

# **The Problem of Pain**

## **Moving From Explanations To Vindication**

### **Job 9:1-8**

**1 Then Job answered and said:**

**2 "Truly I know it is so, But how can a man be righteous before God?**

**3 If one wished to contend with Him, He could not answer Him one time out of a thousand.**

**4 God is wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who has hardened himself against Him and prospered?**

**5 He removes the mountains, and they do not know When He overturns them in His anger;**

**6 He shakes the earth out of its place, And its pillars tremble;**

**7 He commands the sun, and it does not rise; He seals off the stars;**

**8 He alone spreads out the heavens, And treads on the waves of the sea;**

### **Job 9:32-35**

**32 "For He is not a man, as I am, That I may answer Him, And that we should go to court together.**

**33 Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both.**

**34 Let Him take His rod away from me, And do not let dread of Him terrify me.**

**35 Then I would speak and not fear Him, But it is not so with me."**

### **Job 16:16-22**

**16 My face is flushed from weeping, And on my eyelids is the shadow of death;**

**17 Although no violence is in my hands, And my prayer is pure.**

**18 "O earth, do not cover my blood, And let my cry have no resting place!**

**19 Surely even now my witness is in heaven, And my evidence is on high.**

**20 My friends scorn me; My eyes pour out tears to God.**

**21 Oh, that one might plead for a man with God, As a man pleads for his neighbor!**

**22 For when a few years are finished, I shall go the way of no return.**

## **Job 19:25-27**

**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,**

**27 Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!**

Job is crying out for vindication... for why he loves God and walks with Him.

What do we mean by vindication?

- 1. The act of vindicating or condition of being vindicated.**
- 2. The defense, such as evidence or argument, that serves to justify a claim or deed.**

God is moving Job past seeking answers to trusting God for vindication. Vindication meaning that God will prove out what God has declared about Job in chapter 1.

**Job 1:8, 8 Then the Lord said to Satan,  
"Have you considered My servant Job, that  
there is none like him on the earth, a  
blameless and upright man, one who fears  
God and shuns evil?"**

God wants us to see suffering as **"A merciful  
intrusion of divine love."**

**God is doing something for us and He uses  
suffering to teach us and to set us free.**

I read a great quote yesterday in studying for  
tonight that said, **"We may never know why  
we are suffering in this life but we can  
always know why we are not suffering."**

Difficulty teaches us something about  
ourselves. An opportunity to learn about  
ourselves.

Suffering helps us answer the question as to  
why we serve God.

Question: Do we serve God for who He is or for what He does for us?

Satan's charge against God. Job's integrity. Does Job worship for nothing? He calls into question Job's integrity and God's worth to Job.

Job doesn't serve you for nothing. You are not worth much to Job God. The book of Job is a story of vindication of both God and Job.

Job is a story of God vindicating Job and God from the accusations the devil brings against both God and Job in chapters 1 and 2.

Like I said, **“We may never know why we are suffering in this life but we can always know why we are not suffering.”** Jesus! God poured out His anger on Jesus so He could pour out His love on us.

**Do we trust God for God or for what we can get from God**

Elizabeth Elliot wrote a fictional book titled,

"These Strange Ashes". Suffering is a great test of our own hearts. It helps us ask questions of ourselves and why we trust and follow God.

Jesus came to the disciples and said to them, "I would like you to carry a stone for Me". Jesus didn't give any explanation as to regulation regarding weight and size. The disciples looked around for a stone to carry. Peter picked up a rock so small it fit into his pocket. Jesus said to the disciples, "Follow Me". Jesus led the disciples on a journey and around noon Jesus had all the disciples sit down and He said it was time for lunch. Jesus waved His arms and the stones immediately turned to bread. Peter's lunch was so small it was over in a matter of seconds.

After lunch Jesus said, "I would like you to carry a stone for me." Peter said, awh ha now I get it! And Peter picked up a small boulder onto his back and said to himself, "I can't wait for dinner" and he stumbled behind as Jesus said, "Follow Me". Around supper time Jesus led the disciples to the side of a river and said, " everyone throw

your stones into the river and follow Me". Peter was dumbfounded. Jesus turned to Peter and said, "who were you carrying the stone for?"

Why do you serve God? Why do you follow Him? Is Jesus worth it or do we follow God to manipulate God to get something from Him.

Chapters 1-2 of the book of Job show Job to be a devout follower of God. The things Job says in response to his loss shows he is an amazing man.

We see Job's remarkable response in chapters 1-2.

In chapter 3 we see God is not finished with Job that Job is in still need of growth. Job has a lot to learn about God because many of us who have walked with God for any length of time, we feel as if we don't have anything else to learn. (I was a youth pastor before becoming a Senior Pastor. Parents would say "I'm only here so my kids will learn about God. I already know...")

The longer we walk with God the more complacent with God we **can** become. Job teaches us that we are still sinners and in need of improvement, growth and development. We need the Gospel. God doesn't move us away from the Gospel but deeper into it.

Like every Christian, Job is a believer and an unbeliever at the same time.

**Mark 9:24, "Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"**

We are positionally perfect because we are in Christ but we are not practically perfect.

Romans 7 demonstrate to us clearly we are in a battle, the enemy within us. We believe and yet we are filled with unbelief.

We all have blinders to our faith and God works in our lives to make us believers.

We need the Gospel every day of our lives. The



Gospel is the antidote for unbelief.

Romans 1:16, **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek"**

Paul says the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

Not conversion but to salvation. We never move away from the Gospel.

Not just the penalty of sin, justification  
Not just the power of sin, sanctification  
Not just the presence of sin, glorification.

the Gospel is not just the door into God's family, it is the path that we are to walk with God every day. God never moves us beyond the Gospel, God moves us deeper into the Gospel. The power of God is found in the Gospel.

The reason so many of us live powerless lives, frustrated lives is because we are looking for it

apart from the Gospel.

The Gospel is what changes our life day by day. Get caught up in the Gospel and your life will change dramatically.

Job finds help in the Gospel. Job finds help in a mediator.

The root of Job's pain is not the loss of his stuff. The root of Job's pain is the perceived loss of God, "**why have you left me?**"

God has never left Job. Job is saying I could face anything if just knew You were with me, if Your presence was with me.

**Real comfort comes from God.** When we suffer loss, the ultimate comfort does not come from getting our stuff back. We have a deeper longing. We have a need to know God is there with us.

We learn it doesn't profit a man to gain the world

**In chapters 3 through 31, Job and his friends are searching for reasons as to why has God left Job. They agree that it appears God has left Job.**

Why would God leave Job? Job's friends have a very moralistic view of the world and of God.

They believe that good people get God's blessing and bad people get God's cursing. It is painfully obvious that you have done bad Job, we just don't know what you have done bad. Confess it and maybe God will reverse His curse on you!

Its why Job chapters 1-2 are so important to us. They show Job had not done anything bad.

**Job 1:21-22, "21 And he said: "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." 22 In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong."**

**Job 2:10 "But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips."**

Jobs friends were moralistic in their council. We prove to be worthless friends.

We always assume we see life clearly when people suffer. We have to to maintain control, to feel safe and secure. God forbid that life not be in our control after all we work to gain control of our situations in life, to call the shots and be in control of our destiny. To be forced to live a life of faith is frightening to us. To not be able to rely on ourselves completely and to trust ourselves is fearful and why we come up with our own theology and methodology of life.

As we consider Job's friends in the book of Job remember,

"You are not as bad as people say you are and

you are not as good as you think you are."

"The devil exaggerates the evilness of man and the goodness of God"

Remember Job's friends,

In chapter 4 we are introduced to Job's three "Frenemy's. A frenemy is someone who you thought was your friend but turned out to be your enemy".

Eliphaz...

**Job 4:8, "Even as I have seen, Those who plow iniquity And sow trouble reap the same"**

Eliphaz is saying, "the way I see it"...

The problem is church, we don't see it... There is so much more going on behind the scenes that we are not aware of.

Bildad adds insult to injury when he says, **Job**

**8:3-4, "3 Does God subvert judgment? Or does the Almighty pervert justice? 4 If your sons have sinned against Him, He has cast them away for their transgression."**

Bildad was saying, "Obviously you are so bad Job that God had to kill your children."

**Zophar in chapter 11 not only adds insult to injury, he is just plain mean. He rubs salt in an open wound.**

**Job 11:2, "Should not the multitude of words be answered? And should a man full of talk be vindicated?"**

Zophar calls Job a windbag...

and a liar... **Job 11:4, "For you have said, 'My doctrine is pure, And I am clean in your eyes.'"**

**Job 11:6, "That He would show you the secrets of wisdom! For they would double your prudence. Know therefore that God**

**exacts from you Less than your iniquity deserves."**

Zophar is saying, thank God you are not getting what you deserve. True, but not the words we need to say to someone who is suffering and those words are most often spoken by someone who is not to someone who is.

**Job 11:12, "For an empty-headed man will be wise, When a wild donkey's colt is born a man."**

If you missed this, Zophar is saying Job is an idiot.

**Job 11:14-15, "14 If iniquity were in your hand, and you put it far away, And would not let wickedness dwell in your tents; 15 Then surely you could lift up your face without spot; Yes, you could be steadfast, and not fear;"**

Finally Zophar just sums up Job's suffering and says what everybody else in the moralistic

world is thinking...

If you would just repent and turn from your wickedness your suffering would end but because you won't confess your a sinner, God is having to prove it to you.

We forget like Jobs friends, Job never claimed to be sinless, he claimed to be righteous because God declared Job to be righteous back in Job 1:8

Job knew his friends explanations were wrong. Job wrongly thought if God would just explain to Job why, Job would be Ok.

Job began to demand explanations from God because Job thought comfort comes in explanations.

God doesn't answer, God just remains silent. The answers of God never come in the explanation.

We wrongly conclude, if we could just



understand. When difficult things happen in life if we could just understand why, we think we'd be Ok.

Job never once cries out to God to get his stuff back. He never asks God to restore the loss of his stuff. Job cries out to God wondering where God is. Thats what we read in **Job 29:2-6**.

### **Job 29:2-6**

**2 Oh, that I were as in months past, As in the days when God watched over me;**

**3 When His lamp shone upon my head, And when by His light I walked through darkness;**

**4 Just as I was in the days of my prime, When the friendly counsel of God was over my tent;**

**5 When the Almighty was yet with me, When my children were around me;**

**6 When my steps were bathed with cream, And the rock poured out rivers of oil for me!**

The root of Job's pain is the perceived loss of God's presence. Chapter 29 reminds us that

Job believes God has left Him. Job is not asking God to take away the pain from his life. Job is asking God to just be with him in his pain. It feels to Job as if God has left him as he remembers back over his life there in 29:2-6.

Is our prayer about asking God to take me BACK to my better days. Take me back to the days of comfort. Suffering is taking something from us that we are dependent upon for living.

Suffering is taking away something that to us makes life worth living to us. In Job chapter 3 Job is saying he would rather not live than to live without God.

**We conclude then that Suffering draws us to God, it increases our capacity to long for Him.**

Its amazing that God doesn't answer Job's demands. God could have said, "**Your friends are wrong about Me and you and I am doing this to vindicate both you and Me**".

**Explanations don't provide comfort for us.  
Explanations don't provide what trust does.  
Explanations are substitutes for trust.**

Silence causes us to trust God.

Silence gets misinterpreted as if to say God is mad at us, that He has abandoned us. We believe God has left us.

We don't understand God's grace. God's loving and liberating silence creates a longing in us.

"Absence makes the heart grow fonder".  
Absence in the heart filled with love longs for reunion.

The silence of God is not His absence. The silence of God does not equal His absence.

God is most present to you when He is silent.  
God is enhancing our capacity to love Him.  
Nothing works like silence to deepen love.  
(Children fear being alone)

Silence teaches us much about our commitment to Him. (Think about what happens when people are separated from one another). Do you give up or press in? is it absence makes the heart grow fonder or out of sight out of mind.

C.S. Lewis said, **"think of yourself as a seed patiently wintering in the earth patiently waiting to come up a flower."**

We cannot trace the hand of God.

God is moving Job away from trusting in an explanation. Job is growing in his faith. Spiritual maturity always moves us toward the Gospel.

Only vindication will satisfy.

There is something about the holiness of God and the sinfulness of man that will prevent me from cleaning up my act. Job is saying "I cannot regain God's favor as my behavior is not what gained me favor with God to begin with".

Looking back over the book of Job, Job's three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar came in chapter 3 and sat by Job's side until Job decided to speak.

Chapter 3 reveals for us the emotional blow all the calamities Job had suffered took on him. He cursed the day he was born and he wished that he could just die or that God would just kill him and get it over with. Job was hurting and  
In chapters 4-5 we hear from Eliphaz, the first of Job's three friends, who gives his first speech to Job on why he is suffering and what to do about it.

In chapters 6-7 we read Job's response to Eliphaz.

In chapter 8 we have Job's second friend, Bildad gives his first speech.

In chapters 9-10 we read of Job's response to Bildad

In chapter 11 Job's third friend Zophar gives his first speech.

In chapters 12-14 Job responds to Zophar.

## **Job 9:1-3**

**1 Then Job answered and said: 2 "Truly I know it is so, But how can a man be righteous before God? 3 If one wished to contend with Him, He could not answer Him one time out of a thousand."**

Sadly, we believe Gods grace gets us in but somehow we get to the place in our faith where we revert back and think its our performance that keep us in God's good graces.

Its Christ's performance for us is what got us in and what keeps us in.

Job pushes his friends council back on them.

Job recognizes that he is a sinner and that God is holy. Job recognizes that acceptance of God and by God is what matters most.

Our deepest need is not self acceptance or the worlds acceptance. Our deepest need is being made acceptable to God by God.

Acceptance of others comes and goes like the wind.

In the book of Job it sounds as if Job is defending himself based on his own righteousness. Job does make an appeal of his righteousness but his righteousness is never based on self righteousness.

Job never says he earned his righteousness.

Chapter 1 and 42 God declared Job was righteous. Job is just calling himself what God declared Job to be.

What are you banking on today? What people say you are or who God says you are?

**Job 7;21, "21 Why then do You not pardon my transgression, And take away my iniquity? For now I will lie down in the dust, And You will seek me diligently, But I will no longer be."**

**Job never denies he is a sinner. Job is**

**talking to God.**

**Job 14:16-17, "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 my iniquity."**

To be declared righteous is to be justified. Sinners have not earned righteousness but have been declared righteous.

We cannot earn righteousness we are declared righteous because of what Jesus has done for us.

Our standing in Christ is not dependent on what we have done but what Christ has done.

Job is seeking to be vindicated, to be declared righteous because God says so!

In appealing to righteousness Job wants vindication and assurance that what God has declared him to be, Job is.



Don't quit crying out to God. Don't turn to anyone else.

Why do people turn to idols and why do we quit praying? Sadly, we seek to punish God. We say, "If you won't answer me, I won't talk to you"

Job never quits crying out! We should never quit crying out either!

Job appeals to a heavenly defense attorney.

**Job 9:32-33, "32 "For He is not a man, as I am, That I may answer Him, And that we should go to court together. 33 Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both."**

Job sees the court room of God as a place of refuge not a place of condemnation. The judgment seat of God in the believers life is a place of comfort not condemnation. We will be rewarded there. We have already been judged in Christ.

We have a great heavenly high priest. Jesus is currently in heaven, our heavenly defense attorney in heaven fighting for us, never against us.

**Hebrews 4:14-16, "14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."**

God relates us to based on Christ's performance for us and not our performance for Him.

The Gospel is good news. That the determining factor in my relationship with God is what Christ has done for me not what I have done or could ever do for God.

The Gospel is the celebration of what Christ has done for us. Our standing with God is sure because of the Cross, what Christ has accomplished for us.

Job needed verification of his position in Christ.

**The Gospel is working in our lives to become practically what we are positionally.**

Remember Mary, the mother of Jesus. It took 33 years for her life to be vindicated from the torment she bore an illegitimate Son and not the Son of God born to a virgin.

**When God goes silent we need people to remind us that God is not done with us that nothing can separate us from the love of God that is ours in Christ Jesus.**

That is what communion is today church... Remembering what Jesus has done for you and me and the good news is again today.

1 Corinthians 11:26, **“For as often as you eat**

**this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.”**

No one can change the love of God toward us!

### Job 10

**1 "My soul loathes my life; I will give free course to my complaint, I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.**

**2 I will say to God, 'Do not condemn me; Show me why You contend with me.**

Job is still asking, If I could get God into a court room I'd ask Him...”

It's Ok to ask God why but don't expect an answer. Trust! One day it will all make sense.

**3 Does it seem good to You that You should oppress, That You should despise the work of Your hands, And smile on the counsel of the wicked?**

Job is asking did you lift me up to just tear me down?

Does God just smile on the ways of the wicked, does He just let them get away with murder?

**4 Do You have eyes of flesh? Or do You see as man sees?**

**5 Are Your days like the days of a mortal man? Are Your years like the days of a mighty man,**

**6 That You should seek for my iniquity And search out my sin,**

**7 Although You know that I am not wicked, And there is no one who can deliver from Your hand?**

**8 'Your hands have made me and fashioned me, An intricate unity; Yet You would destroy me.**

**9 Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay. And will You turn me into dust again?**

**10 Did you not pour me out like milk, And curdle me like cheese,**

Job is talking about how God fashioned him while he was in his mothers womb.

**11 Clothe me with skin and flesh, And knit me together with bones and sinews?**

**12 You have granted me life and favor, And Your care has preserved my spirit.**

**13 'And these things You have hidden in Your heart; I know that this was with You:**

**14 If I sin, then You mark me, And will not acquit me of my iniquity.**

**15 If I am wicked, woe to me; Even if I am righteous, I cannot lift up my head. I am full of disgrace; See my misery!**

**16 If my head is exalted, You hunt me like a fierce lion, And again You show Yourself awesome against me.**

Job is asking God, did you so carefully fashion me to do this to me? Did you give me life to just allow a trial (lion) to destroy me? What is the purpose of allowing a trial like this?

**17 You renew Your witnesses against me,**

**And increase Your indignation toward me;  
Changes and war are ever with me.**

**18 'Why then have You brought me out of  
the womb? Oh, that I had perished and no  
eye had seen me!**

God remains silent...

**19 I would have been as though I had not  
been. I would have been carried from the  
womb to the grave.**

Job wishes he was still born.

**20 Are not my days few? Cease! Leave me  
alone, that I may take a little comfort,**

**21 Before I go to the place from which I  
shall not return, To the land of darkness and  
the shadow of death,**

**22 A land as dark as darkness itself, As the  
shadow of death, without any order, Where  
even the light is like darkness.' "**

Job is asking God to sentence him to death, to  
end the pain and suffering this trial has brought

to Job's life.

Here in chapter 11, Zophar is trying to help Job understand that if Job could only see things as Zophar does he would realize Job has got off easy. Job in no way has come close to suffering as much as he really deserves.

## Job 11

**1 Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:**

**2 "Should not the multitude of words be answered? And should a man full of talk be vindicated?"**

Another friend of Job, Zophar accuses Job of being full of hot air.

**3 Should your empty talk make men hold their peace? And when you mock, should no one rebuke you?"**

Zophar says Job is just full of himself. Zophar believes he is defending God against Job.



**4 For you have said, 'My doctrine is pure,  
And I am clean in your eyes.'**

**5 But oh, that God would speak, And open  
His lips against you,**

**6 That He would show you the secrets of  
wisdom! For they would double your  
prudence. Know therefore that God exacts  
from you Less than your iniquity deserves.**

Ouch! He is saying Job you are getting way less than what you deserve to get! Your kids, your health, your stuff, your position in life is all gone but that's nothing compared to what you really deserve. Job's children are dead and all his wealth and health are gone. Wow... this is less than what he deserves?

**7 "Can you search out the deep things of  
God? Can you find out the limits of the  
Almighty?**

**8 They are higher than heaven--what can  
you do? Deeper than Sheol--what can you  
know?**

**9 Their measure is longer than the earth And**

**broader than the sea.**

You are going to challenge God, ha!

**10 "If He passes by, imprisons, and gathers to judgment, Then who can hinder Him?**

**11 For He knows deceitful men; He sees wickedness also. Will He not then consider it?**

**12 For an empty-headed man will be wise, When a wild donkey's colt is born a man.**

He accuses Job of not having a brain.

Donkeys were stupid animals and Zophar accuses Job of being so stupid that a donkey will give birth to a man before Job will be wise.

**13 "If you would prepare your heart, And stretch out your hands toward Him;**

**14 If iniquity were in your hand, and you put it far away, And would not let wickedness dwell in your tents;**

**15 Then surely you could lift up your face without spot; Yes, you could be steadfast,**

**and not fear;**

**16 Because you would forget your misery,  
And remember it as waters that have passed  
away,**

**17 And your life would be brighter than  
noonday. Though you were dark, you would  
be like the morning.**

**18 And you would be secure, because there  
is hope; Yes, you would dig around you, and  
take your rest in safety.**

**19 You would also lie down, and no one  
would make you afraid; Yes, many would  
court your favor.**

**20 But the eyes of the wicked will fail, And  
they shall not escape, And their hope--loss  
of life!"**

Zophar is telling Job he needs to repent.

Zophar is telling Job, The best thing for Job to do is put ... away his sins; then God will give him security, rest, and comfort. If you don't repent your eyes will fail and you will die.

In some context this would be great counsel but in Job's situation it misrepresents God and only

causes Job more pain than he has already experienced... As the old saying goes “Its adding insult to injury.”

Job will take 3 chapters to respond, 12,13, 14.

If they thought Job was long winded they haven't seen anything yet. LOL!

## Job 12

Job's 3 Friends have accused him of secret sin as to why he is suffering.

In chapter 11 Zophar has finished his rebuke. His words were cutting, to think a friend says to you, “**you deserve worse than what has happened to you**” after you have suffered the loss of everything.

Job won't make a false confession just to appease his friends. We see this all the time. People “cop a plea” to get a lesser sentence.

Job isn't buying it. And the longer he claims his innocence the more angry they become.

There is an important lesson being taught here. It's not just what we say but how we say it.

**James 1:20, “for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”**

This is a great reminder of how not to treat people.

**1 Then Job answered and said:**

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

Job is rebuking their smugness and he's being sarcastic as he does. He's saying you guys think you are so smart. When you die wisdom will die too!

**3 But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you. Indeed, who does not**

**know such things as these?**

Job reminds his friends he is as smart as they are. The justice of God and the sovereignty of God is common knowledge Job is saying.

**4 "I am one mocked by his friends, Who called on God, and He answered him, The just and blameless who is ridiculed.**

Job reminds his friends that God does in fact allow evil people to prosper and the righteous to suffer.

Job agrees generally speaking God blesses the righteous and generally God punish or curse the wicked. But none of this has to do with Job. Job uses himself to prove his point. I'm innocent and I am being ridiculed.

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

**It has been well said, “that when life is good, we don’t have many questions but when life is bad, we don’t have many answers.”**

**6 The tents of robbers prosper, And those who provoke God are secure-- In what God provides by His hand.**

Job says look around... sinners are prospering everywhere.

See Psalm 73...

Psalm 73:5-12 (NKJV)

**5 They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like other men.**

**6 Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them like a garment.**

**7 Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish.**

**8 They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily.**

**9 They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth.**

**10 Therefore his people return here, And  
waters of a full cup are drained by them.  
11 And they say, "How does God know? And  
is there knowledge in the Most High?"  
12 Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are  
always at ease; They increase in riches.**

Sinners prospering is all around us. We have  
drug dealers, Drug smuggling, sex trafficking.  
The pornography industry.

Psalm 73:16-17

**16 When I thought how to understand this,  
It was too painful for me--  
17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God;  
Then I understood their end.**

**7 "But now ask the beasts, and they will  
teach you; And the birds of the air, and they  
will tell you;**

Remember that Zophar had said Job was  
dumber than a donkey. Now Job responds by



suggesting his friends talk to creation... You have to love the imagery here.

Jon Courson writes in his commentary on Job, “If you throw a potato chip on the sand, the seagulls don’t say to each other, “You first.” No, they fight for that chip as if their lives depended on it. “It’s a jungle out there and the strongest one wins. Where’s the justice in that?” Job asks.”

**8 Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; And the fish of the sea will explain to you.**

“Check out the fish,” Job continues. “Who is the strongest? The shark.” In other words, Job is saying that, contrary to his friends’ assertion, it’s not always the good guy who wins.

**9 Who among all these does not know That the hand of the LORD has done this,  
10 In whose hand is the life of every living**

**thing, And the breath of all mankind?**

Job says it is the Lord who has created the world the way that it is.

**11 Does not the ear test words And the mouth taste its food?**

Just as the mouth can determine whether food is bitter or sweet, Job is saying his ears can determine if his friends words are true or false.

**12 Wisdom is with aged men, And with length of days, understanding.**

Is Job referring to the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7:22? Or is just referring to the thought that aged people have a better understanding of life.

In verses 13 through 25 Job launches into an impressive performance reciting the Lord's sovereignty, wisdom, and strength, and how they often produce inexplicable and paradoxical results.

**13 "With Him 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.**

Sounds like the Ancient of Days to me.

**18 He loosens the bonds of kings, And binds their waist with a belt.**

**19 He leads princes away plundered, And overthrows the mighty.**

God can make a king become a slave if He so chooses.

**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.**

The bottom line is... Job is saying that the  
leaders and governments of earth will ultimately  
come and go, but God is the King of kings!  
Because God is sovereign, He is in complete  
and absolute control.

That's good news for you and me!

