Your life will be filled w/terror
5. Your soul paraded before enemies
6. Your memory will perish
7. Your deceived that you know God

#### **God's Truth for Believers**

I am the light of the world  
My days are in God's hand  
My sin is now as white as snow  
I will not fear for God is for me  
I will never be put to shame  
God will remember me/Come git me  
I do know God/God knows me

**Filled w/Holy Spirit** Job boldly proclaims to his accusing friends...

25 For **I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth;** 26 And **after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God,** 27 Whom **I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold,** and not another. How **my heart yearns within me!**

- My Redeemer Lives Presently Lives. Will come to redeem.
- God will stand on Earth! First Coming as Redeemer

**Luke 1:68** Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For **He has visited** and redeemed His people

- God will stand on Earth pt. 2 Second Coming as Judge
- I will die/rise/ see Him w/new body I will be changed
- My heart yearns for Him Job rallies in faith/hope

Jobs Words are Irrefutable

**Luke 21:15** ... for **I will give you a mouth and wisdom** which all **your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.**

**Acts 6:8** And Stephen, full of **faith and power,** did great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen disputing with Stephen. 10 And they were **not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.**

Job warns his accusers of Judgement

28 If you should say, 'How shall we persecute him?'— Since the root of the matter is found in me, 29 **Be afraid** of the sword for yourselves; For wrath brings the punishment of the sword, **That you may know there is a judgment."**

**Matthew 7:22** Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord ...**23** And then I will declare to them, '**I never knew you**; depart from Me... '**I never knew you...**

**Matthew 25:21b** ... Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. **Enter into the joy of your lord.**

I will see God. I will stand because I have a Redeemer  
I know God/He knows me

## Job 20

Truth

### I. Zophar's Theme Portion of the Wicked Man...

1 Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said: 2 "Therefore **my anxious thoughts** make me answer, Because of the **turmoil within me**. 3 I have heard the rebuke that reproaches me, And the spirit of my understanding causes me to answer.

- **Zophar** is spun after Job's firehose of Truth
- **Satan** motivates Zophar to put Job back in his place...

Zophar is a harsh legalist having no hint of grace, mercy, or compassion in words or demeanor. His following diatribe directed at Job reveals Satan's intense hatred of godly men/women who proclaim the truth of God without reservation or fear of man. [NJC]

4 "**Do you not know this** of old, Since man was placed on earth, 5 That the triumphing of the wicked is short, And the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment? 6 Though his haughtiness mounts up to the heavens, And his head reaches to the clouds, 7 Yet he will perish forever like his own refuse; Those who have seen him will say, 'Where is he?' 8 He will fly away like a dream, and not be found; Yes, he will be chased away like a vision of the night. 9 The eye that saw him will see him no more, Nor will his place behold him anymore. 10 His children will seek the favor of the poor, And his hands will restore his wealth. 11 His bones are full of his youthful vigor, But it will lie down with him in the dust. 12 "Though evil is sweet in his mouth, And he hides it under his tongue, 13 Though he spares it and does not forsake it, But still keeps it in his mouth, 14 Yet his food in his stomach turns sour; It becomes cobra venom within him. 15 He swallows down riches And vomits them up again; God casts them out of his belly. 16 He will suck the poison of cobras; The viper's tongue will slay him. 17 He will not see the streams, The rivers flowing with honey and cream. 18 He will restore that for which he labored, And will not swallow it down; From the proceeds of business He will get no enjoyment. 19 For he has oppressed and forsaken the poor, He has violently seized a house which he did not build. 20 "Because he knows no quietness in his heart, He will not save anything he desires. 21 Nothing is left for him to eat; Therefore his well-being will not last. 22 In his self-sufficiency he will be in distress; Every hand



of misery will come against him. 23 When he is about to fill his stomach, God will cast on him the fury of His wrath, And will rain it on him while he is eating. 24 He will flee from the iron weapon; A bronze bow will pierce him through. 25 It is drawn, and comes out of the body; Yes, the glittering point comes out of his gall. Terrors come upon him; 26 Total darkness is reserved for his treasures. An unfanned fire will consume him; It shall go ill with him who is left in his tent. 27 The heavens will reveal his iniquity, And the earth will rise up against him. 28 The increase of his house will depart, And his goods will flow away in the day of His wrath. 29 **This is the portion from God for a wicked man, The heritage appointed to him by God.**"

**Matthew 12:36** [After leaders accuse Jesus] ...I say to you that for **every idle word** men may speak, they will **give account of it in the day of judgment.**

**Matthew 7:22** Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord ...**23** And then I will declare to them, '**I never knew you**; depart from Me...

I will see God. I will stand because I have a Living Redeemer  
I know Him/He knows me

**Matthew 25:21b** ... Well done, good and faithful servant...**Enter into the joy of your lord.'**