

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 06 June 2021 Job 01-02 Faith Tested
- 2) **13 June Job 03-14 Hope Defined**
- 3) 20 June Job 15-21 Redemption Found
- 4) 27 June Job 22-28 Wisdom Gained
- 5) 04 July Job 29-31 Justice Sought
- 6) 11 July Job 32-37 Power Displayed
- 7) 18 July Job 38-42 Dependence Declared
- 8) 25 July Ecclesiastes 01-02 What's the Use?
- 9) 01 Aug Ecclesiastes 03-05 What Time Is It?
- 10) 08 Aug Ecclesiastes 05-06 Why Listen?
- 11) 15 Aug Ecclesiastes 07-08 Where is the Balance?
- 12) 22 Aug Ecclesiastes 09-10 Facing Death?
- 13) 29 Aug Ecclesiastes 11-12 What is Life About?

INTRODUCTION

- Remember, Job has lost his 10 kids, his workforce, his wealth, and his health – with no visible hope of recovering anything
- The “Deuteronomic” formula or the Retributive Justice principle states that God blesses the righteous and curses the wicked
- So, Job’s world is turned upside down – He’s bewildered, he’s crushed, he’s in severe agony, and he has no hope or comfort

Passage	Comments
Job 3	<p>Job Speaks – and Curses the Day He Was Born</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. “<i>Let the day perish on which I was born</i>” • v11. “<i>Why did I not die at birth...?</i>” • v16. “<i>Why wasn't I miscarried? – Then I could find rest</i>” • Yet, Job realizes death never comes easy for some <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v8. Some have a death wish since they seem willing to do stupid things such as “<i>rouse Leviathan</i>” ♦ v21. Others long for death but it eludes them ... Rev 9:6 • Why would someone prefer death to life? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v20. Job questions why a sliver of hope is even given to those who are destined to suffer in this life ♦ v24. Job is so miserable, even food sickens him
Job 4-5	<p>Eliphaz Speaks – Trash Talk Begins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:3-4. Eliphaz begins praising Job for his good deeds • vv7-8. But soon hits him with “only bad people suffer” • Not everything Eliphaz speaks is false <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 5:7. “<i>Man is born for trouble as sparks fly upward</i>” ♦ 5:8-9. “<i>Place your faith in God who does great and unsearchable things, wonders without number</i>” ♦ 5:11. “<i>Those who mourn are lifted to safety</i>” ♦ 5:17. “<i>Do not despise the discipline of God</i>” ♦ 5:18. “<i>He inflicts pain and gives relief</i>”
Job 6-7	<p>Job Speaks – and Defends Himself</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:10. “<i>I rejoice in unspeakable pain that I have not denied the words of the Holy One</i>” • And Job reasons with his friends to show him mercy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 6:14. “<i>For the despairing man there should be kindness from his friends, so he doesn't lose heart</i>” ♦ 6:24-25. Job was willing to hear them out and he acknowledged that honest words may hurt, but their arguments were way off the mark and useless • And Job cries out to God – “WHAT HAVE I DONE?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 7:17. Job acknowledges that God is interested in us ♦ 7:18. God even examines us “every morning” and tries us in “every moment” to see if we are for Him ♦ 7:20. “<i>Have I sinned for You to use me as a target?</i>”
How Long Is A Moment?	<p>God Tries Us in Every Moment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A moment may be seconds, minutes, hours, or days • It could be in a thought, a word, a deed, or an attitude • Scientists say we think 10,000 thoughts every day – that’s how often we are tested every day by God

Passage	Comments
Job 8	<p>Bildad Speaks – And Appeals to Tradition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. Bildad says the unthinkable to a grieving Dad – “<i>Your kids got what they deserved</i>” • vv5-7. Yet Bildad prophetically foretold Job’s end state: “<i>If you stay faithful to God, He will bless you greatly</i>” • vv8,20. Bildad appeals to traditions of past generations and what they learned – that God blesses the righteous
Job 9-10	<p>Job Speaks Honestly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:8-10. Job knows that God created everything – even all the constellations – and countless mighty works • 9:15. Job knows that he is small and insignificant • 9:17-18 Job feels God is the cause of his pain and God even kicks him when he is down • 10:7. Job is bewildered – according to his knowledge of God, he is innocent, yet God hasn’t delivered him
Job 11	<p>Zophar Speaks – and Appeals to Logic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v6b. Zolphar also speaks the unthinkable to a man in agony – “<i>You know nothing about wisdom, and you are getting less punishment than you deserve</i>” • v11. Yet, Zolphar also has some moments of brilliance by stating that God knows man all too well, and does not need to investigate someone’s sin
Job 12-14	<p>Job Speaks – and Speaks Volumes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:1-3. Job states he knows just as much as they do • 12:4 “<i>The just & righteous man is a joke</i>” – That’s how people viewed Job. Where is your God, and if your God is so mighty and loving why doesn’t He hear you? • 12:5 “<i>He who is at ease holds calamity in contempt</i>” – Some look down on others going through tough times • 12:9. Job acknowledges God is doing this to him • 13:3 Job wants to argue his case before God • 13:15 Job’s true faith in his God comes out – “<i>Though He were to slay me, yet will I trust Him</i>” • 13:24. Job feels God considers him His enemy – Ouch • 14:14 Yet, Job hopes in the resurrection of the dead – “<i>...I will wait until my change comes</i>”

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- We can learn quickly from Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar the hurtful words and attitudes we should NOT voice around a grieving friend

NEXT WEEK: Job 15-21. The 2nd round of dialogues begins between the 4 men – with ever increasing belittlement from Job’s 3 friends. Yet Job defends his righteousness and calls on God to hear him out.



“You oughta just curse God and die. Oh, by the way, your few remaining friends are here to cheer you up”