

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 276—Job 4-14)

Introduction: In this lesson we examine in summary the first round of dialogue between Job and his friends. Though their approach is varied each of Job's friends applies to Job's situation the commonly accepted belief that God rewards the righteous and that he punishes the wicked.

Lesson aim: To show that there are limitations to the principle of divine recompense in affirming the innocence or guilt of others.

Eliphaz' first speech—Job. 4:1-5:27

1. What does Eliphaz urge Job to remember about his faith and hope in the past? (4:1-6)
Of what does he now charge Job?
2. Upon what principle does Eliphaz build his case? (4:7-11)
3. What truth had been impressed on Eliphaz in a night-time experience? (4:12-21)
What warning does he issue to Job in light of this information?
4. What advice does Eliphaz give to Job? (5:8-16) What motivation does he give Job to pursue this course? (v. 5:17-27)

Job's first response to Eliphaz—Job. 6:1-7:21

1. How does Job compare his vexation to his iniquity? (6:1-7) What does he wish God would do? (6:8-10)
2. How does Job answer the charge of impatience? (6:11-13) What does Job say about his friend's attempt to comfort him? (6:14-23) So what does Job ask them to do? (6:24-30)
3. How does Job describe his condition? (7:1-6) Since there is no return from death, what does Job say he will do? (7:7-11)
4. What questions does Job ask God? (7:12-21)

Bildad's first speech—Job. 8:1-22

1. Upon what principle does Bildad base his remarks to Job? (8:1-7) How does he apply them to Job's children? To Job?

2. From what source has this information come? (8:8-10) How does Bildad describe the outcome of the wicked? (8:11-19)
3. What does Bildad say God will not do? (8:20-22) What does he affirm God would yet do for Job?

Job's first response to Bildad—Job. 9:1-10:22

1. How does Job feel about the idea of arguing his case with God? (9:1-12) Did Job feel it possible to overturn God's purpose or actions toward him? (9:13-24) Did Job feel that there was a way to cleanse himself of sin so as to change his condition before God? (9:25-35)
2. What question does Job long to have answered? (10:1-2) What questions does he raise concerning God's treatment of him? (10:3-7)
3. Job recalls what fact about God? (10:8-13) Knowing this, did Job feel that he could overturn God's actions toward him, whether righteous or guilty? (10:14-17)
4. What question haunts Job in view of his present afflictions? (10:18-22)

Zophar's first speech—Job 11:1-20

1. How does Zophar feel about Job's comments? (11:1-6) What does he affirm about God's attitude toward man's sin?
2. What is Zophar saying about God in v. 7-12?
3. On what conditions did Zophar say God's blessing could be restored? (11:13-15) What things would Job then experience? (11:16-20)

Job's first response to Zophar—Job. 12:1-14:22

1. What does Job affirm about all the "facts" his friends have been relating? (12:1-6) What does Job say one can learn from every living thing? (12:7-12)
2. How did Job acknowledge God's power? (12:13-13:1-2)
3. With whom does Job want to speak? (13:3-12) What does Job say about his friend's counsel? What warning does he issue to them?
4. What then does Job purpose to do? (13:13-19) To what two questions does Job seek the answer? (13:20-28)

5. What does Job affirm about man's life? (14:1-6) What does he ask God to do? How is man different from a tree? (14:7-12) What then does Job desire? (14:13-17) This wish however quickly gives way to what idea? (14:18-22)