

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 June 2013..... Job 01-02..... Is This Really Happening to Me?
- 2) 09 June..... Job 03-14..... Was It My Fault?
- 3) 16 June..... Job 15-21..... Who Said Life Would Be Fair?
- 4) 23 June..... Job 22-28..... Whom Can I Trust?
- 5) 30 June..... Job 29-31..... What Can I Do Now?
- 6) 07 July..... Job 32-37..... Am I On The Right Path?
- 7) 14 July..... Job 38-42..... What Am I Supposed to Learn?
- 8) 21 July..... Ecclesiastes 01-02..... Can I Find Meaning?
- 9) 28 July..... Ecclesiastes 03-05..... Why Do I Feel Empty?
- 10) 04 August..... Ecclesiastes 05-06..... Am I Headed For Failure?
- 11) 11 August..... Ecclesiastes 07-08..... Can I Keep On Going?
- 12) 18 August..... Ecclesiastes 09-10..... Is There Any Hope?
- 13) 25 August..... Ecclesiastes 11-12..... What is the Answer?

INTRODUCTION

- The 2nd round of dialogues begin 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.
- All the speakers, Job, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar are still caught up with the concept that God only allows the wicked to go through horrendous turmoil and reserves blessings just for the righteous
- This concept originated from the dawn of time with Adam and the Garden of Eden all the way through the Noahic flood
- In fact, if Job and his friends truly lived during or just before Abraham's lifetime they would have been quite familiar with the flood stories, possibly 1st hand, from Noah himself. If they lived after Abraham's time, then they still would have had possible 1st hand recollection from Noah's son, Shem, who helped build the boat. (see timeline chart below of the post-flood patriarchs)

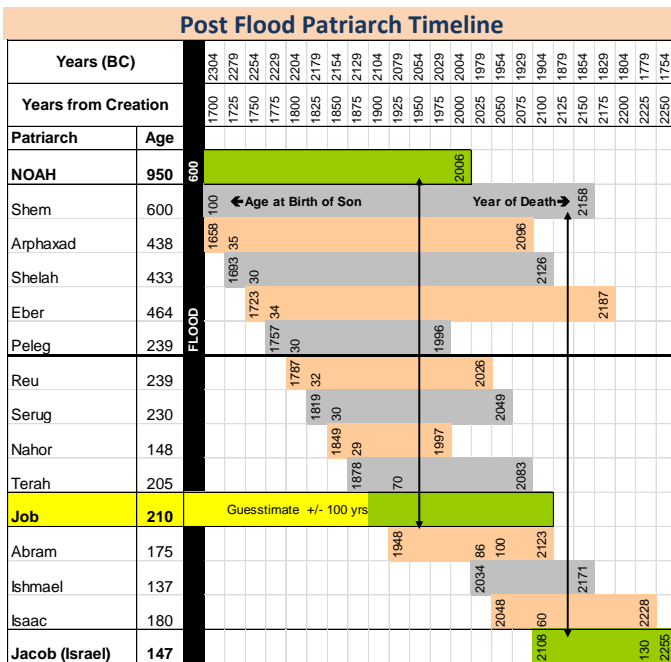
Passage	Comments
Job 20	<p>Zophar Speaks – And Concludes Job must be Wicked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. Zophar states that the “triumphing of the wicked” is short-lived • v18. And the wicked cannot enjoy the riches he makes since he has oppressed and forsaken the poor • v28. So, Zophar concludes Job is wicked since his possessions have left him
Job was the Start of New Lessons to be Learned	<p>God's Progressive Revelations Eventually Reveal:</p> <p>Ecc 7:15. ...and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his wickedness</p> <p>Ecc 8:14. ...,there are righteous men who get what the wicked deserve, and wicked men who get what the righteous deserve.</p> <p>Ps 94:3. How long, O LORD, shall the wicked triumph?</p>
Job 21	<p>Job Speaks – And Realizes The State of the Wicked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv7-15. If God is a loving God “Why do the wicked still live, and continue to grow more powerful?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ They have big houses and many possessions ♦ They party hardy and their prosperity grows • v30. “For the wicked are RESERVED for the day of calamity and are led forth at the day of fury” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – This seems to be a weak translation by the NASB, KJ, and NKJ versions ♦ The NIV, HCSB, ESV and NRSV render a different view: “Evil people are SPARED in times of calamity and are allowed to escape disaster” ♦ This seems to fit the context better

Passage	Comments
Job 15	<p>Eliphaz Speaks – And Condemns Job's Wickedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. Eliphaz basically calls Job a ‘wind bag’ • v10. Eliphaz alludes to a common knowledge base about God since “Both the gray-haired and the aged are among us, older than your father” – A possible allusion to Noah and Shem or their contemporaries
Job 16-17	<p>Job Speaks – “Sorry comforters are you all”16:2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16:12-13. Job states that God is using him as a target to shoot at without mercy. The Psalmist said something similar in Psalms 44:22 “...we are killed all day long as sheep to be slaughtered” • 17:9. Yet, Job acknowledged that one day the righteous will “grow stronger and stronger”
Job 18	<p>Bildad Speaks – Job's Wickedness is Obvious to All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v5. “...the light (prosperity) of the wicked goes out” • v11. “...and his skin is devoured by disease” • v19. ...and “he has no offspring or survivor”
Job 19	<p>Job Speaks – And Accuses God of Wronging Him</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v6. “I know that God has wronged me” • v7. “I cry out for help, but there is no justice” • v11. “God considers me as His enemy” • v13-14. My family, friends & staff see me as a stranger • v17. Even my wife finds me offensive • v18. Even young children (~grandkids) despise me • v20. “I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth” – IOW, he is barely hanging onto life • vv25-26. YET – Job knows his Redeemer lives, and he will one day see God
God has Broad Shoulders	<p>God Allows Job (and Us) to Vent Our Frustrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We don't have perfect faith, we don't see the invisible, and we are blind to the future, so venting happens

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- We get a better sense of Job's perspective of being relentlessly pummeled both by God and by his remaining friends
- The Deuteronomic principle of the blessings of the righteous and the cursings of the wicked has its place, but in Job's situation it was greatly misapplied

NEXT WEEK: Job 22-28. The 3rd and final round of tit-for-tat bantering concludes with no conclusion. Job's friends continue to condemn him for unknown sins and Job continues to protest his innocence.



Noah and his son, Shem, were alive during Abraham's time, and possibly during Job's life time (see [Patriarch Longevity](#))