

Lesson 8

Third Cycle Of Speeches

22:1-31:40

- This is the third cycles of speeches between Job and his friends.
- They have been miserable comforters, but and have only tried to prove Job was a great sinner since all these terrible things had fallen upon him.
- Zophar drops out of debate.
- Eliphaz and Bildad once again accuse Job of great, specific sins.

Eliphaz

JOB 22:1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite responded,

Almighty Is Not Enhanced By Man's Righteousness

JOB 22:2 "Can a vigorous [mortal] man be of use [profit] to God, Or a wise man be useful to himself [Him]?"

1. God is all-sufficient - He needs nothing.
2. There is nothing man can do for God.

JOB 22:3 "Is there any pleasure [asset] to the Almighty if you are righteous, Or profit [gain] if you make your ways Perfect?"

1. We cannot add wealth or power to God.
2. God does rejoice or grieve over our conduct.
3. He loves man and wants what is best for man now and in eternity

Job's Calamities Are Result Of His Great And Endless Iniquities

JOB 22:4 "Is it because of your reverence [fear, righteousness] that He reproveth [punishes] you, That He enters into judgment against you?"

JOB 22:5 "Is not your wickedness great, And your iniquities without end?"

1. Job is not being punished because of his piety, but because of his wickedness. His punishment implies his guilt.
2. Job is a wretched sinner who will not repent.

Specific Charges

JOB 22:6 "For you have taken pledges of your brothers without cause [needlessly], And stripped men [your debtors] naked.

1. "For instance, you must have refused to loan money to needy friends unless they gave you all their clothing as a pledge - yes, you must have stripped them to the bone." **Tay.**
2. Under the law of Moses Jews were forbidden to charge interest to God's people. (Exod. 22:25-27; Deut. 24:10-13).

JOB 22:7 "To the weary you have given no water to drink, And from the hungry you have withheld bread.

1. See Matt. 10:42.
2. See also Job 31:16-22 - Job's denial of charges

JOB 22:8 "But the earth [land] belongs to the mighty man, And the honorable [favored] man dwells in it.

"But no doubt you gave men of importance anything they wanted, and yet the wealthy live wherever they choose." **Tay**

Neglected Widows And Orphans

JOB 22:9 "You have sent widows away empty, And the strength of the orphans has been crushed [rendered, useless].

1. This was untrue of Job.

2. It must be untrue of us. (Jas. 1:27).

JOB 22:10 "Therefore snares [traps] surround you, And sudden dread terrifies you,

JOB 22:11 Or darkness, so that you cannot see, And an abundance of water covers you.

God is "In The Height Of Heaven"

JOB 22:12 "Is not God in the height of heaven? Look also at the distant stars, how high they are!

1. Some stars are billions of light years away. A light year is 6 trillion miles.

2. Job doubts, according to Eliphaz, that God knows of earth's activities.

JOB 22:13 "And you say, 'What does God know? Can He judge through the thick darkness?

"Because he is far above you said, 'What does God know? Can he peer through the shadowed darkness?' **Jerus**

Eliphaz Lies About Job

"And you say" - See 22:13

JOB 22:14 'Clouds are a hiding place for Him, so that He cannot see [us]; And He walks on the vault [rim] of heaven.'

JOB 22:15 "Will you keep to the ancient path Which wicked men have trod,

Some Think Allusion To Flood

JOB 22:16 Who were snatched away before their time, Whose foundations [habitations] were washed away by a river?

JOB 22:17 "They [the wicked] said to God, 'Depart from us!' And 'What can the Almighty do to them?'

JOB 22:18 "Yet He filled their houses with good things; But the counsel of the wicked is far from me. He shuns the council of the wicked and heeds the counsel of good men.

JOB 22:19 "The righteous see and are glad, And the innocent mock them [the wicked],

Righteous Are Delighted When The Godless Are Consumed With Divine Judgment

JOB 22:20 Saying, ' Truly our adversaries are cut off, And their abundance the fire has consumed.'

Calls Upon Job To Repent

JOB 22:21 "Yield now be at terms with God] and be at peace with Him; Thereby good will come to you.

Word In The Heart

JOB 22:22 "Please receive instruction from His mouth, And establish [keep] His words in your heart. Psa. 119:11, 58.

1. Head knowledge alone is not enough.

2. It must be in the heart - the inward man.

JOB 22:23 "If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored; If you remove unrighteousness far from Your tent,

"Ophir"

JOB 22:24 And place your gold in the dust, And the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brooks,

1. "Ophir" was celebrated gold region.

2. It you give up your lust for money, and throw your gold away - Tay

JOB 22:25 Then the Almighty will be your gold And choice silver to you.

God Will Hear His Prayers If He Will Delight In The Lord

JOB 22:26 "For then [if you repent and return to the Almighty] you will delight in the Almighty, And lift up your face to God.

JOB 22:27 "You will pray to Him, and He will hear you; And you will pay your vows.

JOB 22:28 "You will also decree a thing, and it will be established for you; And light will shine on your ways.

JOB 22:29 "When you are cast down, you will speak with confidence And the humble person He will save.

JOB 22:30 "He will deliver one who is not innocent, And he will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands."

Job's Third Response To Eliphaz

23:1-24:25

JOB 23:1 Then Job replied,

1. He does not reply to the specific indictments made against him.
2. He is dismayed and preoccupied with the apparent injustice of God's providential workings in life and then in man's world in general.

JOB 23:2 "Even today my complaint is rebellion; His hand is heavy [on me] despite my groaning.

"Today again my complaint becomes rebellious" Ber

Wants To Know Where To Find God

JOB 23:3 "Oh that I knew where I might find Him, That I might come to His [judgment] seat!

"If only I knew how to reach him, or how to travel to his dwelling" Jerus. He would argue his case before God.

He Would Argue His Case

JOB 23:4 "I would present my case before Him And fill my mouth with [multiple, many] arguments.

He Would Listen To God's Explanation

JOB 23:5 "I would learn the words which He would answer, And perceive what He would say to me.

"Taking note of everything he said to me."

JOB 23:6 "Would He contend with me by the greatness of His power? No, surely He would pay attention to me.

1. "Would he exert his great power to brow beat me." NEB
2. Earlier he had argued no one could expect to be heard by the awesome God.

JOB 23:7 "There [at His judgment seat] the upright [innocent] would reason with Him; And I would be delivered [acquitted] forever from my Judge.

Job Asks "Where Is God?"

Though He Looks In Every Direction He Cannot Find Him

He does not, however, deny God's existence

JOB 23:8 "Behold, I go forward but He is not there, And backward, but I cannot perceive Him;

JOB 23:9 When He acts on the left, I cannot behold Him; He turns on the right, I cannot see Him.

JOB 23:10 "But He knows the way I take; When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

1. God is hiding from him.
2. In a fair trial he would shine like refined gold. God would find him innocent.

Job's Faithfulness

JOB 23:11 "My foot has held fast [been faithful] to His path; I have kept His way and not turned aside.

1. He denies Eliphaz's claim. (Job 22:15).
2. He has held fast to heaven's way.

God's Word Is His Treasure - Not Earthly Treasures

JOB 23:12 "I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary [daily] food. Psa. 1:1,2.

God Does What He Pleases

JOB 23:13 "But He is unique and who can turn Him? And what His soul desires, that He does.

"But once he has decided, who can change his mind?" Jerus. God has and can change His mind.

JOB 23:14 "For He performs what is appointed for me, And many such decrees are with Him.

1. "He will carry out what He has planned for me" Ber
2. "And his mind is full of such things."

JOB 23:15 "Therefore, I would be dismayed at His presence; When I consider, I am terrified of Him.

**JOB 23:16 "It is God who has made my heart faint, And the Almighty who has dismayed me [by His judgments],
"Indeed God has made my courage fail" NAB**

JOB 23:17 But I am not silenced by the darkness [of suffering], Nor deep gloom which covers me.

JOB 24:1 "Why are times [for punishment] not stored up by the Almighty, And why do those who know Him not see His days [of justice]?"

JOB 24:2 "Some remove the landmarks [boundary lines]; They seize and devour flocks.

Orphans And Widows

JOB 24:3 "They [the wicked] drive away the donkeys of the orphans; They take the widow's ox for a pledge.

Neglected Needy

JOB 24:4 "They push the needy aside from the road; The poor of the land are made to hide themselves altogether.

JOB 24:5 "Behold, as wild donkeys in the wilderness They go forth seeking food in their activity, As bread for their children in the desert. "Leave others to make their living as best they may, like the wild ass in the desert." Knox

Righteous Rely On Wicked For Food

JOB 24:6 "They harvest their fodder in the field, And they glean the vineyard of the wicked.

"They cut hay in a field which is not theirs" Lam

Lack Of Clothing And Elements Force Them To Seek Shelter In The Rocks

JOB 24:7 "They [the poor] spend the night naked, without clothing, And have no covering against the cold.

JOB 24:8 "They are wet with the mountain rains, And they hug the rock for want of a shelter.

JOB 24:9 "Others snatch the orphan [fatherless] from the breast [of their mother], And against the poor they take a pledge.

JOB 24:10 "They cause the poor to go about naked without clothing, And they take away the sheaves from the hungry.

JOB 24:11 "Within the walls they produce oil; They tread wine presses but thirst.

The Oppressed Groan And Cry Out For Justice, Yet, God Is Silent

JOB 24:12 "From the city men groan, And the souls of the wounded cry out; Yet God does not pay attention to folly.

"Yet God pays no attention to their prayer" RSV

"Rebel Against The Light"

JOB 24:13 "Others have been with those who rebel against the [enemies of] light; They do not want to know its ways, Nor abide in its paths.

Murderer

JOB 24:14 "The murderer arises at dawn; He kills the poor and the needy, And at night he is as a thief.

Adulterer

JOB 24:15 "And the eye of the adulterer waits for the twilight, Saying, 'No eye will see me.' And he disguises his face.

Robber

JOB 24:16 "In the dark they dig into [the walls of] houses, They shut themselves up by day; They do not know [love] the light.

Questions:

1. Why doesn't God punish them.
2. They appear to be getting by with their sins.
3. This is not really the case. (Gal. 6:7, 8; Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10).

JOB 24:17 "For the morning is the same to him as thick darkness [the middle of the night], For he is familiar with the terrors of thick darkness.

Job Seems To Be Saying That In Spite Of The Present Prosperity Of The Wicked, They Will Be Brought Low And Give Account For Their Sins

Like Scum On The Water The Wicked Will Be Swept Away

JOB 24:18 "They are insignificant on the surface of the water; Their portion is cursed on the earth. They do not turn toward the vineyards. "Such men are scum on the surface of the water" NEB

Consumed In Sheol

JOB 24:19 "Drought and heat [quickly] consume the snow waters, So does Sheol [death, grave] those who have sinned.

Be Forgotten And Rot In The Grave

JOB 24:20 "A mother will forget him; The worm feeds sweetly till he is remembered no more. And wickedness will be broken like a tree.

"Even the sinners own mother shall forget him" Tay

"The worm should find him sweet" Rhm

JOB 24:21 "He wrongs the barren woman, And does no good for the widow.

No Assurance Of Life

JOB 24:22 "But He drags off the valiant [the strong] by His power; He rises, but no one has assurance of life.

God's "Eyes Are Upon Their Ways"

JOB 24:23 "He provides them with security, and they are supported; And His eyes are on their ways. Prov. 15:3

Their Evil Prosperity Will Be Short-Lived

JOB 24:24 "They are exalted a little while, then they are gone; Moreover, they are brought low and like everything gathered up; Even like the heads of grain they are cut off.

Job Challenges His Critics To Prove Him Wrong

JOB 24:25 "Now if it is not so, who can prove me a liar, And make my speech worthless?"

Bildad's Third And Last Speech

- His zeal for debate has died.
- He withdraws from this encounter with almost a whimper.

JOB 25:1 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered,

God's Sovereignty And Awesomeness Causes Peace to Prevail In Heaven

JOB 25:2 "Dominion and awe belong to Him Who establishes peace in His heights.

JOB 25:2 "Dominion and fear are with God; he makes peace in his high heaven. NRSV

JOB 25:3 "Is there any number to His troops? And upon whom does His light not rise?

JOB 25:3 Is there any number to his armies? Upon whom does his light not arise? NRSV God has innumerable angels. (Heb. 12:22).

JOB 25:4 "How then can a [lowly] man be just [clean, acquitted, righteous] with God? Or how can he be clean who is born of woman?" "Who in all the earth can boast he is clean" Tay

1. It teaches all men are sinners. (Psa. 14:2,3; Rom. 3:11, 23).
2. He does not uphold the false doctrine of inherited sinfulness, that is, babies are lost in sin.
3. Man is born upright, but goes astray. (Ezek. 18:20).
4. He is responsible for his own conduct. (Rom. 14:12).
5. Human sinfulness commences in that period of one's life that is called "youth." (Gen. 8:21; Jere. 3:25).

GEN 8:21 And the Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.

JER 3:25 "Let us lie down in our shame, and let our humiliation cover us; for we have sinned against the Lord our God, we and our fathers, since our youth even to this day. And we have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God."

6. A child must reach a certain level of maturity before he is able to choose between good and evil.

ISA 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

ISA 7:15 "He will eat curds and honey at the time He knows enough to refuse evil and choose good.

ISA 7:16 "For before the boy will know enough to refuse evil and choose good, the land whose two kings you dread will be forsaken.

7. The human spirit is not inherited from one's parents, but it comes from God. (Eccles. 12:7; Heb. 12:9).

8. We must become like little children to enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 18:13; 19:14).

JOB 25:5 "If even the moon has no brightness And the stars are not pure in His sight,

Bildad's Statement About Humanity

JOB 25:6 How much less man, that maggot, And the son of man, that worm! "

1. Man sometimes calls himself "a worm," because of his attitude toward himself or the attitude others have toward him.

PSA 22:6 But I am a worm, and not a man, A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

2. He is the image of God and a little lower than the angels. (Gen. 1:26, 27; Psa. 8:4, 5).

3. God has given His unique Son for man. (Jn. 3:16).

Job's Response To Bildad

26:1-31:40

JOB 26:1 Then Job responded

Bildad's Counsel Worthless

2-4

JOB 26:2 "What a help you are to the weak! How you have saved the arm without strength!

JOB 26:3 "What counsel you have given to one without wisdom! What helpful insight you have abundantly provided!

JOB 26:4 "To whom have you uttered words? And whose spirit was expressed through you?"

JOB 26:5 "The departed spirits tremble Under the waters and their inhabitants.

Sheol And Abaddon

JOB 26:6 "Naked is Sheol [the grave] before Him And Abaddon [destruction] has no covering.

JOB 26:7 "He stretches out the north over empty space, And hangs the earth on nothing.

JOB 26:7 He spreads out the northern [skies] over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing. NIV

1. Astronomers today tell us that there is a vast, empty expanse in the northern heavens without stars.
2. Job's statement shows the earth is without foundation.

Ptolemy, Aristotle, and Plato all thought the earth was flat and surrounded by a vast river.

ISA 40:22 It is He who sits above the vault of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

JOB 26:8 "He wraps up the waters in His clouds; And the cloud does not burst under them.

JOB 26:9 "He obscures [holds back] the face of the full moon, And spreads His cloud over it.

JOB 26:10 "He has inscribed a circle on the surface of the waters, At the boundary of light and darkness.

JOB 26:11 "The pillars of heaven tremble, And are amazed at His rebuke.

JOB 26:12 "He quieted the sea with His power, And by His understanding He shattered Rahab.

JOB 26:13 "By His breath [Spirit] the heavens are cleared; His hand has pierced the fleeing serpent.

JOB 26:14 "Behold, these are the fringes of His ways; And how faint a word we hear of Him! But His mighty thunder, who can understand?"

Job Insists He Is Speaking The Truth

JOB 27:1 Then Job continued his discourse and said,

JOB 27:2 "As God lives, who has taken away my right, And the Almighty, who has embittered my soul,

JOB 27:3 For as long as life is in me, And the breath of God is in my nostrils,

"That as long as I live, while I have breath from God" Tay

JOB 27:4 My lips certainly will not speak unjustly, Nor will my tongue mutter deceit.

Job Maintains His Innocence

JOB 27:5 "Far be it from me that I should declare you right; Till I die I will not put away my integrity from me. "Far from ever admitting you to be in the right; I will maintain my innocence to my dying day. Jerus.

JOB 27:6 "I hold fast my righteousness and will not let it go [deny or apologize for it]. My heart does not reproach any of my days. "My conscious is clear for as long as I live" Tay

1. We should live in good conscience.
2. We must not defile conscience. (Rom. 14:23), but conscience can be wrong. (Acts 23:1).

JOB 27:7 "May my enemy be as the wicked, And my opponent as the unjust.

The Godless

JOB 27:8 "For what is the hope of the godless when he is cut off, When God requires his life? Matt. 16:26; Lk. 12:20

JOB 27:9 "Will God hear his cry, When distress comes upon him?

JOB 27:10 "Will he take delight in the Almighty, Will he call on God at all times?

JOB 27:11 "I will instruct you in the power of God; What is with the Almighty I will not conceal.

JOB 27:12 "Behold, all of you have seen it; Why then do you act foolishly?

JOB 27:13 "This is the portion of a wicked man from God, And the inheritance which tyrants receive from the Almighty.

JOB 27:14 "Though his sons are many, they are destined for the sword; And his descendants will not be satisfied with bread.

JOB 27:15 "His survivors will be buried because of the plague, And their widows will not be able to weep.

JOB 27:16 "Though he piles up silver like dust, And prepares garments as plentiful as the clay;

JOB 27:17 He may prepare it, but the just will wear it, And the innocent will divide the silver.
JOB 27:18 "He has built his house like the spider's web, Or as a hut which the watchman has made.
JOB 27:19 "He lies down rich, but never again; He opens his eyes, and it is no more.
JOB 27:20 "Terrors overtake him like a flood; A tempest steals him away in the night.
JOB 27:21 "The east wind carries him away, and he is gone, For it whirls him away from his place.
JOB 27:22 "For it will hurl at him without sparing; He will surely try to flee from its power.
JOB 27:23 "Men will clap their hands at him, And will hiss him from his place.
JOB 28:1 "Surely there is a mine for silver, And a place where they refine gold.
JOB 28:2 "Iron is taken from the dust, And from rock copper is smelted.
JOB 28:3 "Man puts an end to darkness, And to the farthest limit he searches out The rock in gloom and deep shadow.
JOB 28:4 "He sinks a shaft far from habitation, Forgotten by the foot; They hang and swing to and fro far from men.
JOB 28:5 "The earth, from it comes food, And underneath it is turned up as fire.
JOB 28:6 "Its rocks are the source of sapphires, And its dust contains gold.
JOB 28:7 "The path no bird of prey knows, Nor has the falcon's eye caught sight of it.
JOB 28:8 "The proud beasts have not trodden it, Nor has the fierce lion passed over it.
JOB 28:9 "He puts his hand on the flint; He overturns the mountains at the base.
JOB 28:10 "He hews out channels through the rocks; And his eye sees anything precious.
JOB 28:11 "He dams up the streams from flowing; And what is hidden he brings out to the light.

Wisdom

JOB 28:12 "But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?
JOB 28:13 "Man does not know its value, Nor is it found in the land of the living.
 1. His statement are an exaggeration.
 2. Some are wise and appreciate wisdom.
JOB 28:14 "The deep says, 'It is not in me'; And the sea says, 'It is not with me.'
JOB 28:15 "Pure gold cannot be given in exchange for it, Nor can silver be weighed as its price.
JOB 28:16 "It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, In precious onyx, or sapphire.
JOB 28:17 "Gold or glass cannot equal it, Nor can it be exchanged for articles of fine gold.
JOB 28:18 "Coral and crystal are not to be mentioned; And the acquisition of wisdom is above that of pearls.
JOB 28:19 "The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, Nor can it be valued in pure gold.
JOB 28:20 "Where then does wisdom come from? And where is the place of understanding?
JOB 28:21 "Thus it is hidden from the eyes of all living, And concealed from the birds of the sky.
JOB 28:22 "Abaddon and Death say, 'With our ears we have heard a report of it.'
JOB 28:23 "God understands its way; And He knows its place.
JOB 28:24 "For He looks to the ends of the earth, And sees everything under the heavens.
JOB 28:25 "When He imparted weight to the wind, And meted out the waters by measure,
JOB 28:26 When He set a limit for the rain, And a course for the thunderbolt,
JOB 28:27 Then He saw it and declared it; He established it and also searched it out.

“The Fear Of The Lord”

JOB 28:28 "And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding.'"
 Prov. 1:7; 9:10; 1 Pet. 3:10-12

JOB 29:1 And Job again took up his discourse and said, KJV has “parable.”

Duration Of Job’s Suffering Recalls “The Good Ole Days” 2-6

JOB 29:2 "Oh that I were as in months gone by, As in the days when God watched over me;
JOB 29:3 When His lamp shone over my head, And by His light I walked through darkness;

Friendship Of God

JOB 29:4 As I was in the prime of my days, When the friendship of God was over my tent;
JOB 29:5 When the Almighty was yet with me, And my children were around me;
JOB 29:6 When my steps were bathed in butter, And the rock poured out for me streams of oil!
JOB 29:7 "When I went out to the gate of the city, When I took my seat in the square;
JOB 29:8 The young men saw me and hid themselves, And the old men arose and stood.
JOB 29:9 "The princes stopped talking, And put their hands on their mouths;
JOB 29:10 The voice of the nobles was hushed, And their tongue stuck to their palate.
JOB 29:11 "For when the ear heard, it called me blessed; And when the eye saw, it gave witness of me,
JOB 29:12 Because I delivered the poor who cried for help, And the orphan who had no helper.
JOB 29:13 "The blessing of the one ready to perish came upon me, And I made the widow's heart sing for joy.
JOB 29:14 "I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban.

Job Helped Handicapped

JOB 29:15 "I was eyes to the blind, And feet to the lame.
JOB 29:16 "I was a father to the needy, And I investigated the case which I did not know.
JOB 29:17 "And I broke the jaws of the wicked, And snatched the prey from his teeth.
JOB 29:18 "Then I thought, 'I shall die in my nest, And I shall multiply my days as the sand.
JOB 29:19 'My root is spread out to the waters, And dew lies all night on my branch.
JOB 29:20 'My glory is ever new with me, And my bow is renewed in my hand.'
JOB 29:21 "To me they listened and waited, And kept silent for my counsel.
JOB 29:22 "After my words they did not speak again, And my speech dropped on them.
JOB 29:23 "And they waited for me as for the rain, And opened their mouth as for the spring rain.
JOB 29:24 "I smiled on them when they did not believe, And the light of my face they did not cast down.
JOB 29:25 "I chose a way for them and sat as chief, And dwelt as a king among the troops, As one who comforted the mourners.
JOB 30:1 "But now those younger than I mock me, Whose fathers I disdained to put with the dogs of my flock.
JOB 30:2 "Indeed, what good was the strength of their hands to me? Vigor had perished from them.
JOB 30:3 "From want and famine they are gaunt Who gnaw the dry ground by night in waste and desolation,
JOB 30:4 Who pluck mallow by the bushes, And whose food is the root of the broom shrub.
JOB 30:5 "They are driven from the community; They shout against them as against a thief,
JOB 30:6 So that they dwell in dreadful valleys, In holes of the earth and of the rocks.
JOB 30:7 "Among the bushes they cry out; Under the nettles they are gathered together.
JOB 30:8 "Fools, even those without a name, They were scourged from the land.

Object Of Scorn

JOB 30:9 "And now I have become their taunt, I have even become a byword to them.
JOB 30:10 "They abhor me and stand aloof from me, And they do not refrain from spitting at my face.
JOB 30:11 "Because He has loosed His bowstring and afflicted me, They have cast off the bridle before me.
RSV "cast off restraint in my presence."
JOB 30:12 "On the right hand their brood arises; They thrust aside my feet and build up against me their ways of destruction.
JOB 30:13 "They break up my path, They profit from my destruction, No one restrains them.
JOB 30:14 "As through a wide breach they come, Amid the tempest they roll on.
JOB 30:15 "Terrors are turned against me, They pursue my honor as the wind, And my prosperity has passed away like a cloud.
JOB 30:16 "And now my soul is poured out within me; Days of affliction have seized me.
JOB 30:17 "At night it pierces my bones within me, And my gnawing pains take no rest.
JOB 30:18 "By a great force my garment is distorted; It binds me about as the collar of my coat.
JOB 30:19 "He has cast me into the mire, And I have become like dust and ashes.
JOB 30:20 "I cry out to Thee for help, but Thou dost not answer me; I stand up, and Thou dost turn Thy attention against me.
JOB 30:21 "Thou hast become cruel to me; With the might of Thy hand Thou dost persecute me.
JOB 30:22 "Thou dost lift me up to the wind and cause me to ride; And Thou dost dissolve me in a storm.
JOB 30:23 "For I know that Thou wilt bring me to death And to the house of meeting for all living.

No Assistance From Anyone

JOB 30:24 "Yet does not one in a heap of ruins stretch out his hand, Or in his disaster therefore cry out for help?"

He Had Helped Others In Need

JOB 30:25 "Have I not wept for the one whose life is hard? Was not my soul grieved for the needy?"

JOB 30:26 "When I expected good, then evil came; When I waited for light, then darkness came."

JOB 30:27 "I am seething within, and cannot relax; Days of affliction confront me."

JOB 30:28 "I go about mourning without comfort; I stand up in the assembly and cry out for help."

JOB 30:29 "I have become a brother to jackals, And a companion of ostriches."

Job's Skin And Integrity

JOB 30:30 "My skin turns black on me, And my bones burn with fever."

JOB 30:31 "Therefore my harp is turned to mourning, And my flute to the sound of those who weep."

JOB 31:1 "I Have made a covenant [agreement, vow, rule] with my eyes; How then could I gaze [lust] at a virgin?"

1. "Virgin" comes from Hebrew "bethulah."

2. The Bible condemns not only the act of adultery, but the lusting that leads to the act. (Matt. 5:28, 29).

JOB 31:2 "And what is the portion of God from above Or the heritage of the Almighty from on high?"

JOB 31:3 "Is it not calamity to the unjust, And disaster to those who work iniquity?"

JOB 31:4 "Does He not see my ways, And number all my steps?"

JOB 31:5 "If I have walked with falsehood, And my foot has hastened after deceit,

JOB 31:6 Let Him weigh me with accurate scales, And let God know my integrity."

JOB 31:7 "If my step has turned from the way, Or my heart followed my eyes, Or if any spot has stuck to my hands,

JOB 31:8 Let me sow and another eat, And let my crops be uprooted."

He Has Been True To Wife

9-15

JOB 31:9 "If my heart has been enticed by a woman, Or I have lurked at my neighbor's doorway,

JOB 31:10 May my wife grind [be the slave grinding grain] for another, And let others kneel down [lie]over her."

JOB 31:11 "For that [adultery] would be a lustful crime; Moreover, it would be an iniquity punishable by judges."

JOB 31:12 "For it would be fire that consumes to Abaddon [destruction], And would uproot all my increase."

JOB 31:13 "If I have despised [rejected] the claim of my male or female slaves When they filed a complaint against me,

JOB 31:14 What then could I do when God arises, And when He calls me to account, what will I answer

Him? He anticipates men giving account to the Lord. (Rom. 14:12).

JOB 31:15 "Did not He who made me in the womb make him, And the same one fashion us in the womb?"

Denies Oppressing Poor

16-22

JOB 31:16 "If I have kept the poor from their desire, Or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail,

JOB 31:17 Or have eaten my morsel alone, And the orphan has not shared it

JOB 31:18 (But from my youth he grew up with me as with a father, And from infancy I guided her),

JOB 31:19 If I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing, Or that the needy had no covering,

JOB 31:20 If his loins have not thanked me, And if he has not been warmed with the fleece of my sheep,

JOB 31:21 If I have lifted up my hand against the orphan, Because I saw I had support in the gate,

JOB 31:22 Let my shoulder fall from the socket, And my arm be broken off at the elbow."

JOB 31:23 "For calamity from God is a terror to me, And because of His majesty I can do nothing."

JOB 31:24 "If I have put my confidence in gold, And called fine gold my trust,

JOB 31:25 If I have gloated because my wealth was great, And because my hand had secured so much;

JOB 31:26 If I have looked at the sun when it shone, Or the moon going in splendor,

JOB 31:27 And my heart became secretly enticed, And my hand threw a kiss from my mouth,

JOB 31:28 That too would have been an iniquity calling for judgment, For I would have denied God above."

His Enemies

JOB 31:29 "Have I rejoiced at the extinction of my enemy, Or exulted when evil befell him?"

JOB 31:30 "No, I have not allowed my mouth to sin By asking for his life in a curse. Matt. 5:43, 44; Rom. 12:17-21

JOB 31:31 "Have the men of my tent not said, 'Who can find one who has not been satisfied with his meat'?"

Manifested Hospitality

JOB 31:32 "The alien has not lodged outside, For I have opened my doors to the traveler. Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:2

JOB 31:33 "Have I covered [concealed] my transgressions like Adam, By hiding my iniquity in my bosom [to myself], Gen. 3:10. He endorsed the historicity of Adam and his fall.

JOB 31:34 Because I feared the great multitude, And the contempt of families terrified me, And kept silent and did not go out of doors?

JOB 31:35 "Oh that I had one to hear me! Behold, here is my signature; Let the Almighty answer me! And the indictment which my adversary has written,

1. Some would place 31:35-37 after 31:38-40 since the latter seems to present a climax.

2. They decided it was useless to debate "righteous" Job.

JOB 31:36 Surely I would carry it on my shoulder; I would bind it to myself like a crown.

JOB 31:37 "I would declare to Him the number of my steps; Like a prince I would approach Him.

JOB 31:38 "If my land cries out against me, And its furrows weep together;

JOB 31:39 If I have eaten its fruit without money, Or have caused its owners to lose their lives,

JOB 31:40 Let briars grow instead of wheat, And stinkweed instead of barley. "The words of Job are ended.

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