

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOES

A study of the lives of Joseph, Jonah, and Job

Job - Chapters 9-11

Lesson 4

Beginning with Job 9, the emphasis of the discussion is the justice of God. Job struggles for answers to questions like: How can a man be righteous before God? How can I answer God? And to summarize many of the questions of Job 11, Why was I born? Although God does not answer many of our "why" questions, He does answer these in other verses in the Bible. But He didn't answer Job. God's answer to Job will be His own integrity. In chapter 11, Zophar spoke accusing Job of guilt, ignorance of God, and stubbornness - words which only alienated Job. Although Job did not understand the LORD's reasons, Job continued to trust His goodness. You can probably relate to Job's questions; may you also relate to his trust.

OBSERVATION: Read Job 9

1. Read Job 9 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job*
3. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* occur five times in Job 9. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.
4. As you scan Job 9, consider the attributes of God that Job stated. Using just what Job declared, how would you describe God?

READ JOB 9

1. Job's first reply to Bildad's statements in Job 9 was *Truly, I know it is so*. He agreed with Bildad's general premise that God rewards the righteous and corrects/judges sinners. *But*, Job countered Bildad with a question. What was it?

a. Job was essentially asking, if he could not be found *righteous* before God, then who could be? Job's question is the most important question in the world. How can a man find God's approval? How can a man be considered *righteous* and not guilty before God?

1.) The psalmist asked a similar question in Psalm 130:3. What was it?

a.) Record the glorious answer of Psalm 130:4

b.) Bask in the truth of Titus 3:5-7 and write the verses in your own words.

2. *If one wished to contend with Him, He could not answer Him one time out of a thousand* (Job 9:3). We will discover throughout this book that Job did *contend* with God. Record Job's realization at the end of the book from Job 42:3.

a. Why do you think we say and do things, when we know better?

3. Record Job's second question of the chapter from verse 4.

a. Consider a time you have *hardened* yourself against God. In what ways do you identify with the truths of this verse?

4. Scan through Job's statements about God in verses 5-13. List a few.

a. What attributes of God does Job seem to be ignoring?

1.) What can be the results of not considering the entire character of God?

5. In Job 9:14-20, Job wonders how he can answer such a mighty God. Record a few statements that reflect his reasoning.

a. Record a statement or two that reflect Job's misunderstanding of God.

1.) Job seems to think God is not approachable. What does Hebrews 4:16 remind us of?

6. Job 9:21-24 reflects Job's inability to defend himself before God. Read the verses and share why you can relate to him.

7. Job expressed a strong sense of condemnation in verses 25-31. Choose a few of his statements that express his feelings of futility.

a. How do the words of the following verses encourage you that there is hope?

Proverbs 28:13

Romans 8:1

8. Job's conclusion at this point is that he needs a *mediator who may lay his hand on both* he and God. God has supplied that *mediator*. Who is that *mediator*? See 1 John 2:1

a. What are your thoughts when you reflect upon the fact that Job's desire has been met in Jesus, not only for Job, but for you and all who call upon Him?

OBSERVATION: Read Job 10

1. Read Job 10 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job*

3. The contrasting word *yet* is used in verse 8. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 10

1. *My soul loathes my life...* (Job 10:1). As a result, what two things did Job decide to do?
 - a. Using synonyms, define the word *bitterness*.
 - b. From personal experience, describe the effects of giving *bitterness* free reign to *speak*.
2. The more Job strives for answers, the more questions he seems to have. According to verse 2, what did Job want God to do?
3. Although the statements in verses 3-7 are posed as questions, of what was Job accusing God?
4. In Job 10:8-12, Job reminds God that he is His creation. What did Job say about this?
 - a. Scan through Psalm 139 and list parallel thoughts.
 - b. When it seems that God is *contending* with you, how does it help to remind yourself of these truths?
 - c. Although Job acknowledged the wonder of God's creation, verse 8 ends with the words, *yet You would destroy me*. What did God say to Satan in Job 2:6?
 - 1.) What are some ways we can falsely accuse God?
5. Write the words of Job 10:13.
 - a. Job begins to touch on the core of the problem that stirred inside of him. He knew that God knew all the causes and answers for Job's condition; yet God did not tell Job. We have the privilege of knowing the source of Job's calamity. How do you think Job would have reacted if he would have known the truth behind his circumstances?
 - 1.) As Job, we often do not know the source of our trials, which leads us to ask the question, *why?* What are some better questions to ask?

6. Read Job 10:18-22. What is Job basically asking God to do?

a. What would your life be like if God *left you alone*?

OBSERVATION: Read Job 11

1. Read Job 11 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Job, and Zophar*.

Key Words: *God, Job, and Zophar*

3. The contrasting word *but* occurs twice in Job 11. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted each time.

Read Job 11

1. Zophar the Naamathite now takes his shot at Job. This friend of Job's speaks the least of them all (only here and in Job 20), but perhaps he speaks the most arrogantly and confrontationally to Job. Using verses 2-3, how did Zophar describe Job's *words*?

a. Why might this approach not be the best?

2. What claim did Zophar say Job made in verse 4?

a. Job knew there was no special or specific sin on his part behind his losses. What is the difference between Zophar's claim regarding Job and Job's claim that there was not a specific sin that provoked his trial?

3. *But, oh that God would speak...*verse 5. According to Job 11:5,6, what did Zophar think God would do?

a. Why do we sometimes think that if God would speak to someone, His words would be condemning?

b. What is one thing you wish God would *speak* about?

c. What are some of your favorite words God has spoken to you through His Word?

4. What did Zophar say about God? Verses 7-10

5. Zophar encouraged Job *prepare your heart, and stretch out your hands toward Him*. Using verses 14-19, list the results Zophar promised.

6. What is the *hope* of the *wicked*?

REVIEW: Job 9-11

1. As you consider Job's statements, what have you learned about how he is handling his distress?

2. What have you learned about better ways to come alongside a person who is hurting?

3. How would you summarize Zophar's reply to Job?

*He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor punished us according to our iniquities.*

- Psalm 103:10

Observation Worksheet

Job 9

¹ Then Job answered and said: ² "Truly I know it is so, but how can a man be righteous before God? ³ If one wished to contend with Him, he could not answer Him one time out of a thousand. ⁴ God is wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who has hardened himself against Him and prospered? ⁵ He removes the mountains, and they do not know when He overturns them in His anger; ⁶ He shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; ⁷ He commands the sun, and it does not rise; He seals off the stars; ⁸ He alone spreads out the heavens, and treads on the waves of the sea; ⁹ He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south; ¹⁰ He does great things past finding out, yes, wonders without number. ¹¹ If He goes by me, I do not see Him; if He moves past, I do not perceive Him; ¹² if He takes away, who can hinder Him? Who can say to Him, 'What are You doing?' ¹³ God will not withdraw His anger, the allies of the proud lie prostrate beneath Him. ¹⁴ "How then can I answer Him, and choose my words to reason with Him? ¹⁵ For though I were righteous, I could not answer Him; I would beg mercy of my Judge. ¹⁶ If I called and He answered me, I would not believe that He was listening to my voice. ¹⁷ For He crushes me with a tempest, and multiplies my wounds without cause. ¹⁸ He will not allow me to catch my breath, but fills me with bitterness. ¹⁹ If it is a matter of strength, indeed He is strong; and if of justice, who will appoint my day in court? ²⁰ Though I were righteous, my own mouth would condemn me; though I were blameless, it would prove me perverse. ²¹ "I am blameless, yet I do not know myself; I despise my life. ²² It is all one thing; therefore I say, 'He destroys the blameless and the wicked.' ²³ If the scourge slays suddenly, He laughs at the plight of the innocent. ²⁴ The earth is given into the hand of the wicked. He covers the faces of its judges. If it is not He, who else could it be? ²⁵ "Now my days are swifter than a runner; they flee away, they see no good. ²⁶ They pass by like swift ships, like an eagle swooping on its prey. ²⁷ If I say, 'I will forget my complaint, I will put off my sad face and wear a smile,' ²⁸ I am afraid of all my sufferings; I know that You will not hold me innocent. ²⁹ If I am condemned, why then do I labor in vain? ³⁰ If I wash myself with snow water, and cleanse my hands with soap, ³¹ yet You will plunge me into the pit, and my own clothes will abhor me. ³² "For He is not a man, as I am, that I may answer Him, and that we should go to court together. ³³ Nor is there any mediator between us, who may lay his hand on us both. ³⁴ Let Him take His rod away from me, and do not let dread of Him terrify me. ³⁵ Then I would speak and not fear Him, but it is not so with me.

Job 10

¹ "My soul loathes my life; I will give free course to my complaint, I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. ² I will say to God, 'Do not condemn me; show me why You contend with me. ³ Does it seem good to You that You should oppress, that You should despise the work of Your hands, and smile on the counsel of the wicked? ⁴ Do You have eyes of flesh? Or do You see as man sees? ⁵ Are Your days like the days of a mortal man? Are Your years like the days of a mighty man, ⁶ that You should seek for my iniquity and search out my sin, ⁷ although You know that I am not

wicked, and there is no one who can deliver from Your hand? ⁸ 'Your hands have made me and fashioned me, an intricate unity; yet You would destroy me. ⁹ Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay. And will You turn me into dust again? ¹⁰ Did You not pour me out like milk, and curdle me like cheese, ¹¹ clothe me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews? ¹² You have granted me life and favor, and Your care has preserved my spirit. ¹³ 'And these things You have hidden in Your heart; I know that this was with You: ¹⁴ If I sin, then You mark me, and will not acquit me of my iniquity. ¹⁵ If I am wicked, woe to me; even if I am righteous, I cannot lift up my head. I am full of disgrace; see my misery! ¹⁶ If my head is exalted, You hunt me like a fierce lion, and again You show Yourself awesome against me. ¹⁷ You renew Your witnesses against me, and increase Your indignation toward me; changes and war are ever with me. ¹⁸ 'Why then have You brought me out of the womb? Oh, that I had perished and no eye had seen me! ¹⁹ I would have been as though I had not been. I would have been carried from the womb to the grave. ²⁰ Are not my days few? Cease! Leave me alone, that I may take a little comfort, ²¹ before I go to the place from which I shall not return, to the land of darkness and the shadow of death, ²² a land as dark as darkness itself, as the shadow of death, without any order, where even the light is like darkness."

Job 11

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? 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. ⁷ "Can you search out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty? ⁸ They are higher than heaven--what can you do? Deeper than Sheol--what can you know? ⁹ Their measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea. ¹⁰ "If He passes by, imprisons, and gathers to judgment, then who can hinder Him? ¹¹ For He knows deceitful men; He sees wickedness also. Will He not then consider it? ¹² For an empty-headed man will be wise, when a wild donkey's colt is born a man. 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, 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. ²⁰ But the eyes of the wicked will fail, and they shall not escape, and their hope--loss of life!"