

## The Drama & Doctrine of Job

Job Chapters 10-11

<sup>1</sup>“I loathe my life; I will give free utterance to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. <sup>2</sup>I will say to God, Do not condemn me; let me know why you contend against me. <sup>3</sup>Does it seem good to you to oppress, to despise the work of your hands and favor the designs of the wicked? <sup>4</sup>Have you eyes of flesh? Do you see as man sees? <sup>5</sup>Are your days as the days of man, or your years as a man’s years, <sup>6</sup> that you seek out my iniquity and search for my sin, <sup>7</sup>although you know that I am not guilty, and there is none to deliver out of your hand? <sup>8</sup>Your hands fashioned and made me, and now you have destroyed me altogether. <sup>9</sup>Remember that you have made me like clay; and will you return me to the dust? <sup>10</sup>Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? <sup>11</sup>You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews. <sup>12</sup>You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit. <sup>13</sup>Yet these things you hid in your heart; I know that this was your purpose. <sup>14</sup>If I sin, you watch me and do not acquit me of my iniquity. <sup>15</sup>If I am guilty, woe to me! If I am in the right, I cannot lift up my head, for I am filled with disgrace and look on my affliction. <sup>16</sup>And were my head lifted up, you would hunt me like a lion and again work wonders against me. <sup>17</sup>You renew your witnesses against me and increase your vexation toward me; you bring fresh troops against me. <sup>18</sup>“Why did you bring me out from the womb? Would that I had died before any eye had seen me <sup>19</sup>and were as though I had not been, carried from the womb to the grave. <sup>20</sup>Are not my days few? Then cease, and leave me alone, that I may find a little cheer <sup>21</sup>before I go—and I shall not return—to the land of darkness and deep shadow, <sup>22</sup>the land of gloom like thick darkness, like deep shadow without any order, where light is as thick darkness.”

**11.1** Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said: <sup>2</sup>“Should a multitude of words go unanswered, and a man full of talk be judged right? <sup>3</sup>Should your babble silence men, and when you mock, shall no one shame you? <sup>4</sup>For you say, ‘My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in God’s eyes.’ <sup>5</sup>But oh, that God would speak and open his lips to you, <sup>6</sup>and that he would tell you the secrets of wisdom! For he is manifold in understanding. Know then that God exacts of you less than your guilt deserves. <sup>7</sup>“Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty? <sup>8</sup>It is higher than heaven—what can you do? Deeper than Sheol—what can you know? <sup>9</sup>Its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea. <sup>10</sup>If he passes through and imprisons and summons the court, who can turn him back? <sup>11</sup>For he knows worthless men; when he sees iniquity, will he not consider it? <sup>12</sup>But a stupid man will get understanding when a wild donkey’s colt is born a man! <sup>13</sup>“If you prepare your heart, you will stretch out your hands toward him. <sup>14</sup>If iniquity is in your hand, put it far away, and let not injustice dwell in your tents. <sup>15</sup>Surely then you will lift up your face without blemish; you will be secure and will not fear. <sup>16</sup>You will forget your misery; you will remember it as waters that have passed away. <sup>17</sup>And your life will be brighter than the noonday; its darkness will be like the morning. <sup>18</sup>And you will feel secure, because there is hope; you will look around and take your rest in security. <sup>19</sup>You will lie down, and none will make you afraid; many will court your favor. <sup>20</sup>But the eyes of the wicked will fail; all way of escape will be lost to them, and their hope is to breathe their last.”

(English Standard Version)

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Job Chapters 3-14

Intro: Job the book asks questions

- There are two key questions
- Job chapters 3-14 ask additional questions - Is death the end? An arbiter? Resurrection?
- Lots to be learned about being a friend to those who are suffering

*The drama of Job's friends - movement*

- ▶ 2:11-13 – 7 days
- ▶ Eliphaz’s 1<sup>st</sup> speech (ch 4-5) is relatively gentle
- ▶ Zophar’s 1<sup>st</sup> speech (ch 11) is much harsher – 11:5-6
  - The friends’ theological accuracy - 1 Cor 3:19 & Heb 12:5

*The doctrine of Job's friends – locked in*

- ▶ 4:6-7 Job’s a good man, down but not out, so there is hope
- ▶ 4:8-9 Bad people get bad in this life and then die
- ▶ 5:8 The wise commit themselves to God
- ▶ 5:17-20 Job is undergoing God’s discipline
- ▶ 4:17 & 5:8-10 God is eternal, creator, all powerful sustainer of creation
- ▶ 8:2-6 God is the protector and guarantor of justice
  - So what is wrong? - line of best fit

*The drama of Job's cognitive dissonance - movement*

- ▶ 3:11-12 – I wish I had died at birth?
- ▶ 6:24 – How have I gone astray?
- ▶ 9:32-33 – No one can argue their case with God
- ▶ 10:5-7 – God you know I’m innocent
- ▶ 10:20-22 – God leave me alone before I am no more
- ▶ 13.3 & 15 – I will argue my case

*The doctrine of Job, the man in cognitive dissonance - movement*

- ▶ God is eternal 10:5, creator & determiner 10:8, all powerful over creation 9:7-9
- ▶ 9:14-22 - Job questions the theology of good get good, bad get bad
- ▶ 7:9, 21 – Job thinks death is the end (see also 14.7-12)
- ▶ 9:32-33 – Job thinks a trial is not possible, nor is their an arbiter
- ▶ 14:13-17 – Job ponders ... is an afterlife possible?
  - 14:18-22 – only to dismiss it - nah tell myself I’m dreaming

*Job and the friends share a common theological error*

- they wrongly think death is the end

*What Job dismisses at this stage in the drama, Jesus makes possible*

- there is an afterlife and Jesus’ resurrection secures it
- there is an arbiter between man and God, Jesus

*What about us?*

- For those that think death is the end
  - ▶ doubt
- For those that are in practice living as if death is the end
  - ▶ kingdom goggles: in suffering, in ambition
- For those that look to Job as a hero and model of faith
  - ▶ kingdom goggles: in suffering, in ambition