

The Book of Job Chapters 22-31

Eliphaz Responds to Job a Third Time

Job 22:1-11 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.

Comments:

1. Eliphaz continues his assault on Job and it only gets worse. Notice verses 5-9 as he accuses Job of things that he has no knowledge of.
2. Verse 4 repeats the three friends accusations that God is judging Job and it can't be because Job fears God.
3. Notice the questions in verses 2-3: "Can a man be profitable to God, though he who is wise may be profitable to himself?" Eliphaz is addressing an important issue that involves Job's humility or the lack of Job's humility. Eliphaz thinks that Job thinks very highly of himself.

Luke 17:7-10 ⁷ "And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? ⁸ "But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'? ⁹ "Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. ¹⁰ "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'" (NKJ)

Romans 12:3 ³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. (NKJ)

1 Corinthians 4:7-8 ⁷ For who makes you differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received *it*? ⁸ You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us-- and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you! (NKJ)

We should never wear our righteousness as a badge of honor, as though we had anything to do with it. We are righteous only by the grace of God!

Job 22:12-30 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."

Comments:

1. Eliphaz is saying in verse 21 that Job hasn't really known God. Eliphaz is assuming that Job is estranged from God and tells Job that God is merciful and will restore him if he repents.
2. Verses 22-26 are speaking truth about God, but they imply that Job turned from God and valued his material possessions more than God. If Job returns to God and treasures God's words in his heart, then God will be Job's greatest treasure. While these things are true, they do not apply to Job's situation.

Job Responds to Eliphaz a Third Time

Job 23:1-17 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.

Comments:

1. Job does right to desire to be in God's presence, but he continues to make the mistake that he wants to defend himself before God (verses 1-4).
2. Job says in verse 5 that he knows what he would say to God and he would understand God's response. But in verse 6 Job says that he doesn't think God will even listen to him, but at least God will take notice of him.
3. Verses 9-12 show that Job still holds to his integrity. He refuses to believe that he has done anything offensive to God. We know that this is true.
4. Verse 10 indicates that Job is beginning to understand that he is being tested by God, and that this testing will make him better and stronger.

Deuteronomy 8:2-5 ² "And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you *and* test you, to know what *was* in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. ³ "So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers **know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by**

bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴ "Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. ⁵ "You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, *so* the LORD your God chastens you. (NKJ)

James 1:2-4 ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (NKJ)

Job Continues to Respond to Eliphaz

Job 24:1-25 "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?"

Comment:

1. In this chapter, Job is confessing his confusion of why evil people treat others so harshly and make life difficult for the poor and the fatherless (verses 1-12), yet God does not "charge them with wrong." (verse 12).

Bildad Responds to Job a Third Time

Job 25:1-6 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?"

Comment:

1. Bildad does not say much in his last response. It seems that Bildad has run out of arguments against Job and maybe he is giving Job the benefit of the doubt. So, Bildad stops accusing Job of unrighteousness, but he ends with a very good question that he has no answer for in verse 4: "*How then can man be righteous before God? Or how can he be pure who is born of a woman?*" The answer to this is understood to be the person of Jesus Christ.

Job Responds to Bildad a Third Time

Job 26:1-14 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?"

Comments:

1. In verses 1-4, Job again comments on how unhelpful his friends have been. Those who are weak and confused (as Job is) are not helped by the words his friends are uttering.
2. In verses 5-14, Job expresses his amazement of God and His power. In verse 7, Job makes the intriguing statement that "*He hangs the earth on nothing.*"
3. Notice that of all the amazing things that we see of God, Job says: "*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?*"
4. Job is beginning to see God as a sustainer, and if God sustains all things, that means that God is sustaining Job.

Colossians 1:17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Consist means to be held together.

Job Continues to Responds to Bildad

Job 27:1-6 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.

Comment & Questions:

1. Notice in verses 1-4, that although Job still blames God for what he is going through, he will not turn from God's ways.

2. What is Job doing in verses 5-6?
3. Is it right for Job to say, “My heart shall not reproach *me* as long as I live”?
4. Should we completely trust our heart’s judgment about our actions?

1 Corinthians 4:4 **For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.**

Notice that the attitude he has about his righteousness and that he blames God, Job is saying that he is right and God is wrong. God has made a mistake as far as Job is concerned. This is clearly wrong on Job’s part. Whatever has happened to Job or to any of us, it is because God is good. It can never be because God is not good. As Romans 8:28 says:

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (NKJ)

Job 27:7-23 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.

Comment:

1. Job does not count himself as a sinner or wicked, so he speaks of the consequences of the wicked.

Job 28:1-28 "Surely there is a mine for silver, And a place *where* gold is refined. ² Iron is taken from the earth, And copper *is* smelted *from* ore. ³ *Man* puts an end to darkness, And searches every recess For ore in the darkness and the shadow of death. ⁴ He breaks open a shaft away from people; *In places* forgotten by feet they hang far away from men; They swing to and fro. ⁵ *As for* the earth, from it comes bread, But underneath it is turned up as by fire; ⁶ Its stones *are* the source of sapphires, And it contains gold dust. ⁷ *That* path no bird knows, Nor has the falcon's eye seen it. ⁸ The proud lions have not trodden it, Nor has the fierce lion passed over it. ⁹ He puts his hand on the flint; He overturns the mountains at the roots. ¹⁰ He cuts out channels in the rocks, And his eye sees every precious thing. ¹¹ He dams up the streams from trickling; *What is* hidden he brings forth to light. ¹² "But where can wisdom be found? And where *is* the place of understanding? ¹³ *Man* does not know its value, Nor is it found in the land of the living. ¹⁴ The deep says, '*It is* not in me'; And the sea says, '*It is* not with me.' ¹⁵ It cannot be purchased for gold, Nor can silver be weighed *for* its price. ¹⁶ It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, In precious onyx or sapphire. ¹⁷ Neither gold nor crystal can equal it, Nor can it be exchanged for jewelry of fine gold. ¹⁸ No mention shall be made of coral or quartz, For the price of wisdom *is* above rubies. ¹⁹ The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, Nor can it be valued in pure gold. ²⁰ "From where then does wisdom come? And where *is* the place of understanding? ²¹ It is hidden from the eyes of all living, And concealed from the birds of the air. ²² Destruction and Death say, 'We have heard a report about it with our ears.' ²³ God understands its way, And He knows its place. ²⁴ For He looks to the ends of the earth, *And* sees under the whole heavens, ²⁵ To establish a weight for the wind, And apportion the waters by measure. ²⁶ When He made a law for the rain, And a path for the thunderbolt, ²⁷ Then He saw *wisdom* and declared it; He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out. ²⁸ And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom, And to depart from evil *is* understanding.'"

Comments and Questions:

1. In these verses, Job speaks extensively about wisdom. People go to great extent to uncover the treasures of the earth that are in deep places, but where are the riches of wisdom found, Job asks (verses 1-12)?
2. Notice verse 13, we do not know the value of wisdom and it cannot be found in the land of the living!
3. Nothing valuable in the earth compares to the riches of wisdom (verses 16-19).
4. People have heard about wisdom but we cannot see it nor do we know where it comes from, but God know where it is (verses 23-24). God tells us how we can find wisdom (verse 28).

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding. (NKJ)

Isaiah 33:6 ⁶ Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times, *And* the strength of salvation; The fear of the LORD *is* His treasure. (NKJ)

5. Why do you suppose that Job is speaking so much about wisdom?

James 1:2-5 ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (NKJ)

Job desperately desires to understand why he is going through this trial. Wisdom is what he needs, but he does not seem to ask God for the wisdom he needs to help him understand. Instead, Job continues to justify himself.

What follows in chapter 29 is Job describing how good he was before all the calamity occurs.

Job 29:1-25 Job further continued his discourse, and said: ² Oh, that I were as *in* months past, As *in* the days *when* God watched over me; ³ When His lamp shone upon my head, *And when* by His light I walked *through* darkness; ⁴ Just as I was in the days of my prime, When the friendly counsel of God *was* over my tent; ⁵ When the Almighty *was* yet with me, *When* my children *were* around me; ⁶ When my steps were bathed with cream, And the rock poured out rivers of oil for me! ⁷ "When I went out to the gate by the city, *When* I took my seat in the open square, ⁸ The young men saw me and hid, And the aged arose *and* stood; ⁹ The princes refrained from talking, And put *their* hand on their mouth; ¹⁰ The voice of nobles was hushed, And their tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth. ¹¹ When the ear heard, then it blessed me, And when the eye saw, then it approved me; ¹² Because I delivered the poor who cried out, The fatherless and *the one who* had no helper. ¹³ The blessing of a perishing *man* came upon me, And I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. ¹⁴ I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice *was* like a robe and a turban. ¹⁵ I *was* eyes to the blind, And I *was* feet to the lame. ¹⁶ I *was* a father to the poor, And I searched out the case *that* I did not know. ¹⁷ I broke the fangs of the wicked, And plucked the victim from his teeth. ¹⁸ "Then I said, 'I shall die in my nest, And multiply *my* days as the sand. ¹⁹ My root *is* spread out to the waters,

And the dew lies all night on my branch. ²⁰ My glory *is* fresh within me, And my bow is renewed in my hand.' ²¹ "Men listened to me and waited, And kept silence for my counsel. ²² After my words they did not speak again, And my speech settled on them *as dew*. ²³ They waited for me *as* for the rain, And they opened their mouth wide *as* for the spring rain. ²⁴ *If* I mocked at them, they did not believe *it*, And the light of my countenance they did not cast down. ²⁵ I chose the way for them, and sat as chief; So I dwelt as a king in the army, As one *who* comforts mourners.

Comments and Questions:

1. Notice in verse 2, that Job is implying that God was no longer watching over him.
2. In verses 4-25, Job describes what it was like before the calamity struck. Job was
 - a. a pillar of society and high respected (verses 7-10).
 - b. He did great things for people (verses 12-13).
 - c. Job was eyes to the blind and feet for the lame (verse 15).
 - d. He was a deliverer of those under attack (verse 17).
 - e. He saw himself as the source of wisdom in which people would thirst to hear his counsel and they would keep silent until he spoke (verses 21-23).
 - f. He guided people and was as a king of an army (verse 25).
3. What do you suppose this all means as it relates to Job's sense of humility?

Proverbs 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. (NKJ)

Job Continues to Responds to Bildad

Job 30:1-15 "But now they mock at me, *men* younger than I, Whose fathers I disdained to put with the dogs of my flock. ² Indeed, what *profit* is the strength of their hands to me? Their vigor has perished. ³ *They are* gaunt from want and famine, Fleeing late to the wilderness, desolate and waste, ⁴ Who pluck mallow by the bushes, And broom tree roots *for* their food. ⁵ They were driven out from among *men*, They shouted at them as *at* a thief. ⁶ *They had* to live in the clefts of the valleys, *In* caves of the earth and the rocks. ⁷ Among the bushes they brayed, Under the nettles they nestled. ⁸ *They were* sons of fools, Yes, sons of vile men; They were scourged from the land. ⁹ "And now I

am their taunting song; Yes, I am their byword. ¹⁰ They abhor me, they keep far from me; They do not hesitate to spit in my face. ¹¹ Because He has loosed my bowstring and afflicted me, They have cast off restraint before me. ¹² At *my right hand* the rabble arises; They push away my feet, And they raise against me their ways of destruction. ¹³ They break up my path, They promote my calamity; They have no helper. ¹⁴ They come as broad breakers; Under the ruinous storm they roll along. ¹⁵ Terrors are turned upon me; They pursue my honor as the wind, And my prosperity has passed like a cloud.

Comments

1. Note the harshness of Job's words towards the fathers of those who now disrespect him. Job would not even let those fathers be around his field dogs.
2. Even the most corrupt men are looking down on Job. His reputation is completely shot.

Job 30:16-31 ¹⁶ "And now my soul is poured out because of my *plight*; The days of affliction take hold of me. ¹⁷ My bones are pierced in me at night, And my gnawing pains take no rest. ¹⁸ By great force my garment is disfigured; It binds me about as the collar of my coat. ¹⁹ He has cast me into the mire, And I have become like dust and ashes. ²⁰ "I cry out to You, but You do not answer me; I stand up, and You regard me. ²¹ *But* You have become cruel to me; With the strength of Your hand You oppose me. ²² You lift me up to the wind and cause me to ride *on it*; You spoil my success. ²³ For I know *that* You will bring me *to* death, And *to* the house appointed for all living. ²⁴ "Surely He would not stretch out *His* hand against a heap of ruins, If they cry out when He destroys *it*. ²⁵ Have I not wept for him who was in trouble? Has *not* my soul grieved for the poor? ²⁶ But when I looked for good, evil came *to me*; And when I waited for light, then came darkness. ²⁷ My heart is in turmoil and cannot rest; Days of affliction confront me. ²⁸ I go about mourning, but not in the sun; I stand up in the assembly *and* cry out for help. ²⁹ I am a brother of jackals, And a companion of ostriches. ³⁰ My skin grows black and falls from me; My bones burn with fever. ³¹ My harp is *turned* to mourning, And my flute to the voice of those who weep.

Comments

1. Job feels grinded to dust and ashes. He says that he has cried out to God, but God is not listening (verses 19-22).
2. Job views God as opposing him and treating him like an enemy (verse 21).

Chapter 31 is where Job will end his discussion with the three friends. He concludes by stating all the good things that he has done but has apparently been ignored by God.

Job 31:1-40 "I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman? ² For what *is* the allotment of God from above, And the inheritance of the Almighty from on high? ³ *Is* it not destruction for the wicked, And disaster for the workers of iniquity? ⁴ Does He not see my ways, And count all my steps? ⁵ "If I have walked with falsehood, Or if my foot has hastened to deceit, ⁶ Let me be weighed on honest scales, That God may know my integrity. ⁷ If my step has turned from the way, Or my heart walked after my eyes, Or if any spot adheres to my hands, ⁸ *Then* let me sow, and another eat; Yes, let my harvest be rooted out. ⁹ "If my heart has been enticed by a woman, Or *if* I have lurked at my neighbor's door, ¹⁰ *Then* let my wife grind for another, And let others bow down over her. ¹¹ For that *would be* wickedness; Yes, it *would be* iniquity *deserving of judgment*. ¹² For that *would be* a fire *that* consumes to destruction, And would root out all my increase. ¹³ "If I have despised the cause of my male or female servant when they complained against me, ¹⁴ What then shall I do when God rises up? When He punishes, how shall I answer Him? ¹⁵ Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One fashion us in the womb? ¹⁶ "If I have kept the poor from *their* desire, Or caused the eyes of the widow to fail, ¹⁷ Or eaten my morsel by myself, So that the fatherless could not eat of it ¹⁸ (But from my youth I reared him as a father, And from my mother's womb I guided *the widow*); ¹⁹ If I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing, Or any poor *man* without covering; ²⁰ If his heart has not blessed me, And *if* he was *not* warmed with the fleece of my sheep; ²¹ If I have raised my hand against the fatherless, When I saw I had help in the gate; ²² *Then* let my arm fall from my shoulder, Let my arm be torn from the socket. ²³ For destruction *from God is* a terror to me, And because of His magnificence I cannot endure. ²⁴ "If I have made gold my hope, Or said to fine gold, *'You are my confidence'*; ²⁵ If I have rejoiced because my wealth *was* great, And because my hand had gained much; ²⁶ If I have observed the sun when it shines, Or the moon moving *in* brightness, ²⁷ So that my heart has been secretly enticed, And my mouth has kissed my hand; ²⁸ This also *would be* an iniquity *deserving of judgment*, For I would have denied God *who is* above. ²⁹ "If I have rejoiced at the destruction of him who hated me, Or lifted myself up when evil found him ³⁰ (Indeed I have not allowed my mouth to sin By asking for a curse on his soul); ³¹ If the men of my tent have not said, *'Who is there that has not been satisfied with his meat?'* ³² (*But* no sojourner had to lodge in the street, *For* I have opened my doors to the traveler); ³³ If I have covered my transgressions as Adam, By hiding my iniquity in my bosom, ³⁴ Because I feared the great multitude, And dreaded the contempt

of families, So that I kept silence *And* did not go out of the door-- ³⁵ Oh, that I had one to hear me! Here is my mark. *Oh, that* the Almighty would answer me, *That* my Prosecutor had written a book! ³⁶ Surely I would carry it on my shoulder, *And* bind it on me *like* a crown; ³⁷ I would declare to Him the number of my steps; Like a prince I would approach Him. ³⁸ "If my land cries out against me, And its furrows weep together; ³⁹ If I have eaten its fruit without money, Or caused its owners to lose their lives; ⁴⁰ *Then* let thistles grow instead of wheat, And weeds instead of barley." The words of Job are ended.

Comments

1. The word "I" is mentioned by Job numerous times in this passage. It is a long list of the good things Job has done, all of which we know is probably true because God considered Job blameless. However, Job thinks that God does not consider how Job has lived (verse 4).
 - a. Job did not look at young women lustfully (verse 1).
 - b. He did not walk with falsehood (verse 5).
 - c. He helped the poor, the fatherless, and the widow (verses 16-17).
 - d. He clothed the naked (verse 19).
 - e. He did not become a lover of money, wealth, or a lover of himself (verses 24-27).
 - f. He did not rejoice in the misfortune of his enemies, nor pray for them to be cursed (verses 29-30).
 - g. Job opened the doors of his home to the travelers (verse 30).
2. Job concludes that if I have done evil things, then let God repay me with evil (verses 28, 39-40). But as it was, Job listed all the good things he did; therefore, God should have repaid him with goodness. Therefore, Job repeats his previous statement, let God show me my fault.