

Job 8-10 –27 April 2023

“Looking Beyond The Normal”

Introduction

*Book of Job opens w/ heavenly scene in which Satan asks permission to bring calamity into Job’s life

*End of Chap 2 Job’s 3 friends come to him

*These friends may have good intentions but we’ll see that their counsel goes way off-track b/c of partial info

*Chap 3-7 – saw Eliphaz’s 1st speech & Job response

*Now in 8-10 it’s Bildad’s 1st speech & Job response

*These men are just replying on collective wisdom of their ancestors to counsel Job, instead of relying of God’s wisdom – do we ever read “let’s pray”? -NO

*At times we need to look beyond the majority occurrence in life & ask God if there’s a different answer

Today we’ll see 3 reasons we need to look beyond the normal for the answers that we need

1st reason to look beyond is b/c the normal situation isn't always today's situation (Job 8)

Read Chap 8:1-2 – *Bildad's 1st Speech*

1. Bildad is much less sensitive than Eliphaz & right away claim Job is a windbag for his defense in chap 6-7

Read Vs 3-7

1. Bildad blames Job & his kids for sin that caused these calamities – wrong
2. ‘Doth God pervert justice?’ No, He doesn't
 - a. But if you look at every micro piece of a life by itself, it may look that way b/c there's more to the story
3. Vs 7 is correct, but Job doesn't have to turn to God out of repentance but out of majesty

Read Vs 8-10

1. Job is told to consider that “*this is the way it's always been*” that God is just & he judges sinners

2. Since we've only been on earth a short time, we have to find wisdom from a source other than our own experience & wisdom – very true
 - a. Even turning to former men of old is limited in its help
 - b. Turn to God Omniscient who wrote the book
 - c. Read Matt 7:28-29: Jesus taught with authority, and not as the scribes

Read Vs 11-18

1. Enforcing the charge that Job must have sinned, *Bildad applies the principle of cause & effect*
2. The charge is that b/c of Job's sin & forgetting God, he is drying up as a plant

Read Vs 19-22

1. Same message as Eliphaz's 1st, just blunter
2. God will help you if you repent b/c there's only good men that are blessed and evil doers that are cursed – wrong
3. As w/ a seed, thru dead much more fruit can come
4. True wisdom of God looks beyond this world

2nd reason to look beyond is b/c although striving for perfection is good, it's not the solution (Job 9)

Read Chap 9:1-2 – *Job's Reply To Bildad*

1. Job says if you're expecting me to be perfect to avoid God's judgement, it isn't going to happen
2. Just like 'name it, & claim it' doctrine is a snare to the soul, so is the '*perfectionism*' doctrine

Read Vs 3-13

1. Job recognizes that *we are low & sinful compared to the majestic Creator* of the universe
2. From vs 11 Job says that God's awesome fingerprints are all over His wonderful creation
 - a. Implied meaning is God is perfect w/o flaw

Read Vs 14-20

1. Job understands & accepts he's not righteous (15) in the sense of forensically, legally perfect – but there's nothing to specifically repent of
2. Job has an acceptance that God is just and can do what He wants but still doesn't understand why

Read Vs 21-22

1. Job says ‘even if I was perfect, I still want to die b/c God destroys the perfect & the sinner’

Read Vs 23-24

1. Much of the earth is run by the wicked
2. So going beyond personal sin, Job understands that we live in a fallen world system of sinful men
3. He’s blaming God for allowing this system

Read Vs 25-29

1. Job thinks that if he’s been found guilty, then why live any longer

Read Vs 30-31

1. All Job’s efforts to wash himself fall short of actual cleansing

Read Vs 32-35

1. *Job understands the gulf between the imperfections of man and the perfect Creator God*
2. Oh if there were someone that could identify w/ both the perfect God & fleshly nature of man!

3. Read I Tim 2:4-6 – God isn't aloof or detached, but has always planned to be our bridge & help
4. To find perfection we need to look beyond this world

3rd reason to look beyond is b/c we please God when we trust Him not needing all the answers (Job 10)

Read Chap 10:1-7

1. God why are you doing this? You must know I'm a man of integrity
 - a. God wasn't doing it, He's only allowing it
2. As a statute of marble, when the fire is put to the righteous, a purer statute remains
 - a. But when fire is put to a statute of wax or clay, it will melt away with nothing left

Read Vs 8-12

1. God remember how frail I am, You made me in the womb, You should know how frail I am

Read Vs 13-17

1. Like vs 13, his frustration is that God knows the answers to “why”, yet hasn’t revealed it to Job
2. *It’s a walk of faith* – Read Heb 11:6

Read Vs 18-22

1. Notice, Job is asking the “why” question
 - a. He’s not asking ‘How can I endure’
 - b. He’s not asking for help
 - c. He’s not even asking who’s or what is causing this
2. It isn’t helpful to ask ‘why’ in the sports world (to your coach during game) or in the business world (to your boss)
 - a. Coach or boss is going say “b/c I said so”
 - b. There’re many times in life in which we just trust our coach or boss & do what they say
3. Faith looks beyond this world
 - a. “Sometimes our eyes can cloud our spiritual vision” --Dan Shunk

Conclusion

So Job and Bildad have their minds fixed in such a rigid way that they can't imagine God doing something new and different

Sometimes we need to look beyond the majority situation or the normal situation & ask if God is doing something else today

1. **The normal situation isn't always the situation**
 - a. True wisdom will look to God for discernment in every situation - & not just a pat answer
2. **Striving for perfection within ourselves is good, but it's not the solution**
 - a. We strive to do good but can only obtain it as we receive the perfect one Jesus Christ!
3. **To please God; we trust Him even when we don't receive many answers to our question**
 - a. Don't get so buried in things of this earth that we forget there's an eternity coming!
 - b. "Look up, lift up your head for your redemption draweth nigh"