

Job 19.1 - 21.3

19.1 Then Job answered and said: ²⁴“How long will you torment me and break me in pieces with words? ³These ten times you have cast reproach upon me; are you not ashamed to wrong me? ⁴And even if it be true that I have erred, my error remains with myself. ⁵If indeed you magnify yourselves against me and make my disgrace an argument against me, ⁶know then that God has put me in the wrong and closed his net about me. ⁷Behold, I cry out, ‘Violence!’ but I am not answered; I call for help, but there is no justice. ⁸He has walled up my way, so that I cannot pass, and he has set darkness upon my paths. ⁹He has stripped from me my glory and taken the crown from my head. ¹⁰He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone, and my hope has he pulled up like a tree. ¹¹He has kindled his wrath against me and counts me as his adversary. ¹²His troops come on together; they have cast up their siege ramp against me and encamp around my tent. ¹³“He has put my brothers far from me, and those who knew me are wholly estranged from me. ¹⁴My relatives have failed me, my close friends have forgotten me. ¹⁵The guests in my house and my maidservants count me as a stranger; I have become a foreigner in their eyes. ¹⁶I call to my servant, but he gives me no answer; I must plead with him with my mouth for mercy. ¹⁷My breath is strange to my wife, and I am a stench to the children of my own mother. ¹⁸Even young children despise me; when I rise they talk against me. ¹⁹All my intimate friends abhor me, and those whom I loved have turned against me. ²⁰My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth. ²¹Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! ²²Why do you, like God, pursue me? Why are you not satisfied with my flesh? ²³“Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! ²⁴Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! ²⁵For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. ²⁶And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me! ²⁸If you say, ‘How we will pursue him!’ and, ‘The root of the matter is found in him,’ ²⁹be afraid of the sword, for wrath brings the punishment of the sword, that you may know there is a judgement.”

20.1 Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said: ²⁴“Therefore my thoughts answer me, because of my haste within me. ³I hear censure that insults me, and out of my understanding a spirit answers me. ⁴Do you not know this from of old, since man was placed on earth, ⁵that the exulting of the wicked is short, and the joy of the godless but for a moment? ⁶Though his height mount up to the heavens, and his head reach to the clouds, ⁷he will perish forever like his own dung; those who have seen him will say, ‘Where is he?’ ⁸He will fly away like a dream and not be found; he will be chased away like a vision of the night. ⁹The eye that saw him will see him no more, nor will his place any more behold him. ¹⁰His children will seek the favour of the poor, and his hands will give back his wealth. ¹¹His bones are full of his youthful vigour, but it will lie down with him in the dust. ¹²“Though evil is sweet in his mouth, though he hides it under his tongue, ¹³though he is loath to let it go and holds it in his mouth, ¹⁴yet his food is turned in his stomach; it is the venom of cobras within him. ¹⁵He swallows down riches and vomits them up again; God casts them out of his belly. ¹⁶He will suck the poison of cobras; the tongue of a viper will kill him. ¹⁷He will not look upon the rivers, the streams flowing with honey and curds. ¹⁸He will give back the fruit of his toil and will not swallow it down; from the profit of his trading he will get no enjoyment. ¹⁹For he has crushed and abandoned the poor; he has seized a house that he did not build. ²⁰“Because he knew no contentment in his belly, he will not let anything in which he delights escape him. ²¹There was nothing left after he had eaten; therefore his prosperity will not endure. ²²In the fullness of his sufficiency he will be in distress; the hand of everyone in misery will come against him. ²³To fill his belly to the full, God will send his burning anger against him and rain it upon him into his body. ²⁴He will flee from an iron weapon; a bronze arrow will strike him through. ²⁵It is drawn forth and comes out of his body; the glittering point comes out of his gallbladder; terrors come upon him. ²⁶Utter darkness is laid up for his treasures; a fire not fanned will devour him; what is left in his tent will be consumed. ²⁷The heavens will reveal his iniquity, and the earth will rise up against him. ²⁸The possessions of his house will be carried away, dragged off in the day of God’s wrath. ²⁹“This is the wicked man’s portion from God, the heritage decreed for him by God.”

21.1 Then Job answered and said: ²⁴“Keep listening to my words, and let this be your comfort. ³Bear with me, and I will speak, and after I have spoken, mock on.

(English Standard Version)

I Know My Redeemer Lives

Job Chapters 15-28

Recap: Big Questions

Job's cognitive dissonance resolved [ch 19]

- v24 iron stylus
- v25 the Go'el lives
- v26-27 In my flesh I will see God
- v29 there is judgement to come

The descent into a slinging match [ch 20-26]

Ch. 20 Zophar: You dishonour me Job!
Ch. 21 Job: “Why do the wicked prosper?” Tell me that then O wise ones?
Ch. 22 Eliphaz: O Job is not your wickedness great?
Ch. 23 Job: If I could find Him I would state my case and get a hearing
Ch. 24 Job: Answer this one Eliphaz, “Why do the bad seem to get away with it?”
Ch. 25 Bildad: Humans are just maggots Job, so give it up man!
Ch. 26 Job: The edge of His works are incomprehensible, so who can understand?

Job's last ditch attempt to teach his wayward friends [ch 27-28]

27.3-4 As long as I live I won't speak wickedness, I will never admit my friends are correct
27.12 A key verse

- 27.13-23 - God's hand at work, bad stuff happens to the wicked
 - But what about Job's resolve?
- 28.1-28 - What is with God! - God alone knows wisdom AND he has told us!
 - The fear of the Lord is wisdom, shunning evil is understanding, so stick to that

God's Hand ...

- is about His action to deal with sin and injustice
- in action Matt 8.3 and Matt 9.18
- specifically his hands that deal with sin and injustice Col 2.13
- specifically his right hand and our Go'el who sits there Rom 8.33-34
- is holding a gavel poised for judgement

That which is with God ...

- The thing that is uniquely with God is wisdom
 - Wisdom is the ability to know what is true or right. The ability to know the best course of action. “Wisdom is justified by her children” Jesus Lk 7.35
- fearing God is about judgement ... that is why it is linked with shunning evil
- 2 Cor 5.10-11

Wisdom now ...

- if you don't have faith
- If you do have faith but it is like the faith of Job's friends
- If you have faith like the wise man Job