

Job 12

Truth

Review

- **Job's Standing:** Blameless. God offers Job to Satan to test
- **Satan's Goal:** Make Job curse God
- **Satan's Method:** Takes Job's possessions/kids

In all this Job did not sin
The Lord gives/takes away...Blessed be the name of the Lord. **Next...**

- **Satan uses pain:** Tempting Job to curse God
- **Satan uses Job's wife:** Curse God and die
- **Satan uses Job's 3 Friends...**
 1. **Eliphaz** Job is being punished
 2. **Bildad** Job needs to repent
 3. **Zophar** Repent/All will be well. Encourages Job: "**But you won't...**"

Job 11:20 ... the eyes of the wicked will fail... they shall not escape, And their hope—loss of life!

I. Job Answers His Critics

1 Then **Job answered** and said: 2 "No doubt **you are the people, And wisdom will die with you!** 3 But I have understanding as well as you; **I am not inferior to you.** Indeed, **who does not know** such things as these? 4 "**I am one mocked by his friends,** Who called on God, and He answered him, **The just and blameless who is ridiculed.**"

Everybody knows the things you're saying
But they don't apply to me

- I called to God and He sends you?
- Mock me though just/blameless

I never asked for anything from you before

5 A **lamp** [lit. Disaster] **is despised** in the thought of **one who is at ease;** It is made ready for those whose feet slip.

- **IOWs** Trouble doesn't cross our minds when we're at ease
- **I wasn't ready.** Knocked off balance. **Instead of helping you...**
 1. Pour salt in wounds
 2. Add insult to injury
 3. Kick me while I'm down. [Satan]

- **E.g.** How do you know your baby was chosen when they died? Sick.
- Hellish/graceless intellectualism.

It's easy to be a know-it-all/mock/find fault
When it's not you in the weakened position

- **E.g.** The reason that tragedy happened to you is because you sinned?

We won't always know the reasons why...

6 The **tents of robbers prosper**, And **those who provoke God are secure**— In what **God provides by His hand**. 7 “But now ask the **beasts**, and they will **teach you**; And the **birds** of the air, and they will **tell you**; 8 Or speak to the earth, and it will **teach you**; And the **fish** of the sea will **explain to you**. 9 Who among all these does not know That the **hand of the Lord has done this**, 10 In whose hand is the life [lit. soul] of every living thing, And the **breath of all mankind**? 11 Does not the ear test words And the mouth taste its food? 12 **Wisdom is with aged men, And with length of days, understanding.**’

- The hand of the Lord has done this? I know but I don’t know why...

Though we won’t always know the reasons why...

We rest in the fact that nothing happens apart from God’s Sovereignty

- **Deists**: God created/would things up let go. NO

Acts 17:28 ...in Him we live and move and have our being...

Colossians 1:17 And He is before all things, and in Him **all things consist**/ [are sustained].

Hebrews 1:3b... [Jesus is]...upholding all things by the **word of His power**

- Nothing happens apart from God’s Sovereignty/Filtered by His love

When we don’t understand the reason...We trust God and leave it with Him **because...**

13 “With [God] are **wisdom** and **strength**, He has **counsel** and **understanding**. 14 If He breaks a thing down, it cannot be rebuilt; If He imprisons a man, there can be no release. 15 If He withholds the waters, they dry up; If He sends them out, they overwhelm the earth. 16 With Him are **strength** and **prudence**. The **deceived and the deceiver are His**. 17 He leads counselors away plundered, And **makes fools of the judges**. 18 He **loosens the bonds of kings**, And binds their waist with a belt. 19 He **leads princes away plundered**, And overthrows the mighty. 20 He deprives the trusted ones of speech, And **takes away the discernment of the elders**. 21 He pours contempt on princes, And **disarms the mighty**. 22 He uncovers **deep things out of darkness**, And brings the **shadow of death to light**. 23 He makes **nations great**, and **destroys them**; He enlarges nations, and guides them. 24 He **takes away the understanding** of the chiefs of the people of the earth, And **makes them wander** in a pathless wilderness. 25 They grope in the dark without light, And He **makes them stagger like a drunken man**.

- V13 Same attributes as Jesus filled w/Spirit...

Isaiah 11:2 [Messiah] The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of **wisdom and understanding**, The Spirit of **counsel and might**, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

- **Builds up/Tears down at His will:** E.g. Discernment/Strength of Leaders he decides to remove

Psalms 77:6 [Asaph] ...exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. 7 But God is the Judge: **He puts down one, And exalts another.**

God is all powerful. God can/does whatever He desires, yet...
Knowing doesn't help until we **add God's heart into the equation**

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of **peace and not of evil**, to give you a **future and a hope.**

What we believe about God directs every aspect of our lives
Why is this happening? I don't know but that doesn't negate what I do know
God is Good. God is Big. God is Willing. God is Able. God is Faithful

God is not Random but Deliberate. He is not Confused but Precise
He is not the author of Chaos but Order

- At His discretion He takes away what He has given
- Causes leaders to stumble/fall like drunkards...is Job describing Job?

Job 13

Truth

I. Job Rallies

1 "Behold, my eye has seen all this, My ear has heard and understood it. 2 **What you know, I also know; I am not inferior to you** [2x see Ch.12]. 3 But I would speak to the Almighty, And **I desire to reason with God.**

Job developed a theme that would end with a virtual demand that God make sense of his suffering... It was bad enough when Job could make no sense of his situation, but it was worse when his friends persistently insisted on their own wrong answer to Job's crisis. As much as anything, it was their insistence that prompted [provoked] Job to demand an answer. [Guzik]

I desire to reason with God.

God desires to reason with us but on His terms and first things first...

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and **let us reason together,** Says the Lord, "**Though your sins are like scarlet**, They shall be as white as snow; **Though they are red like crimson**, They shall be as wool.

4 But you **forgers of lies**, You are all **worthless physicians.** 5 Oh, that you would **be silent**, And it would **be your wisdom!**

- Forgers/Inventors of Lies No Truth
- Worthless Physicians No Healing

Shutting your mouths would be the wisest thing you could do...

Proverbs 17:28 Even a fool is counted wise when he **holds his peace**; When he **shuts his lips**, he is considered perceptive. [Discretion: Knowing when to refrain]

6 Now hear my reasoning, And heed the pleadings of my lips. 7 Will you **speak wickedly for God**, And talk deceitfully for Him? 8 Will you show **partiality for Him**? Will you contend for God?

- **You smart guys misrepresent God** claiming to speak for Him
- **Does God...**
 1. Speak Wickedly
 2. Speak Deceitfully
 3. Speak devoid of Fairness/Mercy/Grace...

Is it God's Word you think you're are speaking?...We as spectators of Ch.'s 1-2 know it's not

9 Will it be well **when He searches you out**? Or **can you mock Him** as one mocks a man? 10 He will surely rebuke you If you secretly show partiality. 11 Will not His excellence make you afraid, And the dread of Him fall upon you? 12 Your **platitudes are proverbs of ashes**, Your defenses are **defenses of clay**.

- Job sees they are about to pounce...

13 **"Hold your peace with me, and let me speak**, Then let come on me what may!

IOWs Be quiet. It's my turn to speak boys...Chill Pill

14 Why do I take my flesh in my teeth, And put my life in my hands? 15 **Though [God] slay me, yet will I trust Him**. [How's that work for you?]

- Though everything I see/feel/hear from you suggests God is against me
- Though I suffer and don't get everything I say/do right
- **Though he slay me I will trust Him!**

I will continue to trust what I know of God's heart....

Romans 8:28 ...we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose....**If** [lit. since] **God is for us, who can be [win] against us?** 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. [Job: *I will be vindicated*] 34 Who is he who condemns? [Christ died] , and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 **Yet in all these things** we are **more than conquerors** through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that **neither death nor life**, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor

things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

God proved He was for me by sending Jesus to die for me
Nothing including suffering can separate me from God...

2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore **we do not lose heart.** Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being **renewed day by day.** 17 For **our light affliction,** which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory...

Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the **valley of the shadow of death,** I will fear no evil; For **You are with me** [for me] ; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Job 1:21 [Same Job as Ch.1] Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Though He slay me I will continue to trust Him
Great words of faith but still more work to do...

15b... Even so, I will defend my own ways before [God]. 16 **He also shall be my salvation,** For a hypocrite could not come before Him. 17 **Listen carefully to my speech,** And to **my declaration with your ears.** 18 See now, I have **prepared my case,** I know that **I shall be vindicated.** 19 Who is he who will contend with me? If now I hold my tongue, I perish.

- Job tells then he has prepared a water tight case for himself

Free Legal Advice: Don't attempt to litigate your Eternal Destiny without a Lawyer

1 Timothy 2:5 ...there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus...

This one is Mine because after all is said and done
In the end he/she trusted in Me

II. Job Faith Tested

20 [Speaking to God now] "Only two things do not do to me, Then I will not hide myself from You: 21 **Withdraw Your hand far from me,** And let not the **dread of You make me afraid.** 22 Then call, and I will answer; Or let me speak, then You respond to me.

- **Do not** withdraw Your hand from me
- **Do not** let Your dread consume me

It is not God causing Job's feeling of dread. It is Satan and Job believing his lies
Satanically induced fear is not the fear God desires

- Fear causes us to act/speak irrationally...

23 [Again to God...] **How many are my iniquities and sins? Make me know my transgression and my sin.**

- Be ready for an answer...

Psalm 139:23 [David] Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

24 Why do You hide Your face, And regard me as Your enemy?

Sometimes God does hide his face

[Screwtape Letters: *Satan instructs the demon Wormwood re. Why God tests man*] He wants them to learn to walk and must therefore take away His hand; and if only the will to walk is really there He is pleased even with their stumbles. Do not be deceived, Wormwood. Our cause is never more in danger than when a human, no longer desiring, but still intending, to do our Enemy's [God's] will, looks round upon a universe from which every trace of Him seems to have vanished, asks why he has been forsaken...**and still obeys.**

25 [Job to God] Will You **frighten a leaf** driven to and fro? And will You pursue dry stubble? 26 For **You write bitter things against me**, And make me **inherit the iniquities of my youth**. 27 You put my **feet in the stocks**, And watch closely all my paths. You set a **limit for the soles of my feet**. 28 "Man decays like a rotten thing, Like a garment that is moth-eaten.

- **Job mistakes Satan for God**

1. You desire to paralyze me w/fear God?
2. You write bitter things re. past sins. God?
3. You watch every step to catch me in sin God?

Even as Satan torments Job without cause [Job 2:3b]
God is allowing these things for His own cause and Job's own good

Job 14

Truth

I. Job Continuation of Ch. 3 Rant against God

1 "Man who is born of woman Is of few days and **full of trouble** [lit. turmoil].

- How's life treating you? Life is hard.

Ecclesiastes 2:23 ...all his days are sorrowful, and his work burdensome; even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity.

Genesis 47:9 [Jacob to Pharaoh] "The days of the **years of my pilgrimage** are one hundred and thirty years; **few and evil** have been the days of the years of my life...

Absolute disappointment/misery will be in direct proportion to any vain hope we place in this empty world. Our Pilgrimage will be miserable at best when we continue to seek the living among the dead. Jesus is our life. We are complete in Him. [NJC]

Psalm 90:10 The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. 11 Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath. 12 So **teach us to number our days**, That we may **gain a heart of wisdom ...15** Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us, The years in which we have seen evil ...**17** And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, And **establish the work of our hands** for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.

Let us behold Your beauty
Even as You establish the work of our hands

2 [Man] comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue. 3 And do You open Your eyes on such a one, And bring me to judgment with Yourself? 4 **Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?** No one!

Psalm 51:2 [No, only One] Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And **cleanse me from my sin ...5** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And **in sin my mother conceived me...**

- Born sinners/Born unclean

1 Corinthians 6:11 [Thieves, covetous, sodomites, drunkards, etc.] And such were some of you. But **you were washed**, but you were **sanctified**, but you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Man cannot be Reformed/Rehabilitated but must be Remade.
IOWs We must be Born-again

5 **Since his days are determined**, The number of his months is with You; You have **appointed his limits**, so that he cannot pass. 6 Look away from him that he may rest, Till like a hired man he finishes his day. 7 "For **there is hope for a tree**, If it is cut down, that **it will sprout again**, And that its tender shoots will not cease. 8 Though its root may grow old in the earth, And its stump may die in the ground, 9 Yet at the scent of water it will bud And bring forth branches like a plant. 10 **But man dies and is laid away**; Indeed he breathes his last And **where is he?** 11 As water disappears from the sea, And a river becomes parched and dries up, 12 So man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, They will not awake Nor be roused from their sleep.

- **Soul sleep?** Yah no.

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be **absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.**

- Abraham is **not sleeping**. Lazareth is **not sleeping**. Paul is **not sleeping**. Jesus is certainly not sleeping. No one is sleeping in the grave.

John 11:11b ..."Our friend **Lazarus sleeps**, but I go that I may **wake him up.**" 12 Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." 13 However, Jesus **spoke of his death,**

but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. 14 Then Jesus said to them plainly, "**Lazarus is dead.**"

- **Sleep means dead:** No soul sleep in the grave/No Purgatory in the sky
 1. **Saved** Soul immediately goes to heaven to be with the Lord
 2. **Unsaved** Soul immediately goes to Hades to await Lake of Fire
- Some seek death ignorant of what awaits an unrepentant sinner
Ignorance of God's Word **will not be grounds for pardon**
- **God will confront** Job's ignorance of afterlife w/a question

Job 38:17 Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?

- Jesus revealed the afterlife in NT

2 Timothy 1:10 [It] has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought **life and immortality to light** through the gospel,

13 "Oh, that You would hide me in the grave, That You would conceal me until Your wrath is past, That You would appoint me a set time, and remember me!
14 If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, **Till my change comes.** 15 You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands.

- **Q.** If a man dies shall he live again?
- **A.** Yes. God will call /We will answer/We will be changed

Our Change will come at the Rapture or Death
Whichever comes first...

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: **We shall not all sleep**, but we shall all **be changed**— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible [Eternal new bodies], and **we shall be changed.** 53 For this **corruptible must put on incorruption**, and this **mortal must put on immortality.**

- **Rapture:** Only hinted at here in **OT**. Clear in **NT**

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is.

Romans 8:29 ...predestined to be **conformed to the image of His Son...**

- I look forward to my change

16 For now You **number my steps**, But do not watch over my sin. 17 My transgression is sealed up in a bag, And You **cover** [lit. plaster over] **my iniquity.**
18 "But as a mountain falls and crumbles away, And as a rock is moved from its place; 19 As water wears away stones, And as torrents wash away the soil of the earth; So You destroy the hope of man. 20 You prevail forever against

him, and he passes on; You change his countenance and send him away. 21 His sons come to honor, and he does not know it; They are brought low, and he does not perceive it. 22 But his flesh will be in pain over it, And his soul will mourn over it."

Job as Solomon drifts between rock-solid truth and nihilistic heresy
Here: Nothing matters. There is no afterlife. **Later...**

Job 19:25 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...**

- **For now?** Job's hope is waning. Eliphaz senses weakness. Smells blood...

Job 15

Truth

I. Eliphaz Accuses Job of Folly

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite [ch.4 hyper-spiritual] answered and said: 2 "**Should a wise man answer with empty knowledge**, And fill himself with the east wind? 3 Should he reason with unprofitable talk, Or by **speeches with which he can do no good?**

- **Relative of Esau/Flesh**

You can't persuade us with your persuasive words Job
Might as well just stop talking...

4 Yes, you **cast off fear**, And restrain prayer before God. 5 For your iniquity teaches your mouth, And you choose the tongue of the crafty. 6 Your own mouth condemns you, and not I; Yes, your own lips testify against you. 7 "Are you the first man who was born? Or were you made before the hills? 8 Have you heard the counsel of God? Do you **limit wisdom to yourself?** 9 **What do you know that we do not know?** What do you understand that is not in us?

- **Eliphaz still annoyed:** Job got under his skin in Ch. 12 when he said...

Job 12:2 ... "No doubt you are the people, And **wisdom will die with you!**

10 Both the gray-haired and the aged are among us, Much older than your father. 11 Are the **consolations of God** too small for you, And the **word spoken gently with you?** 12 Why does your heart carry you away, And what do your eyes wink at, 13 That you **turn your spirit against God**, And let such words go out of your mouth?

We spoke the consolations of God to you...We spoke gently to you?
[E.g. Your children sinned and died and so will you]

- **Why are you so sensitive?**

In fact...When you turn against us you are turning against God

14 "What is man, that he could be pure? And he who is born of a woman, that he could be righteous? 15 If God puts no trust in His saints, And the heavens are not pure in His sight, 16 How much less man, who is **abominable and filthy**, Who drinks iniquity like water!

Modern psychology claims man is basically good
Eliphaz Correct: Man born Abominable/Filthy/Bent to sin

17 "**I will tell you, hear me**; What I have seen I will declare [spirits again?],
18 What wise men have told, Not hiding anything received from their fathers,
19 To whom alone the land was given, And no alien passed among them:

Pure wisdom coming. Now you listen to me Job...

20 The **wicked man writhes with pain** all his days, And the number of years is hidden from the oppressor. 21 Dreadful sounds are in his ears; In prosperity the destroyer comes upon him. 22 He does not believe that he will return from darkness, For a sword is waiting for him. 23 He wanders about for bread, saying, 'Where is it?' He knows that a day of darkness is ready at his hand. 24 Trouble and anguish make him afraid; They overpower him, like a king ready for battle. 25 For he stretches out his hand against God, And acts defiantly against the Almighty, 26 Running stubbornly against Him With his strong, embossed shield.

▪ IOWs...

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. You're suffering | ...because you're wicked |
| 2. You're prosperity gone | ...because you're guilty |
| 3. You're hope is lost | ...because you're sinning against God |
| 4. You're afraid | ...because you're an enemy of God. Yet... |

You stubbornly run at God with your little shield of self-righteousness
Here now, let us console you Job...**This is you**

27 "Though he has covered his face with his fatness, And made his waist heavy with fat, 28 He [now] dwells in desolate cities, In houses which no one inhabits, Which are destined to **become ruins**. 29 He will not be rich, Nor will his **wealth continue**, Nor will his possessions overspread the earth. 30 He will not depart from darkness; The flame will dry out his branches, And by the breath of His mouth he will go away. 31 Let him not trust in futile things, deceiving himself, For futility will be his reward. 32 It will be accomplished before his time, And his branch will not be green. 33 He will shake off his unripe grape like a vine, And cast off his blossom like an olive tree. 34 For the company of hypocrites will be barren, And fire will consume the tents of

bribery. 35 They conceive trouble and bring forth futility; Their womb prepares deceit.”

- You hid your guilt w/prosperity ...but no more
- You trusted in possessions ...but it was futile
- You will die early ...and w/no friends

Job 16:2b Miserable comforters are you all! 3 Shall words of wind have an end?

Poor Job! What an affliction he had to contend with! His body wasted and tortured with sore disease, his mind harassed by Satan, his heart wrung with the unkindness, and false accusations from his friends. No wonder Job was greatly agitated, often distracted, and sometimes even thrown off his guard. However, all his enemies were chained; and beyond that chain they could not go. **God was Job's unseen Protector**, and did not allow his faithful servant to be greatly moved. [Clarke]

We can Offer Real Godly Consolation/Comfort to those who suffer
As did Jonathan to David...

1 Samuel 23:16 [David in trouble] then Jonathan... arose and went to David in the woods and **strengthened his hand in God.**

- I love you. We're in this together. I hurt when you hurt.
- If you are in sin confess. God is waiting to cleanse/heal you
- If you are not in sin know that God will use every drop of suffering for His purpose
- Nothing can separate you from the love of God. You are not alone...
- Know that the godly will suffer in an ungodly world, but one day...
- Your suffering will end forever and you will be whole
- I am with you. Praying for you. Know this...

...that even when the words of your mouth are spoken out of pain
I am here to listen to your heart