

## Job 21

Truth

- Ch. 20 Zophar: Hard core Legalist shaken to his core by Job/HS in Ch. 19

**Job 19:25** 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 **...How my heart yearns within me!**

Satan comes to Steal, Kill, and Destroy  
Lashes out at Job in Zophar's satanic rant...

**Job 20:27** [Pronouns personified] The heavens will reveal [your] iniquity, And the earth will rise up against [you]. 28 The increase of [your] house will depart, And [your] goods will flow away in the day of [God's] wrath. 29 **This is the portion from God for [you a] wicked man,** The heritage appointed to [you] by God.

Life is not a matter of holding good cards, but of playing a bad hand well [Robert Louis Stevenson]

**Questions on the table:** Is outward prosperity the mark of a true Christian? Does the loss of prosperity in the life of a self-proclaimed Christian prove him a hypocrite, though no other evidence is found against him? This they said of Job but Job denied it.

- There seems to be no rhyme/reason
  1. Why do bad things happen to good people?
  2. Why do good things happen to bad people?

1 Then Job answered and said: 2 "Listen carefully to my speech, And let this be your consolation [comfort]. 3 Bear with me that I may speak, And after I have spoken, **keep mocking.** 4 "As for me, is my complaint against man? And if it were, why should I not be impatient?"

My beef is with God: Where are You in my suffering

**Job 1:21b...**The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.

- I'm trying to be patient...

5 Look at me and be astonished; Put your hand over your mouth. 6 Even when I remember I am terrified, And trembling takes hold of my flesh.

- **All I have is gone:** Possessions/Children/Health

Wake up every day to a living nightmare...Why me and not the wicked?

Job now exposes loopholes in their retribution dogma...  
I.e. Suffering always equates to God's judgment on our sin

7 **Why do the wicked live and become old,** Yes, become mighty in power?  
8 Their descendants are established with them in their sight, And their offspring before their eyes. 9 Their houses are safe from fear, Neither is the

rod of God upon them. 10 Their bull breeds without failure; Their cow calves without miscarriage. 11 They send forth their little ones like a flock, And their children dance. 12 They sing to the tambourine and harp, And rejoice to the sound of the flute. 13 They spend their days in wealth, And **in a moment go down to the grave**. 14 Yet they say to God, 'Depart from us, For we do not desire the knowledge of Your ways. 15 **Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him?** And what profit do we have if we pray to Him?' 16 Indeed their prosperity is not in their hand; The counsel of the wicked is far from me.

All that should happen to the wicked is happening to me!

- **Job sees the temporal**

Wicked living well/In a moment go down to the grave.  
What about the next moment and forever more?

**Hebrews 9:27** ... it is appointed for men to die once, **but after this the judgment...**

**Matthew 10:39** He who finds his life will lose it/he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

For Christians this present life is the closest they will come to Hell. For unbelievers, it is the closest they will come to Heaven.

- V16 Wicked say Who is God...I stay away from that talk

17 "How often is the lamp of the wicked put out? How often does their destruction come upon them, The sorrows God distributes in His anger?"

Job: Not long enough

- Vv 9,17 Job sets his friends straight...

1. Ch. 15 Eliphaz	The wicked live in terror	Job: Not always
2. Ch. 18 Bildad	The lamp of wicked goes out	Job: No not always
3. Ch. 20 Zophar	Wicked judged before enjoying life	Job: Not always, <b>and yet...</b>

18 They [the wicked] are like straw before the wind, And like chaff that a storm carries away. 19 They say, 'God lays up one's iniquity for his children'; Let [God] recompense him [wicked], that he may know it. 20 Let his eyes see his destruction, And let him drink of the wrath of the Almighty. 21 For what does he care about his household after him, When the number of his months is cut in half?

- As sure as chaff eventually blows away when wind comes
- So the wicked are ultimately punished when death comes

Yet Job wants them to pay now...God waits because He desires more kids

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish** but that all should **come to repentance**.

**1 Timothy 2:4** who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Punish them now! Job another Son of Thunder?  
You do not know what manner of spirit you are of

- Discouraged seeing wicked prosper? Doesn't make sense
- **Truth:** No one gets away with anything...

**Psalm 73:1** Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. 3 For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked ...**13** Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocence ...**16** When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me— 17 **Until I went into the sanctuary of God;** Then I understood their end. 18 Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.

- Job comes to same conclusion...

**22 "Can anyone teach God knowledge,** Since He judges those on high? **23 One dies in his full strength,** Being wholly at ease and secure; **24** His pails are full of milk, And the marrow of his bones is moist. **25 Another man dies in the bitterness of his soul,** Never having eaten with pleasure. **26** They lie down alike in the dust, And worms cover them.

**Isaiah 55:8** "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

A greater mystery than why do the good die young and the wicked old?  
Why would Almighty God become Man and die on a cross for any of us

- Job to his friends...

**27** "Look, I know your thoughts, And the schemes with which you would wrong me. **28** For you say, 'Where is the house of the prince? And where is the tent, The dwelling place of the wicked?' **29** Have you not asked those who travel the road? And do you not know their signs? **30** For the **wicked are reserved for the day of doom;** They shall be brought out on the **day of wrath.** **31** Who condemns his way to his face? And who repays him for what he has done? **32** Yet he shall be brought to the grave, And a vigil kept over the tomb. **33** The clods of the valley shall be sweet to him; Everyone shall follow him, As countless have gone before him. **34** How then can you comfort me with empty words, Since **falsehood remains in your answers?"**

Day of Doom/Day of Wrath: White Throne Judgment  
Not soon enough for Job exalting himself above those people...

## **Job 22 Eliphaz Bad Friend/Good Advice**

1 Then **Eliphaz the Temanite** answered and said: 2 **"Can a man be profitable to God,** Though he who is wise may be profitable to himself? 3 Is

it any pleasure to the Almighty that you are righteous? Or is it gain to Him that you make your ways blameless?

Can a man be profitable/Add anything to God?

**Psalm 16:2** [David] "You are my Lord, **My goodness is nothing apart from You.**"

**John 15:5** I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing.**

**Romans 7:18** For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells...

Does God rejoice when we do right? Does God have emotions?  
We are created in His image...

**Ephesians 4:29** Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

- If we can grieve God we can also please God

God smiles at Faith: When we believe what He says and act upon His Word  
Without faith it is impossible to please Him

We please God when we yield to His Spirit, the very One who gives us the desire to please Him followed by the strength to do so. [NJC] [E.g. Man lowered through the roof]

- **Our God experiences Joy from us:** For the joy set before Him Jesus endured the cross. Heb. 12

4 [Eliphaz] "Is it because of **your fear of Him** that He corrects you, And enters into judgment with you? 5 Is not your wickedness great, And your iniquity without end? 6 For you have taken pledges from your brother for no reason, And stripped the naked of their clothing. 7 You have not given the weary water to drink, And you have withheld bread from the hungry. 8 But the mighty man possessed the land, And the honorable man dwelt in it. 9 You have sent widows away empty, And the strength of the fatherless was crushed. 10 Therefore snares are all around you, And sudden fear troubles you, 11 Or darkness so that you cannot see; And an abundance of water covers you.

- **Eliphaz slanders Job:** E.g. You cast out demons by Satan
  1. **Stolen** from your brothers
  2. **Ripped** clothes off poor
  3. **Withheld** from those in need
  4. **Hurt** widows/orphans

Eliphaz: That's why you're in this mess Job  
You don't fear God

- **Dealing with Lies/Slander**

1. Look at the Source. Respectable or known liar/gossip?
  2. Remember Jesus: He knows experientially
  3. Don't defend yourself...Jesus is our advocate/Vindication/Validation coming
- **True:** Those who don't fear God are a mess. Not the reason this time as per ch.1-2
  - **Eliphaz:** Remember God is watching...

12 "Is not God in the height of heaven? And see the highest stars, how lofty they are! 13 And **you say, 'What does God know? Can He judge through the deep darkness? 14 Thick clouds cover Him, so that He cannot see, And He walks above the circle of heaven.'** 15 Will you keep to the old way Which wicked men have trod, 16 Who were cut down before their time, Whose foundations were **swept away by a flood?** 17 They said to God, '**Depart from us! What can the Almighty do to them?'** 18 Yet He filled their houses with good things; But **the counsel of the wicked is far from me.**

You will go the way of those in the Great Flood

**Genesis 6:5** ...the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and **He was grieved in His heart ...8** But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

- Yet Job mentioned with **Noah as Righteous...**

**Ezekiel 14:14** Even if these three men, **Noah, Daniel, and Job,** were in it, they would deliver only themselves **by their righteousness,"** says the Lord God.

- **God:** Job is righteous. Really righteous
- **Eliphaz:** Job is wicked

19 "The righteous see it [destruction of the wicked] **and are glad,** And the **innocent laugh at them:** 20 'Surely our adversaries are cut down, And the fire consumes their remnant.'

- **True** but it does not apply to Job

We will rejoice when we see God's righteous judgment

**Psalm 52:6** The righteous also shall see and fear [ laugh at the wicked saying...] 7 "Here is the man who did not make God his strength, But trusted in the abundance of his riches, And strengthened himself in his wickedness."

**Psalm 58:10** The righteous **shall rejoice when he sees the vengeance;** He shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked...

**Psalm 107:42** The righteous see it and rejoice, And all iniquity stops its mouth.

If Eliphaz does not repent it will be Job laughing at him  
Even so good advice follows...

21 "Now **acquaint yourself with Him**, and be at **peace**; Thereby **good** will come to you. 22 **Receive**, please, instruction from His mouth, And lay up His words in your heart. 23 If you **return to the Almighty**, you will **be built up**; You will remove iniquity far from your tents. 24 Then you will lay your gold in the dust, And the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brooks. 25 Yes, the **Almighty will be your gold** And your precious silver; 26 For then you will have your **delight in the Almighty**, And lift up your face to God. 27 You will make your prayer to Him, He will hear you, And you will pay your vows. 28 You will also declare a thing, And it will be established for you; So light will shine on your ways. 29 When they cast you down, and you say, 'Exaltation will come!' Then He will save the humble person. 30 He will even deliver one who is not innocent; Yes, he will be delivered by the **purity of your hands.**"

- V21 **Get Acquainted with God:**

The Hebrew word translated acquaint yourself, or sometimes *yield* is derived from the same root as *profitable*. This may be a play on words: Although you cannot be profitable to God though your efforts, you can acquaint yourself or yield to Him. [Nelson]

1. Receive the Peace of God
2. Receive Goodness of God

- V22 **Gather Instruction from God**

**Proverbs 2:6** For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding...

**Psalm 119:11** Your word I have **hidden in my heart**, That I might not sin against You.

- V23 **Get back to God:** Repent. Make Him your first love again
  1. Receive Restoration. Built up
  2. Receive Forgiveness/Cleansing...repent

**Revelation 2:4** [Ephesus] ...**you have left your first love.** 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works...

- V25 God will be your Treasure
- V26 God will be your Delight

**Psalm 37:4** **Delight yourself** also in the Lord, And He shall **give you the desires of your heart.**

**Isaiah 58:14** [Turn from your own ways to God's ways...] Then you shall **delight yourself in the Lord**; And [He] will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth..

- V28 Your words will be established/Light will shine your path
- V29 God will save the humble person

Bad friend...Good words...Even a broken clock is right twice a day

## **Job 23** God is God

Truth

1 Then Job answered and said: 2 **“Even today my complaint is bitter; My hand is listless because of my groaning. 3 Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, That I might come to His seat! 4 I would present my case before Him, And fill my mouth with arguments. 5 I would know the words which He would answer me, And understand what He would say to me.**

Eliphaz buttered Job up  
Job getting too comfortable with conversation...

- **You know Eliphaz...**I think your right
  1. I want to find Him/Walk right up to His throne
  2. I would state my case like the best attorney
  3. **I already know what He'd say...**

6 **Would He contend with me in His great power? No! But He would take note of me. 7 There the upright could reason with Him, And I would be delivered forever from my Judge. 8 “Look, I go forward, but He is not there, And backward, but I cannot perceive Him; 9 When He works on the left hand, I cannot behold Him; When He turns to the right hand, I cannot see Him.**

Our God is not floating around on a cloud somewhere up there  
The Holy Spirit is God and He is Omnipresent. Everywhere all the Time

**1 Kings 8:27 ...will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!**

**Jeremiah 23:24 ...“Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the Lord.**

- Omniscient All Knowing
- Omnipotent All Powerful
- Omnipresent All Encompassing

**Psalm 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.**

I cannot find Him...He's right there Job  
The Holy Spirit is God and is Omnipresent and Available

**Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil/the good.**

**Psalm 34:18 The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.**

**Psalm 145:18 The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.**

10 **But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. 11 My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside. 12 I have not departed from the**

**commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.**

- God knows my ways...

**Psalm 139:1** David. O Lord, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are **acquainted with all my ways.**

- Job looks back on his life...
  1. My foot has walked in God's steps
  2. I did not go to the right or left on His path
  3. I did not forsake/disregard God's commands
  4. His Word I treasure: My sustenance/existence

**John 4:32** I have food to eat of which you do not know. 33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "**My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.**"

**John 6:27** Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for **the food which endures to everlasting life...**

I shall come forth as Gold...  
Gold is refined and purged of dross by turning up the heat

13 "But **[God] is unique, and who can make Him change? And whatever His soul desires, that He does.** 14 For He performs **what is appointed for me, And many such things are with Him.**

- **Unique:** heb. 'eḥād lit. **One.** One mind.

Whatever God wants to do with me He does

**Psalm 115:3** ...our God is in heaven; **He does whatever He pleases.**

15 Therefore I am terrified at His presence; When I consider this, I am afraid of Him. 16 For God made my heart weak, And the Almighty terrifies me; 17 Because I was not cut off from the presence of darkness, And He did not hide deep darkness from my face.

When I think of what God decreed/appointed for us here I fear  
Like getting off the plane in Viet Nam

We are not appointed to happiness in this life but affliction/tribulation  
Refined/Purged/Ready for Jesus to Come

**1 Thessalonians 3:3 [re. afflictions]...** you yourselves **know that we are appointed to this.** 4 For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would **suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know.**

- **Job as Jesus suffered affliction:** v16 My heart was made weak



**Psalm 22:14** I am poured out like water...all My bones are out of joint **My heart is like wax**

Eliphaz challenged Job to acquaint himself with God  
We are never more acquainted with God than when we suffer

**Romans 8:17** [We are...] heirs of God and **joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him**, that we may also be **glorified together**. 18 For I consider that the **sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared** with the **glory which shall be revealed in us**. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

**1 Peter 4:12** Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but **rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings**, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

What God has decreed/appointed us to is to refine us  
Suffering will be washed away in the twinkling of an eye when Jesus returns

## Job 24

Truth

1 "Since times are not hidden from the Almighty, Why do those who know Him **see not His days?**

Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People?  
Question based on false premise; i.e. Some people are good

2 "**Some remove landmarks**; They seize flocks violently and feed on them;  
3 They drive away the donkey of the fatherless; They take the widow's ox as a pledge. 4 They push the needy off the road; All the poor of the land are forced to hide. 5 Indeed, like wild donkeys in the desert, They go out to their work, searching for food. The wilderness yields food for them and for their children. 6 They gather their fodder in the field And glean in the vineyard of the wicked. 7 They spend the night naked, without clothing, And have no covering in the cold. 8 They are wet with the showers of the mountains, And huddle around the rock for want of shelter. 9 "Some snatch the fatherless from the breast, And take a pledge from the poor. 10 They cause the poor to go naked, without clothing; And they take away the sheaves from the hungry. 11 They press out oil within their walls, And tread winepresses, yet suffer thirst. 12 The dying groan in the city, And the souls of the wounded cry out; **Yet God does not charge them with wrong**. 13 "There are those who rebel against the light; They do not know its ways Nor abide in its paths. 14 The murderer rises with the light; He kills the poor and needy; And in the night he is like a thief. 15 The eye of the adulterer waits for the twilight, Saying, 'No eye will see me'; And he disguises his face. 16 In the dark they break into houses Which they marked for themselves in the daytime; They do not know the light.

17 For the morning is the same to them as the shadow of death; If someone recognizes them, They are in the terrors of the shadow of death.

- **Some remove landmarks:** Divine Curse

**Deuteronomy 19:14** You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark..

**Proverbs 22:28** Do not remove the ancient landmark Which your fathers have set.

- **Especially land given by God to Israel**
  1. Given by God to Abram/Descendants
  2. Declared as the state of Israel by UN in 1948
  3. Won in war in 1948/1967 by Jews after they were attacked

**Genesis 17:8** ... I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

**Joshua 1:3** Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, **shall be your territory.**

**Amos 9:15** I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them," Says the Lord your God.

**Joel 3:2** I will also gather all nations... And I will enter into judgment with them ...On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; **They have also divided up My land.** 3 They have cast lots for My people, Have given a boy as payment for a harlot, And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.

- **River to the Sea chant:** Euphrates to Mediterranean, IOW's call for annihilation
- **Useful Idiots.** Useful to Iran/Devil but not the so-called Palestinians

Make sure you're on the right side of this issue. God's side

**Genesis 12:3** I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you;

We will bless Israel as the God of the Universe commands. Period

- **Job:** This is really what God should do to THOSE wicked

18 **"They should** be swift on the face of the waters, Their portion **should** be cursed in the earth, So that no one would turn into the way of their vineyards. 19 As drought and heat consume the snow waters, So the grave consumes those who have sinned. 20 The womb **should** forget him, The worm **should** feed sweetly on him; He **should** be **remembered no more**, And wickedness **should** be broken like a tree. 21 For he preys on the barren who do not bear, And does no good for the widow.

I think God should do judge now... yet I know He has a master plan

22 "But God draws the mighty away with His power; He rises up, but no man is sure of life. 23 He gives them security, and they rely on it; **Yet His eyes are on their ways.** 24 They are exalted for a little while, Then they are gone. They are brought low; They are taken out of the way like all others; They dry out like the heads of grain.

*Those people will get theirs one day...*

25 "Now if it is not so, **who will prove me a liar,** And make my speech worth nothing?"

## Job 25 Bildad

Truth

1 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said: 2 "**Dominion and fear belong to Him;** He makes peace in His high places. 3 Is there any number to His armies? Upon whom does His light not rise? 4 **How then can man be righteous before God? Or how can he be pure** who is born of a woman? 5 If even the moon does not shine, And the stars are not pure in His sight, 6 How much less man, who is a maggot, And **a son of man, who is a worm?"**

Bildad's got this one correct

No one is righteous before God. No one can make themselves righteous

- Job talked about *those people*. Wicked.

**Romans 3:10** .. "There is **none righteous, no, not one;** 11 There is **none who understands;** There is **none who seeks after God.** 12 They have **all turned aside;** They have together become **unprofitable;** There is **none who does good, no, not one."**

**Psalm 130:3** If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, **who could stand?**

**Psalm 143:2** [David] ... in Your sight **no one living is righteous.**

- Job says: I didn't murder/commit adultery *like those people*

**Matthew 5:20** ... **unless your righteousness exceeds** the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven... **21** "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' **22** But I say to you that **whoever is angry** with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And **whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!'** [clueless] shall be in danger of the council. But **whoever says, 'You fool!'** [blockhead] shall be in danger of hell fire **...25 Agree with your adversary quickly**

- IOWs Admit you are a sinner/stop looking at others

v6 God became a Man and the Man became a worm  
That He might die for **those people**. Us people

**Psalm 22:1** My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? 6 **But I am a worm, and no man**; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

In light of the Cross

Self-Righteousness/Condemnation of others has no place in a man/woman of God