



DISCIPLE

Desire Determination Discipline Diligence Delight Doer

Course: A Survey of the Bible: Genesis to Revelation

Lesson: 20_7 - Dealing with the Unknown (Part 2)

Passage: Job 13-21

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

(Romans 15:4)

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

(Deuteronomy 29:29)

ROUND #2

Job Pleads with God (Job 14)

► Brevity of Man's Life (vv. 1-6)

- (vv. 1-3) Man's days are **FEW**. Whether we live 20 years or 80 years life for us compared to **eternity** and **GOD** are truly **few**. See Isaiah 40:6-8; Psalm 102:11; 103:15-16; 144:4; 1 Peter 1:24)
- What should this teach us:
 - ① Every day is a **gift** from God and we ought to **live** this day with all our might. (Ecclesiastes 9:10)
 - ② We need to learn and remember that our days are **numbered**. (Psalm 90:5-6, 12)
 - Remembering this will remind us how frail we really are. (Psalm 39:4, 5)
 - Christ gave us an **example** to follow. (See John 9:4)
 - We are taught to **redeem the time** given to us by learning the will of God. (Ephesians 5:16-17; Colossians 4:5)
 - ③ Since our days are **few** we ought not waste any of them!

- ④ We ought to live each day to the fullest because we really do not know if we will be **given** tomorrow. (Proverbs 27:1; James 4:13-14; Luke 12:17-20)
- ⑤ Whatever we do we ought to do it unto the Lord and for His glory. (Colossians 3:17, 23; 1 Corinthians 10:31)
- (v. 5) Man's days are **determined!** (See Ecclesiastes 8:8)
 - Each person's life fits into the **PLAN** of God and has a specific purpose!
 - History is **determined** because history is **God's plan unfolding**. (See the word "determined" in Daniel 9:24-27 – **vv. 24, 26, 27**.)
 - ★ Meditate on this: If the history of Israel is **determined** then all of history **must** be determined.
 - God sets the limits on man's life. By limits we mean that God decides when one is born and when one dies.
 - God **performs** what **HE** has **appointed** for us. (Job 23:13-14; meditate on 1 Thessalonians 3:3 and 1 Thessalonians 5:9)
 - God **appoints** everything. Consider Acts 22:10; Romans 13:1.
 - **NOTHING** happens without God **commanding** it to happen. (Lamentations 3:37; Proverbs 19:21; Isaiah 46:10; Daniel 4:35; Ephesians 1:11; James 4:13-15)
- **HOPELESSNESS** (vv. 7-22)
 - (vv. 7-9) "There is hope for a tree . . ."
 - (vv. 10-12) "**BUT** not man . . ."
 - (vv. 13-17) God is watching over Job.
 - (v. 15) We are the **work** of God's hands.
 - Psalm 100:3; 95:6; 119:73
 - (v. 16) Job feels as though God is watching every one of his steps (actions).
 - (v. 17) Job also feels that God is sealing his sins, transgressions, and iniquity for looking at them later.
 - (v. 19) "**You destroy the HOPE of man.**" •

Eliphaz Speaks a Second Time (Chapter 15)

- Obviously, Eliphaz did not take Job's advice and cease from speaking! (Job 13:5)
- BUT Eliphaz must speak because **if** Job is right then his (Eliphaz's) understanding of God (and that of the other two friends) is wrong. **There is nothing that says that they too could come under the same situation as Job!**
- Eliphaz: Job Lacks Wisdom (Job 15:1-16)
 - (vv. 2-3) Eliphaz accused Job of "**empty knowledge**", "**filling himself with the east wind**"; "**unprofitable talk**".
 - We are commanded to **increase** in the **knowledge** of God. (2 Peter 3:18)

- Satan's chief battlefield is our **minds** and therefore we must fill our minds with God's knowledge to when these battles. (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)
- Paul prays that saints' love would **abound in knowledge** and **all discernment**. (Philippians 1:9) **Discernment** can **only** come by us "eating" the **SOLID** food of Scripture **and using** that knowledge. (Hebrews 5:12-14)
- Paul testifies that **everything else** is **rubbish (dung)** compared to the knowledge of Christ. (Philippians 3:8)
- Paul prays that the saints be filled with the **knowledge** of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. (Colossians 1:9)
 - One cannot **know** the will of God unless he/she **renews** their **thinking** in accordance with the Word of God. (Romans 12:2)
- We are **renewed** by growing in **knowledge** . . . (Colossians 3:10)
- We are **warned avoid** profane and **idle** babbling and contradictions of what is falsely called **knowledge (science)**. (1 Timothy 6:20, 4, 5; 1 Tim 1:4, 6, 7; 2 Timothy 3:14-16; Titus 1:14; 3:9)
- We are not to be **tossed to and fro** carried about with every wind of doctrine . . . (Ephesians 4:14)
- **OUR KNOWLEDGE must no be EMPTY but SOLID!** Our knowledge and words must be based on FACTS!
- **OUR WORDS** must not be **idle** (ἀργός argos {ar-gos'}) 1) free from labour, at leisure 2) lazy, shunning the labour which one ought to perform) – Christ tells us that every **idle** word will be judged! (Matthew 12:36)
- Why should we worship God?
 - ① **BECAUSE HE IS GOD.**
 - ②
 - ③
 - ④
- What should be our motivation in obeying God?
 - ① **BECAUSE HE IS GOD.**
 - ② **LOVE** – "**Love is the fulfillment of the LAW!**" (See Romans 13:8-10)
 - See John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:14; 1 John 3:22; 5:2-3)
 - **Who defines what LOVE is?** – God does through His Law!
- (v. 5) "Your iniquity teaches your mouth!" See Matthew 12:34-37. Eliphaz is accusing Job of having a **wicked** heart.
 - Teaching **false doctrine** is condemned in the New Testament – see Romans 16:18; James 3:1; Matthew 5:19.
- (vv. 7-16) Eliphaz accuses Job of not listening to the **aged** and "more" **wise!** (See Job 32:9; Psalm 119:97-104 – the Word of God must be our counselor)
 - Eliphaz shoots off a series of questions at Job in this passage.
- (vv. 14-35) Eliphaz again repeats that the **wicked** suffer!

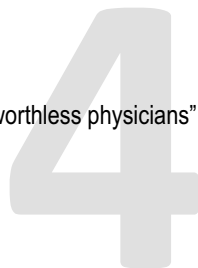
- (vv. 13-15) The words of Matthew Henry are best for these verses:
 “That the brightest creatures are imperfect and impure before God,
Job_15:15. God places no confidence in saints and angels; he employs both, but trusts neither with his service, without giving them fresh supplies of strength and wisdom for it, as knowing they are not sufficient of themselves, neither more nor better than his grace makes them. He takes no complacency in the heavens themselves. How pure soever they seem to us, in his eye they have many a speck and many a flaw: *The heavens are not clean in his sight*. If the stars (says Mr. Caryl) have no light in the sight of the sun, what light has the sun in the sight of God! See Isa_24:23. (2.) That man is much more so (Job_15:16): *How much more abominable and filthy is man!* If saints are not to be trusted, much less sinners. If the heavens are not pure, which are as God made them, much less man, who is degenerated. Nay, he is abominable and filthy in the sight of God, and if ever he repent he is so in his own sight, and therefore he abhors himself. Sin is an odious thing, it makes men hateful. The body of sin is so, and is therefore called a *dead body*, a loathsome thing. Is it not a filthy thing, and enough to make any one sick, to see a man eating swine’s food or drinking some nauseous and offensive stuff? Such is the filthiness of man that he *drinks iniquity* (that abominable thing which the Lord hates) as greedily, and with as much pleasure, as a man drinks water when he is thirsty. It is his constant drink; it is natural to sinners to commit iniquity. It gratifies, but does not satisfy, the appetites of the old man. It is like water to a man in a dropsy. The more men sin the more they would sin.”

- Eliphaz leans on **tradition** – see verse 18. Tradition can be a GUIDE but tradition will be the cause of **many** spending eternity in **hell**.
- Eliphaz describes the **wicked** person **but** in doing so he is describing Job!
 Compare v. 21 with 1:17; v. 28 with 1:19; vv. 30, 34 with 1:16)

- (vv. 34-35) Eliphaz’s hardest words: He calls Job a **hypocrite** חָנָפֵץ *chaneph* {khaw-nafe’} (a godless person).
- (v. 35) The word “womb” is the same word Eliphaz uses for “belle” (translated “himself” in NKJV). Eliphaz is saying, in effect, “If you were to x-ray Job you would see nothing but **sin** and **hot air!**”

Job’s Response to Eliphaz (Job 16)

- Job had called his “friends” “deceitful brooks” (6:15) and “worthless physicians” (13:4).
- (v. 2) Here he calls them “miserable comforters.”
- (v. 3) He accuses them of “words of wind”.



- (v. 4) He tells them that he could do the same thing if they were ever to find themselves in his place.
- (v. 6) Job says, “If I speak I am not relieved and if I keep quiet, still I am not relieved.!”
- (v. 7) Job is **worn out!** God has taken his family and servants!
- (vv. 8-14) Job feels like he has a “target” painted on his back and God is using him for target practice.
- (vv. 15-17) **Job’s response:** Humility (wearing sackcloth); surrender (laying his head in the dust); weeping; refraining from violence; and his prayers are still pure (sincere).
- **Job’s Confidence** (vv. 18-22)
 - Job seeks an advocate outside himself.
 - He still believes that God is just!
 - He hopes for someone to represent him before God.
- **The Christian’s Advocate**
 - Jesus Christ in man’s **only** mediator between himself and God. (1 Timothy 2:5)
 - Jesus Christ is our High Priest that **intercedes** for His people. (Romans 8:31-39; Hebrews 7:25)
 - (1 John 2:1) Jesus Christ is **our ADVOCATE** (αράκλητος parakletos {par-ak'-lay-tos}) – one who is pleads another’s cause before a judge – Christ pleads **our pardon** based on what HE DID FOR US.

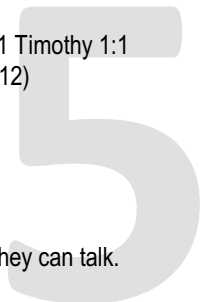
Job’s Hopelessness (Job 17)

- Job’s hopelessness:
 - ① (v. 1) “My spirit is broken” – I have no more fight. (But he does!!!)
 - ② (v. 3) God had **hidden** understanding from his friends.
 - ③ (v. 6) He had become one who men spit upon.
 - ④ (v. 7) His body was almost nothing – a mere shadow.
 - ⑤ (v. 11) All of his plans were shattered.
- Job is ready to make **the grave** his home. (vv. 13-16)
- Where Is My Hope? (v. 15)
 - ★ We have a **living Hope** in Christ!
 - ★ Christ **rose** from the dead and so will we!!
 - ★ See 1 Corinthians 15:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:13; 1 Timothy 1:1
 - ★ Those **without** Christ have **no hope!** (Ephesians 2:12)

Romans 15:13

Bildad Speaks a Second Time (Job 18)

- **Gaining Understanding** (Job 18:1-4)
 - Bildad tells Job to first **get understanding** and then they can talk.



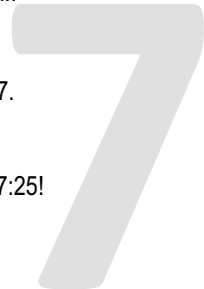
- This is **good advice** but it must be applied correctly. When dealing with **important** things such as salvation, God, sin, and other Biblical doctrine one should have understanding of the subject before entering into a discussion on such topics.
 - The writer of Proverbs tells us, “Fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and **knowledge** of the Holy One is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10)
 - Job tells us later in 28:28, “The fear of the LORD is wisdom and to depart from evil is understanding.”
 - (Proverbs 2:2-6) We are to **apply** our hearts to understanding by **crying out** for discernment, **lifting up our voices** for understanding, **seek** understanding as for silver, and **search** for it as hidden treasure. **THEN** we will understand the **fear of the LORD** and **find** the knowledge of God.
 - (Proverbs 3:13-15) The rewards for gaining understanding.
 - (Proverbs 16:16) It is better to have wisdom than to have gold. It is better to have understanding rather than silver.
 - (v. 3) Bildad accuses Job of thinking of his three friends as **dumb or stupid animals** and not **wise men**.
- **The Terror of Death** (vv. 5-21)
- Bildad tries **FEAR** as a tactic to get Job to “repent.”
 - **FEAR** is a good thing when used correctly!
 - Jesus commanded us to **FEAR GOD**. See Matthew 10:28
 - Paul preached out of the **FEAR or TERROR** of God. 2 Corinthians 5:11
 - Bildad paints **four** pictures of **death**:
 - ① (vv. 5-6) A **light** put out. A fire or a lamp can easily and quickly go out!
 - ② (vv. 7-10) A **traveler** trapped. The picture is one of a man leaving his tent in fear only to fall into **traps, snares, and nooses** along the path. There seems to be no escape.
 - ③ (vv. 11-15) A **criminal** pursued. (v. 14) “king of terrors” is **DEATH**.
- For Christians **death** has been **swallowed up**. (1 Cor. 15:54-57)
 - ④ (vv. 16-21) An **uprooted tree**. A tree cut down has hope (14:7-11) but an uprooted tree dies and its branches wither away.
 - ★ Bildad statement in v. 21 is true, **but** many do not **know** God **as He has revealed Himself** in Scriptures. Salvation is to **know** the God of the Bible. (John 17:3)
 - ★ A Christian **does not fear** death. See John 5:24.
 - ★ **BUT** all who do not fear death are not necessarily Christians. (See Matthew 7:21-22)

Job's Response to Bildad (Job 19)

- (v. 2) Again Job accuses his friends as “miserable comforters” (16:2) and “worthless physicians” (13:4).
- **READ 2 Corinthians 1:3-14** –
 - ★ God comforts us **not to relieve us from our troubles** but that we will **learn** to comfort others. (v. 4)
- (v. 4) “erred” means to sin **unintentionally** or in **ignorance**.
- (Hebrews 9:7) The High Priest made atonement for the “errors of the people” or “**sins of ignorance**” (Leviticus 4:2; 5:15; Numbers 15:22-29).
 - These sins are in contrast to **deliberate** or **presumptuous** sins (Numbers 15:30-31) for which there was **no** provision!!
 - One might ask, “What about David’s sin of adultery and murder?”
 - Psalm 51:16 tells us that David understood that **no sacrifice** would be sufficient for his sins. Through faith he availed himself to the mercy of God. (Psa 51:1-3, 17)
 - **MEDITATE on the words “better covenant”!!**
- Job paints **seven** pictures of a man in the trials of life:
 - ❶ (v. 6) A **trapped** animal.
 - ❷ (v. 7) A **criminal** in court crying out for justice and not being heard.
 - ❸ (v. 8) A **traveler** fenced in. The traveler could not see what was ahead because God had darkened the path.
 - When we find ourselves in **darkness** we need to remember Isaiah 50:10-11 and wait for the Lord and not to light our own light.
 - ❹ (v. 9) A dethroned **king**. Job was the **greatest man in the East** but now he sits in a garbage dump.
 - ❺ (v. 10) A **house** destroyed. Perhaps he was speaking of his body – see 2 Corinthians 5:1-5; 2 Peter 1:13-14; John 2:19-21)
 - ❻ (v. 10) An **uprooted** tree. A tree cut down has hope (14:7-11) but an uprooted tree dies and its branches wither away. This picture shows one of hopelessness.
 - ❼ (vv. 11-12) A **surrounded** or **besieged** city.
- (vv. 13-20) Job speaks of being abandoned by family, friends, and even his own wife.
- (vv. 21-22) Job pleads with his “friends” to have pity on him!!

Job's Kinsman-Redeemer (Job 19:23-28)

- (vv. 23-24) Contrast Job’s words here with Bildad’s in 18:17.
- (v. 25) **Job’s kinsman-redeemer lives!**
 - ★ Job **knows!** Do you **know?** See 1 John 5:13, 20
 - ★ Job knows that his Redeemer **lives!** See Hebrews 7:25!



★ **KINSMAN-REDEEMER:** גֹּאֵל ga'al {gaw-al'}

- A kinsman-redeemer was one who avenged his brother's blood. (Deuteronomy 19:6-12)
- A kinsman-redeemer was one who reclaimed and restored his brother's property (Lev. 25:23-24)
- A kinsman-redeemer was one who freed his brother from slavery. (Leviticus 25:25)
- A kinsman-redeemer could also go to court on behalf of a wronged relative. (Proverbs 23:10-11)
- Four requirements a kinsman-redeemer had to meet in order to redeem:
 - ① He must be a **close blood relative**. (Deut 25:5, 7-10)
 - ② He must be **able** to pay the price.
 - ③ He must be **willing** to redeem.
 - ④ He must be **free** himself.
- In Ruth, Boaz ("in him is strength") is Ruth's kinsman-redeemer and is a picture of Christ.

Zophar's Second Argument (Job 20)

- He is probably the youngest of the three friends and is last to argue.
- Zophar's argument is only more of the same: God punishes the wicked, so Job had better get right with God."
- (vv. 2-3) Zophar is **troubled** and perhaps **insulted** from what he has heard and feels forced to respond!
- (vv. 4-5) Zophar speaks with **authority** (at least he sounds like it).
 - **NOTE:** No matter how authoritative one sounds we are **commanded to test** everything and every one. (1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; Isaiah 8:20; Acts 17:11; Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 14:29; Rev. 2:2)
- (v. 5) Zophar makes a statement but provides no proof: *"The triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment."*
- (Job 20:4-29) Zophar has **three** major points:
 - ① **The wicked only live briefly** (20:4-11).
 - The key verse is verse 5.
 - (v. 8) He will *fly away* like a dream.
 - (v. 9) He will not be found!
 - (v. 11) In the vigor of youth he will be taken away.
 - **What do we know:**
 - ★ God gave the pre-flood people 120 years to repent. (Genesis 6:3)
 - ★ God gave the Canaanites over 400 years to repent before He cast them out. (Genesis 15:13-16)
 - ★ Other who have pondered on the idea of evil and the wicked have assumed just the opposite being frustrated that the wicked, in fact, live **long** lives. (Psalm 37; 73; Jeremiah 12:1-4)

- **A BIT OF TRUTH:** Generally, people who ignore God's laws are more vulnerable to an early death (such as drug users, alcoholics, etc.) **BUT** this is no guarantee. **Godless people live long lives as well. Godly people die early.**
- God does not always judge the hypocrite immediately.
- The death of a young person is no evidence that he/she was a hypocrite.
- ② **The wicked's pleasure is temporary** (20:12-19).
 - (vv. 12-14) Zophar tells us that evil (sin) is like food in the mouth. It tastes good but turns sour (poisonous) in the stomach.
 - (v. 17) The wicked man not only gets sick from his sin, but he does not enjoy the everyday blessing of life.
 - (vv. 18-19) Sin never satisfies. One has to sin more and more just to get any kind of enjoyment. (i.e. narcotics)
- ③ **The wicked's death is painful** (20:20-29)
 - (v. 23) Zophar speaks of God's **wrath** being poured out the wicked when his belly is filled.
 - (v. 26) No only is the wicked's death painful but **total darkness** is reserved for his treasures.

Job's Response to Zophar (Job 21)

- We might outline Job's response with four points:
 - ① (vv. 1-6) Job's complaint that his friends **still** are not comforting him, **but** mocking him (v. 3). He pleads that they shut up!
 - (v. 2) Job asks his friends to **listen carefully**.
 - (v. 3) Job reminds his friends that his complaint is not against man – but GOD!
 - (v. 5) Job asks his friends to LOOK AT HIM and then put their hands over their mouths!!!
 - (v. 6) “to remember” means “to think” or “to meditate on” – Job's words are carefully thought out works – **this should cause US to think – how thought out are our words when we are in distress??**
 - ② (vv. 7-8) The wicked **do** live long!
 - (v. 7) The wicked **DO** live long **and** become mighty in power!
 - (v. 8) Their children also are established!!
 - ③ (vv. 9-21) The wicked are **often** not sent calamity.
 - (vv.9-13) Job speaks of the wicked's houses, bulls, cows, business and children not having calamity fall upon them.
 - (vv. 14-15) Job speaks of the wicked's **arrogance** towards God!
 - ★ (v. 14) They say, “Depart from us! We do not desire **the knowledge** of Your ways!”

- ★ (v. 15) “Who is the Almighty that we should serve Him?” They do not **know** God! See Exodus 5:2.
- ★ (v. 16) “What profit do we have if we pray to Him?”
- ★ ★ They leave God out of their planning!! They are **fools** – see Luke 12:13-21 and James 4:13-17.
- (v. 16) Job says that he does not even listen to their advice. Though they have much it is still God who gives and takes away!
- (vv. 19-21) God **does not** judge the children for the father’s sins (Jeremiah 31:29-30; Ezekiel 18:1ff).
 - Children may suffer the **consequences** of their parents’ sins.
- ④ (vv. 22-34) The death of the wicked is no different from the death of other men.
 - (v. 23-26) A man **full of strength** with many pleasures and a man never having eaten pleasures both die! Both turn to dust. Both are eaten by worms.
 - (v. 29) Job asks his friends, “Have you asked those who are travelers?”
 - Travelers have a much more broader world view than those who do not travel.
 - People who are less traveled have narrow points of views.
 - Well traveled people will tell you that the righteous and wicked suffer calamities.
 - (v. 31) Job asks, “If the wicked will suffer a short life, have you warned him to his face?”

Job Can Receive No Comfort (vv. 34)

- Since his friends’s words are empty and contain falsehoods (deceit, a deliberate violation of God’s Law)!! **Test all things! TRUTH comforts!**