

A Study of the Wisdom Literature (OT Survey Lesson 277—Job 15-21)

Introduction: The dialogue between Job and his friends continues in this section in a new round of speeches. One senses that neither Job nor his friends were ready to yield to the arguments of the other.

Lesson aim: To understand the shortcomings of the doctrine of divine recompense in this life.

Eliphaz' second speech—Job 15:1-35

1. What charge does Eliphaz make about Job's speech? (15:1-6)
2. How does he seek to intimidate Job into agreement? (15:7-10) What does he affirm about man in general? (15:11-16)
3. What calamities did Eliphaz say God had reserved for the wicked (v. 15:17-35)

Job's second response to Eliphaz—Job 16:1-17:16

1. What does Job call his friends? (16:1-5) What did he say he would have done had they been in his shoes?
2. How does Job describe his suffering? (16:6-17) Who does Job say is his "witness"? (16:18-17:5) For what does Job long?
3. What question summarizes Job's complaint? (17:6-15)

Bildad's second speech—Job 18:1-21

1. How did Bildad react to Job's comments about his friends? (18:1-4) What was his assessment of Job's thoughts?
2. What is the theme of Bildad's remarks? (18:1-21) What do you think he hopes to accomplish by this terrible picture he describes?

Job's second response to Bildad—Job 19:1-29

1. If his friends were right in their assertions against Job, who then did Job say was the source of his wrong? (19:1-6)
2. How did Job say God had treated him? (19:7-22) What did he want his friends to do?
3. Who did Job think would at last appear in his behalf? (19:23-29) What warning did he issue to his friends?

Zophar's second speech—Job 20:1-29

1. What was Zophar's reaction to Job's remarks? (20:1-3)
2. What is the theme of Zophar's speech? (20:4-11)
3. What did Zophar say would happen to the riches of the wicked? (20:12-19)
4. What does Zophar describe in 20:10-29?

Job's second response to Zophar—Job 21:1-34

1. What does Job plead with his friends to do? (21:1-6)
2. What dilemma did Job pose to his friends who had argued that the wicked are always punished by God? (21:7-16)
3. Describe the death of the two kinds of men Job mentions in the next section (21:17-26).
4. How did Job consider the arguments his friends had made concerning the wicked? (21:27-34)