

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?

INTRODUCTION

- 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 stand by his integrity and innocence
- The lesson does end on one big positive note – we learn where Solomon learned about WISDOM – Right here in Job 28, “Behold, the fear of the Lord is WISDOM, and to depart from evil is UNDERSTANDING”
 - ♦ Solomon was indeed wise, but not prudent, for he failed to understand or apply wisdom since he seldom departed from evil

Passage	Comments
Job 22	<p>Eliphaz Speaks – Job’s Righteousness is Nothing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv2-3. Eliphaz states some truth that a man’s strength, a man’s wisdom, a man’s righteousness is meaningless to God, since God gives a man his strength, his wisdom and even imputes righteousness to him • vv4-6. Unfortunately, Eliphaz accuses Job of being wicked for his false pride (“reverence”), and abuse of his fellow man – all unproven accusations • vv23-28. Eliphaz states a general truism that God restores a repentant sinner; God will hear his prayers; and God saves a humble person – but it was misapplied to Job’s situation
Job 23	<p>Job Responds – God is Not Finished with Me Yet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. “...God’s hand is heavy despite my groaning” – IOW, God is not listening to my prayers • vv3-7. Job wanted to find God and to present his case before God, thinking then God would listen to him (v6); and would deliver him (v7) from his woes • vv8-9. But everywhere Job looks, God can’t be found • vv10-12. Job speaks of his love for God: “When He has tried me I shall come forth as gold”; and “...I have treasured His words more than my necessary food” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How much do we treasure God’s word? • Job states some truisms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v13. God does what He pleases.....Ps 115:3 (But are His actions toward us with malice, love, or indifference – and how can we tell? – see next vs) ♦ v14 God performs what is appointed for me, and He’s not finished with me yet (Job acknowledges God’s sovereignty over him)
Job 24	<p>Job Continues – ‘Why God, do You Prolong Justice?’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. The NLT seems to give an accurate rendering: “Why doesn’t the Almighty bring the wicked to judgment? Why must the godly wait for him in vain?” • Job describes the terrible injustice that often exists, even in his day, and the seemingly indifference by God – The poor must forage for food (v5); the naked shiver in the cold at night (vv7-8); fatherless infants are snatched from their mothers to pay bills (v9); field workers harvest food, but go hungry (v10); vineyard workers harvest wine, but go thirsty (v11); groans rise from the dying and wounded (v12)

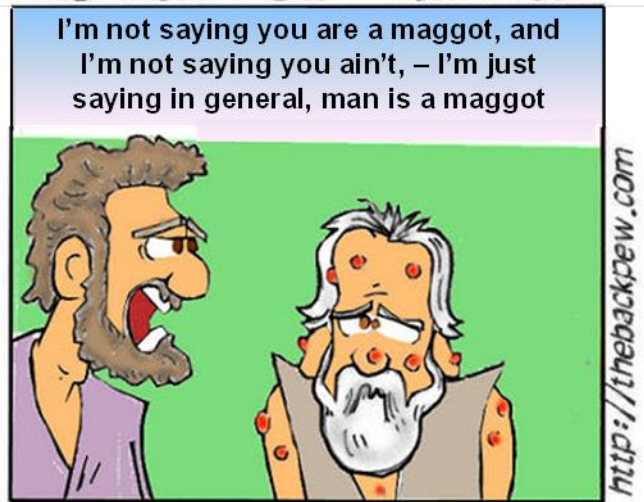
Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv18-24. HOWEVER, Job realizes the wicked have a surprise waiting for them. Sheol (Hell) will consume the sinner (v19) for they rob widows (v21), and are ruthless (v22), and they prosper by their wickedness– BUT only for a little while – then they are suddenly cut off (v24) • v25. Job challenges his friends to prove his statement wrong about the wicked prospering and the more righteous suffering at the hands of the wicked
Job 25	<p>Bildad Speaks – Job is Guilty, Even if He Isn’t</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-5. Bildad highlights God’s magnificence • v4. ...and basically calls Job a maggot in comparison
Job 26	<p>Job Responds – Let me Tell You What I Know of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The departed spirits reside under the waters (v5); God stretches the [northern sky] over a void (arctic ocean) (same ‘void’ as Gen 1:2); & hangs the earth on nothing (v7); and declares that the earth is circular (v10) • Where did Job get his accurate understanding of the world? Remember, he was not far removed from Adam (pre-flood Methuselah probably knew Adam and Noah)
Job 27	<p>Job Continues – My Integrity is Sound</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. God has wronged me • vv5-6. But I will still be faithful to You and live right <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ WOW! Can we have such faith in God though we feel He has deserted us or treats us as an enemy?
Job 28 Pro 1:7 Pro 2:4-6 Pro 4:7 Pro 9:10	<p>Job Continues – And Shares the Source of Wisdom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv15-19. Wisdom cannot be bought with gold & silver • vv20-27. The source of wisdom is not in the earth, but it abides with God • v28. The fear of the Lord is WISDOM, and to depart from evil is UNDERSTANDING (application of wisdom)

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- A fool is considered wise if he keeps his mouth shut (Prov 17:28), and in the multitude of words sin is unavoidable (Prov 10:19)
 - ♦ Even we violate these principles from time to time; so we cannot judge Job’s friends too harshly for their inappropriate words

NEXT WEEK: Job 29-31. Job continues his discourse and sums up his position – 1) I remember the good ‘ol days; 2) Now, I go about mourning without comfort; 3) BUT, I will maintain my integrity, for I know my Redeemer lives

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Bildad tried to be politically correct and not offend Job with his offensive words. Job 25:6