

God's Megaphone: Pain and Providence in the Book of Job, 6
Second Cycle of Dispute: Job's "Friends" Don't Back Down
Job 15-21

Sunday Evening Bible Study
February 9, 2020

Introduction: The first cycle of dispute shows the theology of Job's friends is based on man's works or lack thereof. After Job's strong case against their thinking, tensions rise, feelings get hurt, and the goal of comfort is replaced with the goal of winning the argument.

The second round of speeches:

- 1. Eliphaz' second speech: Job does not fear God. People are totally depraved! (15)**
 - a. Job's response was of no value and his suffering is his fault. 15:1-6
 - b. Eliphaz accuses Job of pride and reminds Job of how good he and his friends are. 15:7-16
 - c. He makes his case for the depravity of man. 15:17-30
 - d. Eliphaz uses the imagery of children within a family to drive home his point that Job is wicked. 15:31-35

- 2. Job's second reply to Eliphaz: Miserable comforters are you. Where then is my hope? I need a good lawyer! (16,17)**
 - a. Job calls his friends out for being bad comforters. 16:2-5
 - b. God is the reason these things are happening, not sin in Job's life. 16:6-17
 - c. Job needs a lawyer to testify for him and God alone can do this. 16:18-22, 1 Timothy 2:5, mentioned already in 9:33
 - d. Job cries out to God amid his friends "help". 17:1-5
 - e. Job plays along with the faulty teaching of his friends to prove their thinking wrong. 17:6-16

- 3. Bildad's second speech: God punishes the wicked and you are obviously one of them. (18)**
 - a. Bildad starts again to simply react emotionally to Job's response. "Who are you Job?" 18:2-4
 - b. Bildad reacts by spitting out this long list of things that describe those who "know not God." 18:5-21

- 4. Job's second reply to Bildad: My redeemer lives. Someday, somehow, SOMEONE will come to my defense and I will be vindicated! (19)**
 - a. Job voices his frustration with his friends. 19:1-6
 - b. Job's cry to God, but does not get an answer. 19:7-12, Habakkuk 1:2-4
 - c. Even Job's closest family has left him and his cry for mercy. 19:13-22
 - d. Job turns to God. "I know my Redeemer lives!" 19:23-29

- 5. Zophar's second speech: The wicked will suffer. Ditto Bildad. 20**
 - a. Zophar responds to Job's accusations. 20:1-3

- b. The prosperity of the wicked is short lived. Zophar intensifies what Bildad said. 20:4-29

6. Job's second reply to Zophar: You are wrong, the wicked really do prosper all the time. 21

- a. "Let me make this one final point." 21:2-6
- b. The wicked do prosper and they seem to really prosper. 21:7-16
- c. God judges all people and sometimes things don't make sense. 21:17-26
- d. Job challenges his accusers to consider the reality of what he is saying. 21:27-34

Timeless truths from Job 15-21

- God is in control, always. (16, Acts 4:27-28)
- Suffering always points us back to God. (16:18, Romans 8:28)
 - o God never wastes our suffering.
- The goal of our conversations with those who disagree with us should not be to win the argument, but to help the individual see Gospel truth more clearly.
- God's silence does not mean that he has left, but that he is doing something. (19:7, 2 Cor. 12:8-10)
- True hope is found in God alone. (19:25)
- God is not messing up when wicked people prosper. (21:7-13)
 - o Three responses to the wicked prospering.
 - "I am jealous because I deserve that."
 - "They will eventually get what they deserve."
 - "God knows what he is doing and I don't have to."
- There is a lot of teaching that seems close to the truth, but careful study proves what is truth and what is heresy.
- We must avoid prosperity theology while also avoiding the closely related sin of legalism. (Phil. 3:2-11)
 - o Legalism says I do something to earn God's favor.
 - o Prosperity (as presented by Job's friends) says I do something to avoid God's wrath.
 - o Both can sneak in to our theology if we do not watch it.