

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 278—Job 22-31)

Introduction: In this study we look at the third cycle of the dialogue between Job and his friends. We are increasingly aware that Job's friends can offer no solutions to the cause of his afflictions.

Lesson aim: To show that suffering is not always the result of personal sin.

Eliphaz' third speech—Job 22:1-30

1. What does Eliphaz affirm about man's righteousness? (22:1-3) What question implies that Eliphaz now regards Job as a sinner? (22:4-5) What charges does he make against him? (22:5-11)
2. How does Eliphaz characterize the attitude of the wicked? (22:12-18) What does he affirm that the righteous does when he sees justice being served by God? (22:19-20)
3. What then does Eliphaz urge Job to do? (22:21-22) What blessing does he say Job will receive when he repents? (22:23-30)

Job's third response to Eliphaz—Job 23:1-24:25

1. What did Job long to do? (23:1-7) How did he imagine God's response?
2. What did he believe would be the outcome of his trial? (23:8-10) Why? (23:11-12) Yet what thought continues to haunt Job as he thinks about defending himself to the Almighty? (23:13-17)
3. What question disturbs Job as he thinks about God's providence? (24:1) What wicked deeds did he say seem to go unpunished? (24:2-4) How did he describe the life that the poor and downtrodden have to live? (24:5-12)
4. What other examples of wickedness did Job cite? (24:13-17) Yet what outcome did Job see for these? (24:18-25)

Bildad's third speech—Job 25:1-6

1. What does Bildad affirm about God? (25:1-2) What is his view of man in relationship to God? (25:3-6)

Job's third response to Bildad—Job 26:1-14

1. What is Job's impression of Bildad's remarks? (26:1-4) Is Job speaking in truth or in irony (sarcasm)?
2. What illustrations does Job give of God's activity? (26:5-14) What truth about God is He seeking to make known by these illustrations?

Job's final response to his friends—Job 27:1-28:28

1. What does Job vow that he will not do? (27:1-6)
2. What does he envision to be the lot of his adversaries? (27:7-12) What things does Job affirm the wicked will experience? (27:13-23)
3. What things does Job describe men being able to mine from the earth and the rivers? (28:1-11) Yet, what can man not find nor know the value of? (28:12-19) From where does this wisdom come? (28:20-28)

Job's monologue—Job 29:1-31:40

1. What does Job describe in chapter 29? What kind of relationship had Job had with God? How was he treated by others during that time?
2. Give some examples of Job's righteous deeds prior to his time of affliction?
3. But now, what is Job's plight? (30:1-8) How do Job's enemies afflict him? (30:9-15)
4. How does Job describe his present condition? (30:16-22) How does Job see his future? (30:23)
5. What does Job do in his affliction? (30:24-31, 38-40) Is there anyone who helps him?
6. What had kept Job from committing sins of lust? (31:1-4)
7. What sins did Job affirm he had not committed? (31:5-32) Had Job made any attempts to cover up his transgressions? (31:33-34) What would he willingly do, if God would reveal his sin? (31:35-37)