

## A Study of the Book of Job: When Bad Things Happen to God's People

### *Lesson 11: Zophar Speaks Again and Job's Reply (Chapters 20-21)*

#### Second Cycle

|                        |   |                     |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Eliphaz (ch. 15)       | → | Job (ch. 16-17)     |
| Bildad (ch. 18)        | → | Job (ch. 19)        |
| <b>Zophar (ch. 20)</b> | → | <b>Job (ch. 21)</b> |

#### 20:1-3

- What were the driving forces behind Zophar's reply?

#### 20:4-19

- How does Zophar start to "soften" the argument of the three friends that the good are rewarded and the evil are punished?

#### 20:20-29

- V. 20: Solomon says similarly in Ecclesiastes (1:8; 6:7): *All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing. ...All man's efforts are for his mouth, yet his appetite is never satisfied.* What are some reasons why it is futile to find any lasting contentment in our worldly circumstances? What is the secret to true contentment (cf. 1 Timothy 6:6-11; Philippians 4:10-13)?
- V. 26ff: More thinly veiled references to Job's misfortune.

#### 21:1-21

- V. 1-6: What is Job's evaluation of his friend's advice?
- V. 7-13: These verses read much like Psalm 73:4ff. What blessings do the wicked seem to enjoy in this life?

- V. 14-16: Why is it so astounding and morally confounding that the wicked should be so blessed by God?
- V. 19-21: According to human reason, what would be a better, more effective justice instead?

#### 21:22-26

- Rather than the “good” being rewarded and the “bad” being punished, what happens instead (cf. Ecclesiastes 9:1-3)? Why would God operate in such a topsy-turvy way (cf. 1 Sam. 16:7; 1 Tim. 2:4; Isaiah 57:1)?

#### 21:27-34

- If Job were a betting man, who would he argue more often meets a happy end?