

# **WOMEN IN THE WORD**

## **OF**

### **FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH**

“Job: A 12-Week Study” by Eric Ortlund

Week Six: Round Three of the Debate

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Even if Job had been guilty of sin, the comforters were still out of line in the way they treated him.

As John Hartley wisely observed:

It needs to be remembered that God wants his followers to call people to repentance out of love purified by intercessory prayer. Then they will bring comfort to a troubled heart as they lead a person from guilt to forgiveness. In ministering, one’s theology must be elastic enough to be applied to a particular situation, since rigid application of a dogma hinders the dynamic, spontaneous expression of God’s grace.

## **Chapter 22**

Analysis of Eliphaz’s final speech

Looking at verses 2-4, in one sense, Eliphaz is correct in asserting that God does not need anything, including anything from the people he created.

However, he misapplies this when he implies that God does not take pleasure in Job’s righteousness. We know from the prologue that indeed He does.

In verses 5-11, Eliphaz boldly accuses Job of grievous sins against the poor, the weary, the widow and orphan. This is why God is punishing him.

In verses 12-20, Eliphaz attacks Job’s theology. He affirms that God is high and exalted, but refutes what he thinks is Job’s notion that God is too distant to know or care about the affairs of men on earth.

Eliphaz then warns Job not to harden his mind and heart and follow in the ways of the wicked men of old.

In verses 19-20, he points out that the righteous rejoice in the judgments of God.

In the remainder of his speech, Eliphaz returns to the theme of the rewards that Job will experience once he repents and makes peace with God. His comment that Job will “lay his gold in the dust” implies that Job became greedy, and that was what led him to mistreat people.

The rewards described here are different: not material blessings, but the joy, peace, and spiritual blessings that come from a right relationship with God.

There is great irony in verse 30, for we know what will happen at the end of the book.

## **Chapter 23**

At the close of Eliphaz’s speech, Job is still bitter and finds no comfort from anything the friends have said.

Job renews his determination to face God in court and present his case in a fair trial

However, arranging that meeting with God is beyond his ability at this point. Job looks for God everywhere, but can’t find Him. (vv.8-9)

Job has another moment of confident faith, as expressed in vv.10-12. God knows where Job is and hasn’t forgotten him; God’s purpose in this trial is testing, not punishment.

Job once again affirms his innocence in the presence of his accusers. We don’t know exactly how, but God had spoken to Job, and Job stored up those things in his heart.

Verses 13-4 are an affirmation of God’s sovereignty. Job knows that God is in charge of his life and the affairs of men all over the earth

In the last 3 verses, Job acknowledges that he is still fearful and dismayed before God and his heart is faint, but he is not silenced by the dark and gloom which he is still feeling.

## **Chapter 24**

Verses 1-12

Here, Job is complaining that God does nothing to rescue those who are oppressed by the powerful, and nothing to punish them for their wickedness.

Verses 13-17

Murderers, adulterers and thieves all commit their crimes under cover of darkness.

At times it seems like they are committing their crimes and indulging in their sins with impunity.

Verses 18-25

There are several translation problems with this section of Chapter 24, but the basic idea is most likely that the wicked may seem to get away with things for a time, but surely God will judge them at some point.

It's important to remember that although Job is being authentic before God, as he wavers between confidence and fear, he does cross over into sin in some of the things he says.

We need to be careful whenever we tell someone that it's okay to be angry with God. The anger in itself may not be sin, but when we make demands or tell God that He owes us something, that is a problem.

## **Chapter 25**

Verses 1-6

Bildad's final speech is short and covers just two points: the authority and majesty of God, and the hopeless condition of man before Him.

Francis Andersen:

According to Bildad, puny man counts for nothing in the infinite space of God's mind. But Job thinks that God, precisely because of his boundless capacity for knowledge, can give to each individual the most complete personal attention.

## Chapter 26

### Verses 1-4

This chapter begins a long discourse from Job, consisting of a response to Bildad, a poem on wisdom and his final defense, ending in Chapter 31. We are just going to cover through Chapter 27 today, and we'll look at 28-31 in 2 weeks.

Job's sarcastic response is directly to Bildad here; the pronouns are singular.

Job next proves to the friends that he knows just as much about God as they, and perhaps more, in verses 5-14.

Verse 5 might mean that Job believed that Sheol was a watery abyss, but it might just be a poetic description indicating the uncertainty of that world.

Verse 7 – Most ancient mythologies depicted the earth as being held on the backs of giant elephants or some other such creatures.

In vv. 12-3, Job makes reference to the ancient accounts that an evil serpent (here referred to as Rahab) was in the sea resisting God's creation.

But God's awesome power overcame and brought order to His world!

Job concludes in verse 14 by acknowledging that these examples are but a fraction of all that God does, and that there is so much more than we do not know of Him.

## Chapter 27

### Verses 1-6

Again, with great boldness, Job maintains his innocence and refuses to give any credibility to their accusations against him. The words, "as God lives," show the strength of his determination to oppose their words against him.

Charles Spurgeon:

If he be almighty to embitter, he must also be almighty to sweeten. Oh yes, that word 'Almighty' cuts both ways! It makes us tremble, and so it kills our pride; but it also makes us hope, and so it slays our despair."

### Verses 7-10

Here Job is calling for the same punishment to be on his friends that they think he deserves, because they have accused him falsely.

### Verses 11-12

Job summons great strength to declare that he will teach them, taking what they have said about him and throwing it back in their faces.

### Verses 13-23

Here Job affirms that he does understand and agree that God ultimately judges wickedness.

Essentially, the disagreement between Job and his friends has not been over whether or not God is just, but how at times God's justice is inexplicable and incomprehensible.

Next week: Prayer and Praise Day