

Job 20-24 –18 May 2023

“I Shall Come Forth As Gold”

Introduction

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

*Chap 3-14 – saw Eliphaz, Bildad & Zophar’s 1st speech & Job responding to each

*Chap 15-26 – each of the three have their 2nd & 3rd speeches & Job response to each one

*His friends have good intentions, but their counsel is off-track b/c it’s partially true & misapplied

*We WILL face fiery trials in this life

- *We seek to avoid ones caused by our own sin

- *We can’t always avoid the ones caused by the world or the demonic forces of evil

*When we know the conditions of this fiery trial, we’ll face them more effectively

Today let’s look at 4 conditions of this fiery trial

1st condition: Even friends can accuse us of not being good, charitable & honest (Job 20)

Read Chap 20:1-3 – *Zophar's 2nd Speech*

1. Zophar has been stirred within to answer Job

Read Vs 4-11

1. Job you're wicked
2. The wicked only temporarily prosper before they perish
3. The hypocrite will be found out
4. Remember, these things are mostly true but don't apply to Job

Read Vs 12-19

1. The short-term sweetness of wickedness is turned to vomit & poison – true
2. Zophar is even challenging Job that he hasn't been charitable to poor & has gained dishonestly

Read Vs 20-29

1. The destiny of the wicked is to suffer loss of possessions and have his very life consumed
 - a. This isn't always true
2. Notice in vs 22, Zophar claims Job has been selfish & living independently of God
3. Zophar speaks a lot about Job's loss of possessions, when Job was probably more concerned w/ loss of people & relationships

2nd condition: God will allow what He allows (Job 21)

Read Chap 21:1-6 – Job's Reply to *Zophar*

1. At this point Job is assuming that they're not going to listen with an intent to actually hear him

Read Vs 7-16

1. Often the wicked do live until end in prosperity
2. All of the things Job has just lost, the wicked often make it to the end & still have possession of

Read Vs 17-21

1. Job skeptically asks, “so how often are the wicked cut off from their wickedness?” Not often
2. Can’t say, “their children will suffer for them”
 - a. B/c they don’t care once they’re dead?

Read Vs 22-26

1. From vs 22, Job’s saying that man is helpless to change what God is allowing
2. Some prosper & some are afflicted, but God is ruling it all

Read Vs 27-29

1. Job anticipates their question, ‘well then where are the prosperous wicked?’
2. Job answers to go look at travelling merchants on the road – the idea is that everyone knows

Read Vs 30-34

1. Job declares the wicked will be consumed in God’s wrath at the end
2. From vs 34, there can be no comfort in lies

3rd condition: Even friends can accuse us of being evil & depriving others (Job 22)

Read Chap 20:1-4 – *Eliphaz's 3rd Speech*

1. Job your self-righteousness isn't beneficial to God in any way

Read Vs 5-11

1. You have robbed the poor & not been charitable to the needy & widows
2. Eliphaz is so upset that starts accusing Job with groundless accusations

Read Vs 12-20

1. Job do you think God is so distant that He won't judge your wickedness? You're wrong
2. In vs 15-16 it seems to be a reference to the wicked that perished in Noah's Flood

Read Vs 21-30

1. Eliphaz pleads with Job to repent and promises that God will bless materially
 - a. To repent & physical blessing aren't connected
 - b. You can't learn doctrine from Job and his friends talking – mixture of truth w/ lies

4th condition: We need to find God for we die otherwise (Job 23-24)

Read Chap 23:1-9 – Job’s Reply to *Eliphaz*

1. Job longs to see God and have his complaint heard by God
 - a. Feels separated from God, but he’s wrong
 - b. Christians ARE united with God
 - i. When we’re born again, we’re united w/ God’s Spirit
 - ii. We’re now in a fight to keep our mind united w/ Christ daily
 - iii. Finally we’ll be united in body w/ Christ
2. Problem is, he wants to reason w/ God why He shouldn’t allow this suffering – wrong
3. He expects to receive good counsel from God

Read Vs 10-12

1. In moment of clarity & joy, Job expresses the hope of one day being on the other side of this trial

Read Vs 13-17

1. From 13, God is unique in power & purpose
2. When God sets out to do a thing, it will happen
3. Job's strongest assertions of faith, like vs 10, are often coupled w/ strong assertions of fear
4. In Christ, we no longer fear the wrath of God
 - a. Read Col 2:13-14 – His wrath on us is paid!

Read Vs 24:1-8

1. Job asks why the wicked are allowed to live
2. The wicked are just in it for selfish gain

Read Vs 9-12

1. The wicked are allowed to oppress the weak

Read Vs 13-17

1. Wicked operate in darkness & seem to go securely

Read Vs 18-21

1. Job declares what should happen to the wicked

Read Vs 22-25

1. Job sees that God allows wicked to prosper in what seems like safety, yet God sees & punishment awaits

Conclusion

So we all face a certain amount of fiery trials

1. **Even friends can accuse us of not being good**
2. **God allows things that don't seem right, but they are good**
3. **Friends can even accuse us of being evil**
4. **Yet, we need to find God, for without Him there is no hope of revelation or a future at all**

*Refuse to bow to the sins & idols of this world

*And eventually you'll find yourself as the 3 Jewish men did in Daniel 3 in the midst of a fiery furnace

*But if you look close enough you'll see that Jesus is right there with you...thru it all

Read I Peter 4:12-13 – We...shall...be...with...Him!