

JOB PART 3 — JOB’S 3 FRIENDS ACCUSE HIM OF WICKEDNESS!

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Hopefully ... we’ve seen that the Book of Job contains many opinions — of flawed and ignorant men. It may be an inspired record of events — but **most of it is not “truth”** and cannot be used to establish doctrine.

The major key to understanding the Book is that most if it is just faulty and ignorant human opinions. That Job and his friends mostly did not know what they were talking about.

For example ... they all **BLAMED GOD** for Job’s calamities. Job blamed God ... and accused God of being unjust since he had done nothing to deserve it. The friends blamed God ... but believed Job was a wicked sinner and did deserve it! **THEY WERE ALL INACCURATE!**

Job 42:1-6

1 Then Job answered the LORD and said:

2 “**I know that You can do everything,
And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.**

3 **You asked, Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’**

Therefore **I have uttered what I did not understand,**
Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

4 Listen, please, and let me speak;

You said, I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’

5 “**I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear,
But now my eye sees You.**

6 **Therefore I abhor
And repent in dust and ashes.**” (*Job abhors his foolish statements — he doesn’t abhor himself — he wasn’t self-righteous — God said he was blameless!*)

Job 42:6 (GNT)

6 **So I am ashamed of all I have said
and repent in dust and ashes.**

Job concedes his ignorance.

The first clear indication of Job's ignorance is in his first statement.

Job 1:20-22

20 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

21 And he said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,

And naked shall I return there.

The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away;

Blessed be the name of the LORD."

22 In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

JOB'S STATEMENT IS FALSE!! IT WAS SATAN!

At this point ... **Job is courteous about God (though mistaken).**
Later ... he becomes quite offensive and disrespectful.

TODAY — MANY PEOPLE STILL BELIEVE GOD IS TO BE BLAMED. They believe that Job was right in verse 21 — **"IT'S IN THE BIBLE"**!

(So are many statements from the Devil!)

Job's attitude was good — but not his "accuracy"!

"Yes" some will say ... "but God allowed it. God allowed Satan to bring calamity on Job". NO!!! SATAN TAKES AWAY!! GOD BLESSES!

God allowed King David to commit adultery with Bathsheba. God allowed David to arrange the murder of Uriah.

Are we to blame God for these crimes??

So ... let's not blame God for Job's calamities. Once God got personally involved with Job — He doubled his prosperity!

We can still learn from Job ... even though not much “truth”. It gives us good insight into human reasoning. We might even recognise ourselves here and there.

Job 42:7-8

7 And so it was, after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, **that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has.**

8 Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you. For I will accept him, lest I deal with you according to **your godless folly**; because **you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has.**”

God is angry with Job’s 3 friends over their “theology”.

Let’s see what Job’s friends made of his circumstances. We will start with Eliphaz (Possibly oldest? Most senior?)

Job 4:1-6

1 Then **Eliphaz the Temanite** answered and said:

2 “If one attempts a word with you, will you become weary?

But who can withhold himself from speaking?

3 **Surely you have instructed many,
And you have strengthened weak hands.**

4 **Your words have upheld him who was stumbling,
And you have strengthened the feeble knees;**

5 **But now it comes upon you, and you are weary;
It touches you, and you are troubled.**

6 Is not your reverence your confidence?
And the integrity of your ways your hope?

You used to offer advice and wisdom — but now ...

Job 4:7-9

7 “Remember now, **who ever perished being innocent?**

Or **where were the upright ever cut off?**

8 Even as I have seen,

**Those who plow iniquity
And sow trouble reap the same.**

**9 By the blast of God they perish,
And by the breath of His anger they are consumed.**

You're a sinner — not innocent. Getting your just desserts!

But Eliphaz is wrong. In this fallen world ... **THE INNOCENT DO
SOMETIMES SUFFER.** Plus — **WE REAP WHAT WE SOW** ... and
innocent people can make foolish decisions too. HIS THEOLOGY IS
WRONG!!

Now he adds a spiritual dimension.

Job 4:12-21

12 “**Now a word was secretly brought to me,
And my ear received a whisper of it.**

13 In disquieting thoughts from the **visions of the night,**

When deep sleep falls on men,

14 Fear came upon me, and trembling,

Which made all my bones shake.

15 Then **a spirit passed before my face;**

The hair on my body stood up.

16 It stood still,

But I could not discern its appearance.

A form was before my eyes;

There was silence;

Then I **heard a voice saying:**

17 ‘**Can a mortal be more righteous than God?**

Can a man be more pure than his Maker?

18 If He puts no trust in His servants,

If He charges His angels with error,

19 How much more those who dwell in houses of clay, (*human beings*)

Whose foundation is in the dust,

Who are crushed before a moth?

20 They are broken in pieces from morning till evening;

They perish forever, with no one regarding.

21 Does not their own excellence go away?

They die, even without wisdom.’

A spirit being has brought revelation to Eliphaz. This should impress Job — put him in his place.

But **IF he did see a spirit ... it is more likely to be from Satan the Devil** to further demoralise Job?

If we have come across a spirit — we had better be careful!

1 John 4:1

1 Beloved, **do not believe every spirit**, but **test the spirits**, **whether they are of God**; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

TEST THE SPIRITS!

If you ever have some dramatic revelation — or spiritual “experience” — **TAKE CARE!!** It is not automatically from God.

Job 5:2-4

2 For **wrath kills a foolish man,**

And envy slays a simple one.

3 I have seen the foolish taking root,
But suddenly I cursed his dwelling place.

4 **His sons are far from safety,**

They are crushed in the gate,

And there is no deliverer.

You're a foolish man — your sons are far from safety (because of your iniquity).

Job 5:6-7

6 **For affliction does not come from the dust,**

Nor does trouble spring from the ground;

7 **Yet man is born to trouble,**

As the sparks fly upward.

Trouble doesn't just “happen”! There's a cause for it — there's a reason for it!

Job 5:8-14

8 **"But as for me, I would seek God,**

And to God I would commit my cause—

9 Who does great things, and unsearchable,
Marvellous things without number.

10 He gives rain on the earth,
And sends waters on the fields.

11 He sets on high those who are lowly,
And those who mourn are lifted to safety.

12 **He frustrates the devices of the crafty,**
So that their hands cannot carry out their plans.

13 **He catches the wise in their own craftiness,**
And the counsel of the cunning comes quickly upon them.

14 **They meet with darkness in the daytime,**
And grope at noontime as in the night.

**IF I WAS YOU JOB — I WOULD REPENT!! I WOULD GO TO GOD
BECAUSE HE DOES GOOD THINGS.**

Job 5:17

17 "Behold, **happy is the man whom God corrects;**
Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. (*Which is upon you Job*)

Happy is the man that God corrects and chastises (you Job). It's obviously God who is doing it!

Eliphaz directly blames God. God wasn't happy!

Job 5:18-27

18 For **He bruises**, but **He binds up**;
He wounds, but **His hands make whole**.

19 **He shall deliver you in six troubles,**
Yes, in seven no evil shall touch you.

20 In famine **He shall redeem you from death**,
And **in war from the power of the sword**.

21 **You shall be hidden from the scourge of the tongue,**
And **you shall not be afraid of destruction when it comes**.

22 **You shall laugh at destruction and famine,**

And **you shall not be afraid of the beasts of the earth.** (*Once you repent*)

23 For **you shall have a covenant with the stones of the field,**
And the beasts of the field shall be at peace with you.

24 **You shall know that your tent is in peace;**
You shall visit your dwelling and find nothing amiss.

25 **You shall also know that your descendants shall be many,**
And your offspring like the grass of the earth.

26 **You shall come to the grave at a full age,**
As a sheaf of grain ripens in its season.

27 Behold, this we have searched out; (*me and my two buddies!*)
It is true.

Hear it, and know for yourself."

REPENT — AND BE BLESSED.

More from Eliphaz.

Job 15:1-3

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

2 "**Should a (*supposedly*) wise man answer with empty knowledge,**
And fill himself with the east wind?

3 **Should he reason with unprofitable talk,**
Or by speeches with which he can do no good?

You're all hot air!

Job 15:5-6

5 For **your iniquity teaches your mouth,**

And **you choose the tongue of the crafty.**

6 **Your own mouth condemns you, and not I;**

Yes, **your own lips testify against you.**

You're wicked!

Job 15:5 (CEV)

5 **Your sinful scheming mind is the source of all you say**

Job 15:7-10

7 **"Are you the first man who was born?**

Or were you made before the hills?

8 **Have you heard the counsel of God?**

Do you limit wisdom to yourself?

9 **What do you know that we do not know?**

What do you understand that is not in us?

10 Both the grey-haired and the aged are among us,
Much older than your father.

Mocking Job. Do you think you're wiser than us? (Job never claimed to be).

Job was sure of one thing. He knew he'd done nothing to deserve these calamities.

Job 15:14-16

14 **"What is man, that he could be pure?**

And he who is born of a woman, that he could be righteous?

15 If God puts no trust in His saints,
And the heavens are not pure in His sight,

16 **How much less man, who is abominable and filthy,
Who drinks iniquity like water!**

Everybody is a wicked sinner — including YOU! Confess it!

Job 15:17-19

17 **"I will tell you, hear me;**

What I have seen I will declare,

18 **What wise men have told,**

Not hiding anything received from their fathers,

19 **To whom alone the land was given,**

And no alien passed among them:

Leans on the traditions of the fathers.

(Be careful with tradition. Many traditions are foolish and unbiblical).

Job 15:20

20 **The wicked man writhes with pain all his days.**

And the number of years is hidden from the oppressor.

A wicked man writhes in pain — YOU!

Job 15:21-26

21 Dreadful sounds are in his ears;

In prosperity the destroyer comes upon him.

22 He does not believe that he will return from darkness,
For **a sword is waiting for him.**

23 He wanders about for bread, saying, 'Where is it?'

He knows that a day of darkness is ready at his hand.

24 Trouble and anguish make him afraid;

They overpower him, like a king ready for battle.

25 **For he stretches out his hand against God,**

And acts defiantly against the Almighty,

26 **Running stubbornly against Him**

With his strong, embossed shield.

Eliphaz has a 3rd final discourse.

Job 22:1,4-5

1 Then **Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:**

4 **"Is it because of your fear of Him that He corrects you,
And enters into judgment with you?**

5 **Is not your wickedness great,**

**And your iniquity without end? (You really are a bad person
Job)**

God is judging your great wickedness!

Job 22:6-7

6 For **you have taken pledges from your brother for no reason,**
And **stripped the naked of their clothing.**

7 **You have not given the weary water to drink,**

And **you have withheld bread from the hungry.**

You've exploited the poor. You've done all of these bad things.

Job 22:9

9 **You have sent widows away empty,**

And the strength of the fatherless was crushed.

Denied widows and orphans.

Job 22:10

10 **Therefore snares are all around you,**
And sudden fear troubles you,

Therefore ... your troubles.

Job 22:15

15 **Will you keep to the old way**
Which wicked men have trod,

You follow wicked paths.

Job 22:21-26

21 **“Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace;**
Thereby good will come to you. (*JOB — REPENT!!*)

22 **Receive, please, instruction from His mouth,**
And lay up His words in your heart.

23 **If you return to the Almighty, you will be built up;**
You will remove iniquity far from your tents.

24 Then **you will lay your gold in the dust,**
And the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brooks.

25 **Yes, the Almighty will be your gold**
And your precious silver;

26 **For then you will have your delight in the Almighty,**
And lift up your face to God.

IF YOU REPENT! The innocent never suffer.

Let's look at Bildad's thoughts (3 chapters).

Job 8:1-2

1 Then **Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:**

2 **“How long will you speak these things,**
And the words of your mouth be like a strong wind?

You're a windbag!

Job 8:3

**3 Does God subvert judgment?
Or does the Almighty pervert justice?**

God is just! Since He's punishing you — you must deserve it.

Job 8:4

**4 If your sons have sinned against Him,
He has cast them away for their transgression.**

Hurtful? (Job had been concerned about them).

Job 8:5-7

**5 If you would earnestly seek God
And make your supplication to the Almighty,
6 If you were pure and upright,
Surely now He would awake for you,
And prosper your rightful dwelling place.
7 Though your beginning was small,
Yet your latter end would increase abundantly.**

REPENT! IF YOU WERE INDEED PURE — GOD WOULD ANSWER!

Job 8:11-14

**11 "Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh?
Can the reeds flourish without water?
12 While it is yet green and not cut down,
It withers before any other plant.
13 So are the paths of all who forget God;
And the hope of the hypocrite shall perish,
14 Whose confidence shall be cut off,
And whose trust is a spider's web.**

You not only forget God — you're a hypocrite.

Job 8:20

**20 Behold, God will not cast away the blameless,
Nor will He uphold the evildoers.**

God doesn't cast away the blameless — therefore we must have something we can blame you for. (But it was Satan — not God. And GOD SAID JOB WAS BLAMELESS).

Bildad again.

Job 18:1-8

1 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

2 “How long till you put an end to words?

Gain understanding, and afterward we will speak.

3 Why are we counted as beasts,

And regarded as stupid in your sight?

4 You who tear yourself in anger,

Shall the earth be forsaken for you?

Or shall the rock be removed from its place?

5 “The light of the wicked indeed goes out,

And the flame of his fire does not shine.

6 The light is dark in his tent,

And his lamp beside him is put out.

7 The steps of his strength are shortened,

And his own counsel casts him down.

8 For he is cast into a net by his own feet,

And he walks into a snare.

You're trapped by your own lifestyle! We all agree — you are wicked!

Job 18:11-14

11 Terrors frighten him on every side,

And drive him to his feet.

12 His strength is starved,

And destruction is ready at his side.

13 It devours patches of his skin;

The firstborn of death devours his limbs.

14 He is uprooted from the shelter of his tent,

And they parade him before the king of terrors.

Skin diseased.

Job 18:18-19

18 He is driven from light into darkness,
And chased out of the world.

19 **He has neither son nor posterity among his people,
Nor any remaining in his dwellings.**

No children. Hurtful. He's lost his family.

Job 18:21

21 **Surely such are the dwellings of the wicked,
And this is the place of him who does not know God.**"

You don't know God and — you are a wicked person!

What did Zohar think? (2 chapters).

Job 11:1-3

1 Then **Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:**

2 **"Should not the multitude of words be answered?
And should a man full of talk be vindicated?**

3 **Should your empty talk make men hold their peace?
And when you mock, should no one rebuke you?**

Empty words!

Job 11:4-6

4 For you have said,
My doctrine is pure,
And I am clean in your eyes.'

5 But **oh, that God would speak,
And open His lips against you,**

6 **That He would show you the secrets of wisdom!
For they would double your prudence.
Know therefore that God exacts from you
Less than your iniquity deserves.**

You deserve worse! You're getting away easily Job!

Job 11:13-19

13 **"If you would prepare your heart,**

And stretch out your hands toward Him;

14 **If iniquity were in your hand, and you put it far away,**

And would not let wickedness dwell in your tents;

15 Then surely you could lift up your face without spot;

Yes, you could be steadfast, and not fear;

16 Because you would forget your misery,

And remember it as waters that have passed away, (*waters under the bridge*)

17 And **your life would be brighter than noonday.**

Though you were dark, **you would be like the morning.**

18 And **you would be secure**, because there is hope;

Yes, you would dig around you, and take your rest in safety.

19 **You would also lie down, and no one would make you afraid;**

Yes, many would court your favor.

If you repent!

Job 11:20

20 **But the eyes of the wicked will fail,**

And they shall not escape,

And their hope—loss of life!”

If you don't — you are doomed! No hope — darkness!

Zophar again.

Job 20:4-9

4 “Do you not know this of old,
Since man was placed on earth,

5 That **the triumphing of the wicked is short,**

And the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment?

6 Though his haughtiness mounts up to the heavens,
And his head reaches to the clouds,

7 **Yet he will perish forever like his own refuse;**

Those who have seen him will say, ‘Where is he?’

8 He will fly away like a dream, and not be found;

Yes, he will be chased away like a vision of the night.

9 **The eye that saw him will see him no more,**

Nor will his place behold him anymore. (*You're finished... it's all over*)

Clearly you are wicked ... a hypocrite!

Job 20:22-23

22 In his self-sufficiency he will be in distress;
Every hand of misery will come against him.

23 When he is about to fill his stomach,

**God will cast on him the fury of His wrath,
And will rain it on him while he is eating.**

God will pour out His wrath.

Job 20:27-29

27 **The heavens will reveal his iniquity,**

And **the earth will rise up against him.**

28 The increase of his house will depart,

And **his goods will flow away in the day of His wrath.**

29 **This is the portion from God for a wicked man,
The heritage appointed to him by God."**

His iniquity will be revealed and he will incur God's wrath.

Job's friends concluded their "advice":

- Job was an extremely wicked man — a hypocrite ... who exploited the poor and the widows.
- He deserved all he got — and more!! It was God's doing ... and he needed to repent.

Job's friends relied on human reasoning — and their opinion was flawed.

But their theology was way off. In their eyes — God was totally responsible for Job's calamities. Caused by Job's wickedness.

Job's repentance would solve everything.

Next week — we will examine Job's defence. What did he think was going on in his life? What response did he want from God?