

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOES

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

Job - Chapters 22-27

Lesson 8

These chapters contain the final discourses of Job's three friends and Job's attempt to convince them that he is innocent. The words of his friends have taken on no change or indication of them hearing Job's plea to them to hear him. Thus, although they used many words and much reasoning, their attempts to comfort Job have failed miserably. Interspersed in the dialogue are true acknowledgements of the wonder of God. Don't miss them.

OBSERVATION: Read Job 22

1. Read Job 22 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages 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*, *Job*, and *Eliphaz*
3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur three times in Job 22. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

READ JOB 22

1. Eliphaz began his third discourse with a question to Job: *Can a man be profitable to God?* Using the following verses, list what God takes *pleasure* in.

1 Chronicles 29:17

Psalm 147:11

Proverbs 11:20

Proverbs 12:22

- a. God desires that we know our value to Him, yet He disdains pride. Describe what a healthy perspective of our relationship with the Lord should be like.
2. Because Eliphaz could not understand the reason for Job's distress to be anything but correction from God, what were some of the false accusations Eliphaz assumed about Job? verses 4-11
 - a. What are some things we need to remind ourselves to consider when we begin to make assumptions about others?
3. In verses 12-20 Eliphaz spoke of the wonder of God and contrasted the *righteous* with the *wicked*. What contrast did he observe?
 - a. Notice the phrase in verse 18, *the counsel of the wicked is far from me*. Describe the *counsel of the wicked*?
 - 1.) Why do you think that even Christians fall prey to heeding *the counsel of the wicked*?
4. Job 22 closes with Eliphaz's plea to Job to get right with God. List a few of the benefits he presented.
 - a. What are some of the benefits you have personally discovered?

OBSERVATION: Read Job 23

1. Read Job 23 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages 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 *but* is used five times in Job 23. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 23

1. Job again longs to take his complaint before God. Although there is so much that Job does not know or understand, using verses 1-7, list the truths he does know.
 - a. Reflect upon the truths that you know. What do you know is true, if you sought God's attention today? Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.
2. Consider Job's dilemma as he expressed it in verses 8,9. Saints throughout the ages have shared Job's sentiments in times of trouble. Although it seems at times that God has hidden His face, what did Isaiah declare in Isaiah 8:17?
3. Job 23:10 begins with the contrasting word *but*. In the midst of doubt, in what is Job confident? Use verses 10-12.
4. In much of the closing verses of Job 23, Job proclaims God's sovereignty. Contemplate on the phrase from verse 14, *For He performs what is appointed for me*. Using Jeremiah 29:11, why can we rest in knowing that God has *appointed* good things for us?

OBSERVATION: Read Job 24

1. Read Job 24 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages 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*, *Job*, and words that relate to the *those* Job referred to beginning in verse 1.
3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur five times in Job 24. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 24

1. Job described the conduct of the *wicked* in the first 17 verses of Job 24. Record the contrasting phrase at the end of verse 12.
 - a. What did God say to counter this thinking in Psalm 50:21?

b. As Solomon reflected upon life in Ecclesiastes, what did he observe in:

Ecclesiastes 8:11

Ecclesiastes 8:12

- 1.) What comfort do you derive from his observations?
2. Job expressed his sense of rightness in verses 17-20, repeating the word *should*. List two of the consequences that Job feels *should* be experienced by the wicked.
3. Verse 22 again begins with a contrast which moves into a description of God. Using verses 22-24, what did Job proclaim about God?
4. Although the *wicked* seemingly prosper, what did Job conclude about them in verse 24?
 - a. Reflect upon people you have known about throughout history (or maybe just in your lifetime). What are your thoughts concerning those whose lives had real value and those who did not?
 - b. What are your thoughts about choices that result in temporary gain or satisfaction?

OBSERVATION: Read Job 25

1. Read Job 25 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages 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*.

Key Words: *God* and *Bildad*

Read Job 25

1. Bildad's final speech is only 6 verses long. What two questions did he ask in verse 4?

a. These questions have previously been asked. Record them, using the following verses.

Job 4:17,18

Job 14:4

Job 15:14

1.) Explain why the answer to these questions is “no”.

OBSERVATION: Read Job 26

1. Read Job 26 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages 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*.

Key Words: *God, Spirit, Job*, and words that relate to the *Job's friends*

3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur three times in Job 26. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 26

1. In the first four verses of chapter 26, Job challenged his friends regarding helping others. Who did Job say should be *helped, saved, or counseled*?

a. In what types of circumstances might these people find themselves?

b. Record the instruction of Isaiah 35:3.

1.) What are some practical ways we can do this?

2.) In what ways had Job's friends failed to apply this verse in their attempts to comfort Job?

2. Job moved into an acknowledgment of God's power in contrast to the abilities of his friends. Write the words of Isaiah 40:14.
 - a. Record one proclamation that Job made about God in Job 26:6-14 and share your thoughts about it.

OBSERVATION: Read Job 27

1. Read Job 27 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages 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, Job*, and words that relate to the *wicked/hypocrite*
3. The contrasting word *but* occurs twice in Job 27. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 27

1. Job 27:2 begins with the words *as God lives*. What did Job claim he would not do? verses 4-6
2. Job's friends accused him of being a *hypocrite*. In what did Job state that the hypocrite could not *hope*?
 - a. Record the words of Job 20:5.
 - b. In contrast, what is the *hope* of the righteous? Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.
3. Job closed the chapter acknowledging his agreement with his friends that the wicked will not prosper. If you were one of his friends and understood that Job was in agreement with your assessment of the wicked, what thoughts might you have about Job?

REVIEW: Job 22-27

1. After studying these chapters, what are your thoughts about:

God

Job

Job's friends

Hypocrites

*Righteous are You, O LORD, when I plead with You;
Yet let me talk with You about Your judgments.
Why does the way of the wicked prosper?
Why are those happy who deal so treacherously?
- Jeremiah 12:1*

Observation Worksheet

Job 22

¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: ² "Can a man be profitable to God, though he who is wise may be profitable to himself? ³ Is it any pleasure to the Almighty that you are righteous? Or is it gain to Him that you make your ways blameless? 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? 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. ⁸ But the mighty man possessed the land, and the honorable man dwelt in it. ⁹ You have sent widows away empty, and the strength of the fatherless was crushed. ¹⁰ Therefore snares are all around you, and sudden fear troubles you, ¹¹ or darkness so that you cannot see; and an abundance of water covers you. ¹² "Is not God in the height of heaven? And see the highest stars, how lofty they are! ¹³ And you say, 'What does God know? Can He judge through the deep darkness? ¹⁴ Thick clouds cover Him, so that He cannot see, and He walks above the circle of heaven.' ¹⁵ Will you keep to the old way which wicked men have trod, ¹⁶ who were cut down before their time, whose foundations were swept away by a flood? ¹⁷ They said to God, 'Depart from us! What can the Almighty do to them?' ¹⁸ Yet He filled their houses with good things; but the counsel of the wicked is far from me. ¹⁹ "The righteous see it and are glad, and the innocent laugh at them: ²⁰ 'Surely our adversaries are cut down, and the fire consumes their remnant.' ²¹ "Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you. 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. ²⁷ You will make your prayer to Him, He will hear you, and you will pay your vows. ²⁸ You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; so light will shine on your ways. ²⁹ When they cast you down, and you say, 'Exaltation will come!' Then He will save the humble person. ³⁰ He will even deliver one who is not innocent; yes, he will be delivered by the purity of your hands."

Job 23

¹ Then Job answered and said: ² "Even today my complaint is bitter; my hand is listless because of my groaning. ³ Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, that I might come to His seat! ⁴ I would present my case before Him, and fill my mouth with arguments. ⁵ I would know the words which He would answer me, and understand what He would say to me. ⁶ Would He contend with me in His great power? No! But He would take note of me. ⁷ There the upright could reason with Him, and I would be delivered forever from my Judge. ⁸ "Look, I go forward, but He is not there, and backward, but I cannot perceive Him; ⁹ when He works on the left hand, I cannot behold Him; when He turns to the right hand, I cannot see Him. ¹⁰ But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. ¹¹ My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside. ¹² I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. ¹³ "But He is unique, and who can make Him change? And whatever His soul desires, that He does. ¹⁴ For He performs what is appointed for me, and many such things are with Him. ¹⁵ Therefore I am terrified at His presence; when I consider this, I am afraid of Him. ¹⁶ For God made my heart weak, and the Almighty terrifies me; ¹⁷ because I was not cut off from the presence of darkness, and He did not hide deep darkness from my face.

Job 24

¹ "Since times are not hidden from the Almighty, why do those who know Him see not His days? ² "Some remove landmarks; they seize flocks violently and feed on them; ³ they drive away the donkey of the fatherless; they take the widow's ox as a pledge. ⁴ They push the needy off the road; all the poor of the land are forced to hide. ⁵ Indeed, like wild donkeys in the desert, they go out to their work, searching for food. The wilderness yields food for them and for their children. ⁶ They gather their fodder in the field and glean in the vineyard of the wicked. ⁷ They spend the night naked, without clothing, and have no covering in the cold. ⁸ They are wet with the showers of the mountains, and huddle around the rock for want of shelter. ⁹ "Some snatch the fatherless from the breast, and take a pledge from the poor. ¹⁰ They cause the poor to go naked, without clothing; and they take away the sheaves from the hungry. ¹¹ They press out oil within their walls, and tread winepresses, yet suffer thirst. ¹² The dying groan in the city, and the souls of the wounded cry out; yet God does not charge them with wrong. ¹³ "There are those who rebel against the light; they do not know its ways nor abide in its paths. ¹⁴ The murderer rises with the light; he kills the poor and needy; and in the night he is like a thief. ¹⁵ The eye of the adulterer waits for the twilight, saying, 'No eye will see me'; and he disguises his face. ¹⁶ In the dark they break into houses which they marked for themselves in the daytime; they do not know the light. ¹⁷ For the morning is the same to them as the shadow of death; if someone recognizes them, they are in the terrors of the shadow of death. ¹⁸ "They should be swift on the face of the waters, their portion should be cursed in the earth, so that no one would turn into the way of their vineyards. ¹⁹ As drought and heat consume the snow waters, so the grave consumes those who have sinned. ²⁰ The womb should forget him, the worm should feed sweetly on him; he should be remembered no more, and wickedness should be broken like a tree. ²¹ For he preys on the barren who do not bear, and does no good for the widow. ²² "But God draws the mighty away with His power; He rises up, but no man is sure of life. ²³ He gives them security, and they rely on it; yet His eyes are on their ways. ²⁴ They are exalted for a little while, then they are gone. They are brought low; they are taken out of the way like all others; they dry out like the heads of grain. ²⁵ "Now if it is not so, who will prove me a liar, and make my speech worth nothing?"

Job 25

¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said: ² "Dominion and fear belong to Him; He makes peace in His high places. ³ Is there any number to His armies? Upon whom does His light not rise? ⁴ How then can man be righteous before God? Or how can he be pure who is born of a woman? ⁵ If even the moon does not shine, and the stars are not pure in His sight, ⁶ how much less man, who is a maggot, and a son of man, who is a worm?"

Job 26

¹ But Job answered and said: ² "How have you helped him who is without power? How have you saved the arm that has no strength? ³ How have you counseled one who has no wisdom? And how have you declared sound advice to many? ⁴ To whom have you uttered words? And whose spirit came from you? ⁵ "The dead tremble, those under the waters and those inhabiting them. ⁶ Sheol is naked before Him, and Destruction has no covering. ⁷ He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing. ⁸ He binds up the water in His thick clouds, yet the clouds are not broken under it. ⁹ He covers the face of His throne, and spreads His cloud over it. ¹⁰ He drew a circular horizon on the face of the waters, at the boundary of light and darkness. ¹¹ The pillars of heaven tremble, and are astonished at His rebuke. ¹² He

stirs up the sea with His power, and by His understanding He breaks up the storm. ¹³ By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent. ¹⁴ Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, and how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?"

Job 27

¹ Moreover Job continued his discourse, and said: ² "As God lives, who has taken away my justice, and the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter, ³ as long as my breath is in me, and the breath of God in my nostrils, ⁴ my lips will not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit. ⁵ Far be it from me that I should say you are right; till I die I will not put away my integrity from me. ⁶ My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go; my heart shall not reproach me as long as I live. ⁷ "May my enemy be like the wicked, and he who rises up against me like the unrighteous. ⁸ For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he may gain much, if God takes away his life? ⁹ Will God hear his cry when trouble comes upon him? ¹⁰ Will he delight himself in the Almighty? Will he always call on God? ¹¹ "I will teach you about the hand of God; what is with the Almighty I will not conceal. ¹² Surely all of you have seen it; why then do you behave with complete nonsense? ¹³ "This is the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage of oppressors, received from the Almighty: ¹⁴ If his children are multiplied, it is for the sword; and his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread. ¹⁵ Those who survive him shall be buried in death, and their widows shall not weep, ¹⁶ though he heaps up silver like dust, and piles up clothing like clay-- ¹⁷ he may pile it up, but the just will wear it, and the innocent will divide the silver. ¹⁸ He builds his house like a moth, like a booth which a watchman makes. ¹⁹ The rich man will lie down, but not be gathered up; he opens his eyes, and he is no more. ²⁰ Terrors overtake him like a flood; a tempest steals him away in the night. ²¹ The east wind carries him away, and he is gone; it sweeps him out of his place. ²² It hurls against him and does not spare; he flees desperately from its power. ²³ Men shall clap their hands at him, and shall hiss him out of his place.